

# Minutes of Regular Meeting

## The Board of Directors South Texas ISD

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD was held Tuesday, October 22, 2019, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Biblioteca Las Americas Lecture Hall, 300 Med High Drive, Mercedes, Texas.

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 Jaime R. Solis.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Graciela Camargo	Weslaco
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg

The following Board members were absent:

Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission

Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas
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	Barbara Heater, Ph.D.
Efrain Garza	Ann Vickman
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Ana Castro	Eduardo Arias
Criselda Flores Rodriguez	

5. Administer Oath of Office for newly appointed Board Member, Yolanda Kamel.

The Honorable Richard Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge, officiated the Oath of Office for the newly appointed board member, Yolanda Kamel.

6. Awards & Recognitions.

A. Recognition of principals in honor of Principals' Month.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized the campus principals in honor of Principals' Month.

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.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzales, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

8. \*Action: Review and act on the September 24, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

9. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

No one signed up to make public comments for agenda topics.

10. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

No one signed up to request public audience for non-agenda topics.

11. Policy & Curriculum - Yolanda Cuellar, Co-Chair

Mrs. Yolanda Cuellar reported on the following committee items:

A. \*Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. \*Report on home districts of all students.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. \*Report on gender and ethnicity of all students.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. \*Action: Review and act on the following announcement of vacancies:

1. Head Teachers/Coordinators for summer symposiums and projects
2. Teacher Tutors

Approved with the consent agenda.

12. Buildings & Grounds - Homero Garcia & Hector Gonzales, Co-Chairs

A. \*Action: Review and act on extending the lease agreement with Delfino Cornejo, Jr. for the San Benito property.

Approved with the consent agenda.

13. Finance - Margarita Garcia & Sylvia S. Garza, Ph.D., Co-Chairs

Dr. Sylvia Sanchez Garza reported on the following committee items:

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Action: Review and act on the investment Resolution as per Policy CDA (LOCAL).

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Action Review and act on Resolution authorizing bank signatures for World Scholars.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. Action: Review and act on requisition for marquee to National Signs at Preparatory Academy in Edinburg.

A motion was made by Dr. Garza, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, approving requisition #081209 in the amount of \$80,902 for the marquee to National Signs for the Preparatory Academy as presented. 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. State Cross Country Meet, November 1-2, 2019, Wimberly, TX
2. TAMU SHARE Program Field Experience, November 8-10, 2019, College Station, TX
3. Flag Football State Tournament, November 15-17, 2019, Georgetown, TX
4. Volleyball Tournament, November 15-17, 2019, Georgetown, TX
5. 2020 HOSA State Leadership Conference, April 1-3, 2020, Galveston, TX
6. End of Year Field Trip - Six Flags, April 17, 2020, San Antonio, TX
7. 2020 HOSA International Leadership Conference, June 24-27, 2020, Houston, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Action: Review and act on request from employee to use sick leave pool days intermittently due to special circumstances.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. \*Action: Review and act on the appointment of South Texas ISD Board members as liaisons to the Education Foundation of STISD Board of Directors.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Action: Review and act on awarding the Request for Qualifications for architectural services for the approved 2019-2020 capital improvement projects.

Board President Doug Buchanan reported on the committee he appointed to interview the architectural services and make a recommendation to the Board. The committee was chaired by Mr. Henry LeVrier and it was comprised of board members and Senior Staff members. Seven architects were interviewed and scores were tabulated to rank the firms. The top 3 architectural firms are ERO, Gignac and Gomez Mendez Saenz.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Solis, selecting ERO Architects, Gignac and Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. as most highly qualified to serve as architect for the approved 2019-2020 capital improvement projects and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract for a fair and reasonable price with either ERO Architects, Gignac and or Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. If a satisfactory contract cannot be negotiated with either ERO Architects, Gignac and or Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc., the Board authorizes the Superintendent to formally terminate negotiations and negotiate and execute a contract with the next most highly qualified Architect that has not yet been selected in accordance with Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lara reported this process will allow the administration to work with the top three architects and ask they present their ideas to the administration for each of the projects to match the best architect for each project.

- F. Action: Review and act on the following Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for the new Administration Building Renovation project:

1. Architect
2. Interior designer

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu selecting ERO Architects, Gignac and Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. as most highly qualified to serve as Architect for the new Administration Building Renovation project and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract for a fair and reasonable price with ERO Architects, Gignac or

Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. If a satisfactory contract cannot be negotiated with ERO Architects, Gignac or Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc., the Board authorizes the Superintendent to formally terminate negotiations and negotiate and execute a contract with the next most highly qualified architect that has not yet been selected in accordance with Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Solis, selecting ERO Architects, Gignac, Negrete & Kolar, LLP and WKMC Architects as most highly qualified to serve as the Interior Designer for the new Administration Building Renovation project and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract for a fair and reasonable price with either ERO Architects, Gignac, Negrete & Kolar, LLP or WKMC Architects. If a satisfactory contract cannot be negotiated with either ERO Architects, Gignac, Negrete & Kolar, LLP or WKMC Architects the Board authorizes the Superintendent to formally terminate negotiations and negotiate and execute a contract with the next most highly qualified Interior Designer that has not yet been selected in accordance with Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code.

G. Report on South Texas ISD Board member training continuing education credit report.

Board President Doug Buchanan publicly announced the training continuing education credit report for each individual board member for the period beginning November 1, 2018 through October 22, 2019 for Tier 1 Orientation to the Texas Education Code; Update to the Texas Education Code; Tier 2 Team Building; Tier 3 Continuing Education based on needs assessment; and Tier 4 Senate Bill 1566 as detailed on page 8.

15. \*Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on October 22, 2019 at 8:43 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(s)
  - 2. Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.071, consultation with the Board's Attorney concerning legal and procedural issues involving proposed

termination for good cause of Chapter 21 probationary contract employee, J.C.

3. Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.074, discussion regarding proposed termination for good cause of Chapter 21 probationary contract employee, J.C.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 7:39 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(s)

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of the teacher tutors found on agenda pages 115 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Cantu, seconded Mrs. Cuellar, approving the teacher tutors for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider and take possible action regarding the Superintendent's recommendation for the proposed termination of Chapter 21 probationary contract of employee, J.C., for good cause.

No board action was needed.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Mr. Solis, adjourning the board meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.