

# 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, January 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 Abiel J. Cantú. Mr. Cantú recited the district's Call to Action.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence. Board President asked to keep Yolanda Cuellar's mom, Viola Perez and Dr. Sylvia S. Garza's aunt, Mary Arredondo in our thoughts and prayers.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:00 p.m. at which time he was assured by Superintendent, Dr. Tony Lara that notices of this meeting were posted properly according to the laws of Texas and that a quorum of the Board was present.

The following Board members were present:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Graciela Camargo	Weslaco
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
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
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime Solis	Edinburg
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Yolanda Chapa	McAllen
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen

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	Carrie Saucedo
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Ann Vickman	Albert Tudon
Carmen Noriega	Adrian Caceres

The following guests were present:

Honorable Eddie Treviño, Jr., Cameron County Judge  
Cameron County Commissioner Joe L. Lopez

5. Receipt of appointment by Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño of Sylvia S. Lopez to South Texas ISD Board of Directors for the unexpired term of Cameron County Commissioners' Precinct 2.

Dr. Tony Lara reported receiving in writing from the Cameron County Judge, Eddie Treviño, the appointment of Sylvia S. Lopez to the South Texas ISD Board of Directors for the vacated unexpired term of Cameron County Commissioners' Precinct 2.

6. Administer Oath of Office for newly appointed Board member.

The Honorable Eddie Treviño, Jr. – Cameron County Judge, officiated the Oath of Office for Mrs. Sylvia S. Lopez.

7. 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; 2017-2018 Texas Academic Performance Report; PEIMS Financial Standard reports; District Accreditation Status 2017-2018; Campus Performance objectives; report on criminal incidents, school safety and security audit 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.

8. Public participation at South Texas ISD Board Meetings: Allotted time to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board (BED Local).

A. Recognition of Medical Academy counselor for being named a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars.

On behalf of the Board and Administration, Amanda Odom recognized Luz Zamora, Rising Scholars Academy Counselor, for being named a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars. This is the second time Ms. Zamora receives this prestigious award.

B. Recognition of South Texas ISD Board of Directors in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

As part of Texas Board Recognition Month, board members were presented with tokens of appreciation by each school principal and the superintendent honoring them for their leadership, work and dedication to South Texas ISD. The Board was also serenaded by STPA's strings group, a soloist and BETA's Mariachi group.

At this time, 8:00 p.m., the Board President called for a break to take a Board group picture. The Board reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

9. 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 Hector Gonzales, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

10. \*Action: Review and act on the November 27 & December 12, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

11. Policy & Curriculum - Grace Camargo & Larry Cantu, Co-Chairs

Grace Camargo reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Action: Review and act on announcement of vacancies for the 2019 summer programs.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on District of Innovation activities.

Jeff Hembree, Deputy Superintendent reported on the District of Innovation Plan approved by the Board on August 3, 2017. This is the second year of the 5-year plan. The Board heard a summary report on the activities related to the four areas of the STISD District of Innovation Plan (First Day of Instruction for Students, Minimum Attendance for Class Credit for Final Grade, Teacher and Principal Appraisal System and Teacher Certification).

- C. Action: Review and act on the revised Board Operating Procedures (Final Reading).

A motion was made by Homero Garcia, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving the revised Board Operating Procedures as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Buildings & Grounds - Abiel J. Cantú & Richard Fleming, MD, Co-Chairs

Abiel J. Cantú reported on the following committee items:

- A. Action: Review and act on approving Change Order #2 to the contract for the Science Academy Re-roofing project.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Henry LeVrier, approving Change Order #2 to the contract for the Science Academy re-roofing project crediting the District \$25,000.00 of unused allowance on the project. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Finance - Javier Farias & Adrian Garcia, Co-Chairs

Adrian Garcia reported on the following committee items:

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Report on school district investments:

1. Investments owned by the district.
2. Investments held by Wilmington Trust for the South Texas ISD Public Facilities Corporation.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. \*Report on 2018-2019 first quarter student activity accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. \*Action: Review and act on proposed 2019-2020 budget calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Title IV, Part A (204)
2. Title I, Part A (211)
3. Title I, Part C (212)
4. IDEA B (224)
5. Carl D. Perkins (244)
6. Title II, Part A (255)
7. Title III, Part A (263)
8. HEAL2 Project (288)

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. \$200 gift card from Elizabeth Ramirez to STPA
2. \$1,000 from Dr. Ricardo Ochoa to STPA
3. \$1,000 from Dr. Ricardo Ochoa to BETA
4. \$500 from Fortino Gonzalez to BETA
5. \$100 from Diana Chavez to BETA

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Javier Farias, approving the following generous donations: \$200 from Elizabeth Ramirez, \$2,000 from Dr. Ricardo Ochoa, \$500 from Fortino Gonzalez and \$100 from Diana Chavez as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:

1. Application for payment #7 (final) to American Contracting for the Science Academy Re-Roofing project.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Bobby Lerma, approving the final application for payment to American Contracting for the Science Academy re-roofing project in the amount of \$70,000. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Application for payment #7 (final) to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Science Academy Re-Roofing project.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving the final application for payment to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Science Academy re-roofing project. The total contract amount was \$85,500, and after this payment the balance will be a credit for the district in the amount of \$1,158. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Action: Review and act on 2019 bond payments for School Facility Lease Revenue Qualified School Construction Bonds Taxable Series 2013.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Henry LeVrier, approving the two bond payments for the School Facility Lease Revenue Qualified School Construction Bonds Taxable Series 2013 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Javier Farias, seconded by Becky Villarreal, awarding the best bid for the district for the Property, Liability and Auto Insurance to Shepard Walton King for a premium of \$305,537 for the period of April 1, 2019 to April 1, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

- L. Action: Review and act on authorizing administration to advertise for requests for qualifications (RFQs) for independent auditor.

A motion was made by Javier Farias, seconded by Becky Villarreal, authorizing the administration to advertise for requests for qualifications (RFQs) for independent auditor. The motion passed unanimously.

- M. Action: Review and act on the following requisitions:

1. Requisition #073359 to W.E. Imhoff & Company, Inc. for RSA Floor Tile Replacement project.
2. Requisitions #073514, 073518, 073520 and 073533 to Dell Computers for Medical Academy laptops.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving requisition #073359 to W.E. Imhoff & Company, Inc. for RSA Floor Tile Replacement project in the amount of \$ 245,886 and requisitions #073514, 073518, 073520 and 073533 to Dell Computers for Medical Academy laptops for a total amount of \$77,720 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A. \*Campus Reports

1. STPA - A. Castro
2. Rising Scholars - C. Saucedo
3. BETA - E. Garza
4. Medical Academy - H. Goette
5. Med High - 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 the following out of district student/staff travel (G 2,4,5):

1. Texas A & M University SHARE Program Field Experience, February 8-10, 2019, College Station, TX

2. State Basketball Tournament, February 19-20, 2019, Austin, TX
3. Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference, March 6-10, 2019, Dallas, TX
4. National Chess Championship, March 15-17, 2019, Schaumburg, IL
5. Educational Field Trip to Six Flags at Fiesta Texas, March 22-23, 2019, San Antonio, TX
6. Leadership Education and Development Conference, March 22-25, 2019, Chicago, IL
7. Technology Student Association State Competition, April 24-27, 2019, Ft. Worth, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. \*Action: Review and act on the following Retirement Resolutions:

1. Sara Reibman
2. Harry Stout

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. \*Action: Review and act on additional new members for the STISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC).

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. \*Action: Review and act on re-adoption of Board of Trustees' Code of Ethics to include new board members.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. Action: Review and act on legal services contract with Walsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Russo & Kyle PC or authorize the administration to advertise for legal services qualifications.

A motion was made by Javier Farias, seconded by Richard Fleming, MD, authorizing the administration to advertise for requests for qualifications (RFQs) for legal services. The motion passed with two against (Adrian Garcia & Rick Villarreal, DDS).

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on January 22, 2019 at 8:37 p.m. 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 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 2018-2019 school year.
    - a. Teacher(s)
  - 2. Report on Rolando Garcia vs. South Texas ISD.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:51 p.m.

16. 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 2018-2019 school year.
    - a. Teacher(s)

The Superintendent recommended the employment of Holly Ann Dixon Teacher (10 month contract) for the 2018-2019 school year. A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Hector Gonzales approving the professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Rolando Garcia vs. South Texas ISD.

No board action was taken.

17. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Javier Farias adjourning the board meeting at 8:51 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.