

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 on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM and was conducted via Video/Audio Conference Pursuant to the Governor Greg Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020. The board meeting was audible to the Board and public and allowed for two-way communication.

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, Mrs. Becky Villarreal's husband, our nation and our world during this time.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The Board President called for a Roll Call. The following board members participated remotely:

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|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 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 |
| Javier Farias | McAllen |
| Richard Fleming, MD | Mission |
| Adrian Garcia | Brownsville |
| Homero Garcia | Weslaco |
| Margarita Garcia | San Juan |
| Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D. | Edinburg |
| Hector Gonzales | Lyford |

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| Henry LeVrier | Brownsville |
| Sylvia S. Lopez | Brownsville |
| Ramon Montalvo, III | Weslaco |
| Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez | Brownsville |
| Jaime R. Solis | Edinburg |
| Israel G. Quintanilla | Raymondville |
| Rick Villarreal, D.D.S. | Brownsville |

The following Board members were absent:

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|--------------------|-------------|
| Yolanda Kamel | McAllen |
| Robert J. Lerma | Brownsville |
| Irma Perez-Treviño | Harlingen |
| Rebecca Villarreal | Penitas |

The following staff members participated remotely:

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

5. Awards & Recognitions.

No awards or recognitions were presented. No board action was taken.

6. 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. L. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on February 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

8. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

The Board did not receive requests to address the Board of Directors on an agenda topic for this meeting.

9. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

The Board did not receive requests to address the Board of Directors on non-agenda topics for this meeting.

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

Dr. Martin Castillo reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on request from Yolanda Partida, teacher, to use five days of personal leave to attend son's graduation and help relocate him to Oklahoma.

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 annual instructional materials allotment and TEKS certification for 2020-2021.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. Action: Review and act on school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year and legend.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the 2020-2021 school year calendar and legend as presented. The motion passed with one against (A. Garcia).

- E. Action: Review and act on 2020-2021 Campus Course Sequences.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the 2020-2021 Campus Course Sequences as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Action: Review and act on the following Proposed Actions:

1. Science Academy Half-Day Program course additions: Occupational Safety and Environmental Technology I & Small Engine Technology II
2. Science Academy: Camp SOAR at Texas A&M University

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the proposed actions for the Science Academy's Half-Day Program course additions and the Camp SOAR at Texas A & M University as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Report: STISD Educational Improvement Council (EIC) to Consider an Amendment (Addition) to the 2017-2022 STISD District of Innovation Plan.

Mr. Jeff Hembree reported the Administration is considering an amendment to the 2017-2022 STISD District of Innovation Plan to consider adding an exemption which would allow additional health insurance offerings, in addition to TRS Active Care, for STISD employees. The STISD Educational Improvement Council (EIC) will be reviewing this potential amendment at their next meeting. Any recommendation for amendment would be presented before the Board of Directors for approval at a future meeting.

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

There were no agenda items under Buildings & Grounds Committee.

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

Mr. Henry LeVrier reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Report on District Comparison of Revenues/Expenditures.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. Action: Review and act on the following donations:

1. \$200 from Rose Heinrich to Science Academy
2. \$500 from Humanities Texas to Medical Professions

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, approving the \$200 donation from Rose Heinrich and the \$500 from Humanities Texas as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Action: Review and possible action on independent auditor request for qualifications.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, tabling the independent auditor request for qualifications for next board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

13. 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. 2020 Centennial Annual Meeting & Expo, April 1-4, 2020, Chicago, IL
2. Destination Imagination State Competition, April 3-4, 2020, Arlington, TX
3. Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine Vet Science Career Day, April 24, 2020, College Station, TX
4. Texas Math & Science Coaches Association Championship Meet, April 24-25, 2020, San Antonio, TX
5. National History Day State Competition, April 24-25, 2020, Austin, TX
6. The Texas Chevron Design Challenge, April 30-May 3, 2020, College Station, TX
7. End of School Year trip - Six Flags Fiesta Texas, May 8, 2020, San Antonio, TX
8. State UIL Music Competition, May 30-June 1, 2020, Austin, TX
9. Rice Summer Symposium, June 1-12, 2020, Houston, TX
10. Texas A&M University Medical Scholars Summer Program, June 7-12, 2020, College Station, TX
11. Exploring Houston's Medical Branch Summer Enrichment Program, June 14-20, 2020, Houston, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Quarterly report on the Education Foundation of South Texas ISD.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. Action: Cast votes for Place 2, and Place 5 of the Region One ESC Board of Directors.

Region One Education Service Center granted seven votes for each Place on the ballot to South Texas ISD board members. In keeping the philosophy of everyone having a voice, the board had each member present vote for each Place.

The Board voted for each place. The following candidates received the majority of the votes and the majority won the 7 votes:

- Richard Gutierrez, Place 2 representing Jim Hogg, Starr and Zapata Counties ran unopposed
- Ruben Cortez, Jr., Place 5 representing Cameron County

E. Action: Review and Act on a resolution to Delegate Authority to the Superintendent to Act in Place of the Board of Trustees During an Emergency Closure.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, adopting the Resolution to delegate authority to the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr. to act in place of the Board of Trustees during an emergency closure as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

14. *Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At this time, on March 24, 2020 at 7:40 p.m. the participating Board of Directors disconnected from the Video/Audio Conference and dialed in to participate in a Video/Audio 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 Board may go into Executive 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 2020 summer programs.
 - a. Coordinators and Head Teachers/Teachers for summer programs

2. Review recommendations for renewal/extension/non-renewal of employment contracts for the following: Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Administrator for Public Relations & Marketing, Administrator for Support Services, Principals, teachers and other professional staff.
 - a. Renewal/extension of contract for professional staff for 2020-2021 school year.
 - b. Pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, consider and discuss termination of probationary contract teacher at the end of the 2019-2020 school year (C.C. and K.L.).
3. Recommendation of professional staff for the remainder of the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.
 - a. Accountant
 - b. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

The Board of Directors ended the Video/Audio executive session at 7:51 p.m.

16. OPEN SESSION: Board Members resumed the board meeting in Open session via Video/Audio Conference and took action on any Item Deliberated in Closed Meeting. The Board President called for a Roll Call to confirm a quorum of the board was participating remotely:

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 2020 summer programs.
 - a. Coordinators and Head Teachers/Teachers for summer programs

Dr. Lara recommended the employment of professional staff for the 2020 summer programs as listed on agenda page 144-145.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the Superintendent's recommendation to hire professional staff for the 2020 summer programs as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and act on recommendations for renewal/extension/non-renewal of employment contracts for the following: Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Administrator for Public Relations & Marketing, Administrator for Support Services, Principals, teachers and other professional staff.
 - a. Renewal/extension of contract for professional staff for the 2020-2021 school year.

Dr. Lara also recommended the extension of employment contracts through June 30, 2022 for Jeff Hembree, Marla Knaub, JP Villarreal, Amanda Odom, Harry Goette, Efrain Garza, Irma Castillo, Ed.D., Barbara Heater, Ph.D., Ana Castro and Criselda R. Flores. In addition, the Superintendent recommended the renewal of employment contract for teachers and other professional staff as listed on agenda pages 148-168 for the 2020-2021 school year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the Superintendent's recommendation to renew/extend the employment contract for professional staff for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Action: Consider and take possible action regarding termination of probationary contract teacher at the end of the 2019-2020 school year (C.C. and K.L.).

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, to terminate the Chapter 21 probationary contract of Cynthia Cavazos at the end of the 2019-2020 contract period because it is in the best interest of the school district, and authorized the Superintendent to give written notice of this action to the teacher as required by law. The motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the remainder of the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.
 - a. Accountant
 - b. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

In addition, Dr. Lara recommended the following professional staff for the remainder of 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Lissa Frausto and Accountant, Amanda Lopez Najar (12 month contract).

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Mrs. Camargo approving the professional staff for the remainder of the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzales, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, adjourning the board meeting at 7:58 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.