

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors South Texas ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD was held Tuesday, February 25, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM in the South Texas ISD Medical Professions' Cafeteria, 10650 N. Expressway 77/83 in Olmito, TX.

1. Welcome.

Doug Buchanan, Board President, welcomed the guests, staff and fellow Board members.

2. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Board member Yolanda Cuellar.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence and remembered Dr. Barbara Heater and Mrs. Becky Villarreal's husband.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The following board members were present:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Graciela Camargo	Weslaco
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville

The following Board members were absent:

Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rebecca Villarreal	Penitas
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following staff members were present:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Jeff Hembree
J.P. Villarreal	Marla R. Knaub
Sonia E. Rodriguez	Amanda Odom
Jaclyn Buelow	Rigo Olivarez
Efrain Garza	Ann Vickman
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Ana Castro	Gilberto Arreola
Criselda R. Flores	

The following guests were present:

Mike Saldana, Walsh Gallegos Trevino Russo & Kyle, PC

5. Awards & Recognitions.

A. Recognition of Superintendent's Cup Middle School and High School Battle of the Books Champions.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized Middle School and High School Battle of the Books Champions.

B. Recognition of Superintendent's Cup UIL Meet first-place winners from Medical Professions and Rising Scholars Academy.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized Junior High and High School Superintendent's Cup UIL Meet first-place winners.

C. Recognition of Superintendent's Cup Middle School Softball Champions.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized Junior High Softball Superintendent's Cup Champions.

D. Recognition of Rising Scholars Academy Lady Rockets for competing in the TCSAAL State Basketball Championship.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized Junior High for competing in the TCSAAL State Basketball Championship.

- E. Recognition of Medical Professions teacher Monica Avila for receiving the 2019 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized Ms. Monica Avila for receiving the prestigious 2019 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award.

At this time, the Board President asked to move the order of the agenda immediately after Awards & Recognitions, agenda item #5, to address items in executive session. A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Dr. M. Castillo, changing the agenda meeting order. The motion passed unanimously.

6. District & Campus Texas Academic Performance Report Public Hearing.

Jeff Hembree reported on the District and Campus Performance reports which included the District Call to Action, Strategic Plan Goals; guidelines for the Texas Academic Performance Report; 2018-2019 Texas Academic Performance Report; PEIMS Financial Standard reports; District Accreditation Status 2018-2019; Campus Performance objectives; report on criminal incidents and reports of student enrollment and academic performance after graduation. Board President Doug Buchanan congratulated the administration, teachers and students and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda.

In order to promote efficient meetings, the Board may act upon more than one item by a single vote through the use of consent agenda. Consent items shall be items placed on the Agenda marked with an asterisk (*) for which no Board discussion is anticipated and for which the Superintendent recommends approval. Prior to the meeting, at the request of any member of the Board of Directors, any item on the consent agenda shall be removed and given individual consideration. Requests for individual consideration are made at least a half-hour prior to Board meetings and requests must be directed to either the Board President or the Superintendent.

Mr. Ramon Montalvo asked that a correction to the January 23, 2020 board meeting minutes be made to reflect he voted against agenda item 13.I pertaining to the Third Party Administrator for the 2020-2021 school year. A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving the consent agenda as presented and the board meeting minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

8. *Action: Review and act on January 23, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

The board meeting minutes were approved with the consent agenda as corrected by Mr. Montalvo.

9. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

There were no public comments.

10. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

There were was no public audience for non-agenda topics.

11. Policy & Curriculum - Becky Villarreal & Martin Castillo, DC, Co-Chairs

Dr. Martin Castillo reported on the following committee items:

A. *Action: Review and act on the 2019-2020 Campus Improvement Plans.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on announcement of vacancies for the 2020 summer programs.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. Action: Review and act on the Policy Update 114, Final Reading.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, adopting Policy Update 114 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Action: Review and act on request for additional accountant position for the 2019-2020 school year and approval of announcement of vacancy.

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the additional accountant position for the 2019-2020 school year and the announcement of vacancy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Buildings & Grounds - Robert J. Lerma & Irma Perez Trevino, Co-Chairs

Mr. Robert J. Lerma reported on the following committee items:

A. Action: Review and act on amending the Capital Improvement Projects for 2019-2020:

1. Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project

2. Preparatory Academy Parking Lot Expansion project

A motion was made by Mr. Lerma, seconded by Dr. M. Castillo amending the 2019-2020 Facilities and Capital Improvement Plan to include the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility Project and expanding Preparatory Academy South parking lot as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Action: Review and act on authorizing administration to go out for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSPs) for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project.

A motion was made by Mr. Lerma, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, authorizing the administration to go out for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSPs) for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project including demolishing the existing bus barn/maintenance building as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Finance - Henry LeVrier & Eduardo R. Rodriguez, Co-Chairs

Mr. Henry LeVrier reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on 2019-2020 first quarter student activity accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Report for Child Nutrition Program statement of revenues & expenditures.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on amending Accountant job description.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on the following budget amendments:

1. 2019-2020 Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAEP) Budget Amendment #1.
2. 2019-2020 Title I, Part A Regular Budget Amendment #2.
3. 2019-2020 Title I, Part C Migrant Budget Amendment #2.
4. 2019-2020 IDEA B Formula Budget Amendment #2.

5. 2019-2020 Perkins Career Technology Education Budget Amendment #2.
6. 2019-2020 Title II, Part A Teacher, Principal Training and Recruitment Budget Amendment #2.
7. 2019-2020 Title III, Part A English Language Learners Budget Amendment #2.
8. 2019-2020 General Fund Budget Amendment #1.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. Action: Review and act on awarding Property, Liability and Auto Insurance.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, awarding Shepard Walton King's proposal for Property, Liability and Auto Insurance for April 1, 2020 through April 1, 2021 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Action: Review and act on the following requisitions:

1. #084774 to Daktronics, Inc. for the Mercedes digital sign.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Lerma, approving requisition #084774 to Daktronics, Inc. in the amount of \$162,745 for the purchase and installation of a digital sign for South Texas ISD Mercedes Complex as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Action: Review and act on the following donations:

1. \$482.33 from Science Academy PTSO to Science Academy
2. \$500 from Willacy County Young Farmers to Science Academy
3. \$200 from Dr. & Mrs. Ochoa to World Scholars.
4. \$100 from Dr. & Mrs. Ochoa to World Scholars.
5. \$200 gift card from Dr. & Mrs. Ochoa to Preparatory Academy.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Lerma, approving the \$482.33 donation from Science Academy PTSO, \$500 from Willacy County Young Farmers, \$200/\$100/\$200 gift card from Dr. & Mrs. Ochoa as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on independent auditor request for qualifications.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, authorizing the administration to advertise for Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for independent auditors. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.

A. *Campus Reports

1. Preparatory Academy - A. Castro
2. Rising Scholars Academy - C. Rodriguez
3. World Scholars - E. Garza
4. Medical Professions - H. Goette
5. Health Professions - B. Heater, Ph.D.
6. Science Academy - I. Castillo, Ed.D.
7. Attendance Reports - J. Hembree

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on student/staff members to attend the following:

1. Boys & Girls State Soccer State Tournament, February 7-9, 2020, Georgetown, TX
2. Finalsite University 2020 (FinalsiteU), March 4-6, 2020, Orlando, FL
3. The Seabrook Lucky Trail Marathon, March 13-15, 2020, Seabrook, TX
4. House of Code, Congressional App Challenge Winners Conference, March 23-25, 2020, Washington, DC
5. 8th Grade Field Lesson, March 25-27, 2020, Marble Falls, TX
6. Texas A & M Open House Veterinary Fair, March 27-28, 2020, College Station, TX
7. Texas A & M Field Experience, March 27-29, 2020, College Station, TX
8. Boys & Girls State Soccer Tournament, April 3-5, 2020, Georgetown, TX
9. TSA State Competition, April 15-18, 2020, Fort Worth, TX
10. 2020 Texas Environthon, April 18-20, 2020, Houston, TX
11. 2020 National Junior High Chess Championship, April 23-27, 2020, Jacksonville, FL
12. The State Visual Arts Scholastic Event Competition, April 24-25, 2020, San Marcos, TX
13. BPA National Leadership Competition, May 6-11, 2020, Washington, DC
14. 2020 National TSA Conference, June 26-July 1, 2020, Nashville, TN
15. Texas State Leadership Camp, July 13-17, 2020, San Marcos, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Action: Review and act on board members to attend the following:

1. Mexican American School Board Association (MASBA), February 20-23, 2020, San Antonio, TX
2. Region One School Board Association Spring Conference, May 15-16, 2020, South Padre Island, TX
3. TASB's Summer Leadership Institute, June 17-20, 2020, San Antonio, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the 2019-2020 Organizational Chart.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Action: Annual review and approval of revisions to update the Board Operating Procedures.

Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., reported the Board Operating Procedures were revised to include the recent Policy Update 114 changes. A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving the revised Board Operating Procedures as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Report from Yolanda Cuellar and Henry LeVrier on the NSBA Advocacy Institute.

Mr. Henry LeVrier and Mrs. Yolanda Cuellar reported on the urgent issues addressed at the NSBA Advocacy Institute held in Washington, DC. Both reported on the number of contacts made with Congressional Staff despite the heavy traffic due to the State of the Union Address.

Board President reported the district will budget to send 4 board members (2 veterans 2 new delegates) to the NSBA Advocacy Institute, starting next year, in hope to get more exposure.

15. *Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on February 25, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in a closed or executive session as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Section, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, 551.084 and 551.001. The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. Henry LeVrier to record the minutes of the closed session to discuss the following:

- A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters: Closed Meeting
 1. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year.

- a. Teacher Tutors
 - b. Teacher
 - c. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2020 summer programs.
 - a. Coordinators and Teachers for summer programs
 3. Rescission of professional employment contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
- B. Consultation with Attorney regarding threatened and pending litigation:
1. Consultation with Walsh Gallegos Trevino Russo & Kyle P.C. regarding a.) pending or contemplated litigation b.) settlement offer; or c) a matter in which the duty of the attorney to South Texas Independent School District under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Tx. Gov't Code 551.071):
 - a. Discussion and consideration regarding Cause No.: CL-19-0083-E; Rolando Garcia vs. South Texas Independent School District: In the 92nd Judicial District Court Hidalgo County Texas

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 7:45 p.m.

17. OPEN SESSION: Action on any Item Deliberated in Closed Meeting

- A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters:
1. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - a. Teacher Tutors
 - b. Teacher
 - c. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of the teacher tutors found on agenda page 157 and the employment of Alejandra Luna (10 month contract) Teacher for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Lara also recommended the employment of professional staff for the 2020 summer programs as listed on agenda page 159.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the Superintendent's recommendation to hire professional staff for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and the 2020 summer programs as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2020 summer programs.
 - a. Coordinators and Teachers for summer programs

The Board took action together with agenda item 17.1.

3. Action Item: Review and act on the rescission of professional employment contract for the 2019-2020 school year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, rescinding Magdalena Guzman's professional employment contract as Assistant Principal for the 2019-2020 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Cause No.: CL-19-0083-E; Rolando Garcia vs. South Texas Independent School District: In the 92nd Judicial District Court Hidalgo County Texas.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. Solis, accepting the recommendation from the Administration as presented during executive sessions regarding Cause No.: CL-19-0083-E; Rolando Garcia vs. South Texas Independent School District. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, adjourning the board meeting at 8:13 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.