

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, November 27, 2018, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Biblioteca Las Americas Lecture Hall, 300 Med High Drive, Mercedes, Texas.

1. Welcome.

Joe L. Lopez, 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 Becky Villarreal. Mrs. Villarreal recited the district's Call to Action.

3. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Joe L. Lopez at 7:08 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:

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|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Douglas E. Buchanan | Raymondville |
| Graciela Camargo | Weslaco |
| Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu | Los Fresnos |
| Abiel J. Cantú | Raymondville |
| Martin Castillo, DC | Edinburg |
| Yolanda Chapa | McAllen |
| Yolanda Cuellar | Progreso Lakes |
| Richard Fleming, MD | Mission |
| Homero Garcia | Weslaco |
| Margarita Garcia | San Juan |
| Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D. | Edinburg |
| Hector Gonzales | Lyford |
| Robert J. Lerma | Brownsville |
| Henry LeVrier | Brownsville |
| Joe L. "Joey" Lopez | Brownsville |
| Ramon Montalvo, III | Weslaco |

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| Irma Perez-Treviño | Harlingen |
| 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:

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| Javier Farias | McAllen |
| Adrian Garcia | Brownsville |

The following staff members were present:

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| 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 | Alex Medrano |
| Carmen Noriega | |

The following guests were present:

Kelly Salazar, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson. LLP
Honorable Eddie Treviño, Jr., Cameron County Judge
Honorable Aurelio “Keter” Guerra, Willacy County Judge
Honorable Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County Judge
Honorable Ruben Cortez, Member of the State Board of Education

4. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

5. Action: Receive and declare the results of the November 6, 2018 election from the County Commissioners' Court from Hidalgo and Cameron Counties.

Dr. Tony Lara reported the election results of the November 6, 2018 Election were canvassed by the Hidalgo & Cameron County Commissioners’ Courts. The following election results were declared:

Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Precinct 4:

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| Martin Castillo, DC | 16,312 votes |
| Sam B. Gonzalez | 16,097 votes |

Cameron County Commissioners’ Precinct 1:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Robert J. Lerma | 7,998 votes |
|-----------------------|-------------|

Eliceo “Cheo” Muñoz, III 4,292 votes

A motion was made by Yolanda Chapa, seconded by Yolanda Cuellar, approving the election results of the November 6, 2018 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Receipt of appointments of directors at large to the South Texas ISD Board of Directors from Hidalgo and Cameron County Judges.

Dr. Tony Lara reported receiving in writing from the Hidalgo County Judge, Ramon Garcia, the at-large Hidalgo County appointments of the following board members for a four-year term starting November, 2018 and ending November, 2022 to the South Texas ISD Board of Directors:

- Yolanda Chapa
- Javier Farias
- Richard Fleming, MD
- Jaime Solis

In addition, he received in writing from the Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. the at large Cameron County appointments of the following board members for a four-year term starting November, 2018 and ending November, 2022 to the South Texas ISD Board of Directors:

- Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez
- Manuel Ricardo Villarreal, DDS

A motion was made by Larry Cantu, seconded by Doug Buchanan accepting the appointments for the Hidalgo & Cameron County as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Report on the Statement of Officer Oaths filed in our office for the newly elected/appointed Board members.

Dr. Tony Lara attested that the following board members signed a Statement of Officer Oaths prior to taking office and are filed in his office:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Margarita Garcia | Yolanda Chapa |
| Martin Castillo, DC | Javier Farias |
| Robert J. Lerma | Richard Fleming, MD |
| Larry Cantu | Jaime Solis |
| Abiel J. Cantu | Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez |
| Doug Buchanan | Manuel Ricardo Villarreal, DDS |

8. Administer Oath of Office for newly elected and newly appointed Board members.

The Honorable Ruben Cortez. – State Board of Education Member, officiated the Oath of Office for the following individuals: Martin Castillo, DC and Margarita Garcia

The Honorable Eddie Treviño, Jr. – Cameron County Judge, officiated the Oath of Office for the following individuals: Robert J. Lerma, Larry Cantu, Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez and Manuel Ricardo Villarreal, DDS

The Honorable Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County Judge, officiated the Oath of Office for the following individuals: Yolanda Chapa, Jaime Solis and Richard Fleming, MD.

The Honorable Aurelio “Keter” Guerra, Willacy County Judge, officiated the Oath of Office for the following individuals: Abiel J. Cantu and Doug Buchanan

9. 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 STPA student for earning an individual State Champion title at the Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League (TCSAAL) Cross Country State Meet.

On behalf of the Board and Administration, Amanda Odom recognized STPA student, Ryan Servantes, for earning an individual State Champion title at the Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League Cross Country State Meet.

10. Action: Reorganization of the Board of Directors.

In order for the new board members elected/appointed to get to know the nominees, each nominee had the opportunity to share information about their experience, education and strengths.

A. Action: Election for President

Joe L. Lopez called for nominations for the office of the President. Hector Gonzales nominated Doug Buchanan. Martin Castillo, DC nominated Sylvia S. Garza, Ph.D.

Joe Lopez, presiding officer, asked for further nominations. After having no further nominations, the Board ceased the nominations.

Doug Buchanan received the majority of the votes and was elected President of the Board.

B. Action: Election for Vice-President (newly elected President presiding)

Board President Doug Buchanan called for nominations for the office of the Vice President.

Yolanda Chapa nominated Yolanda Cuellar. Richard Fleming, MD, nominated Sylvia S. Garza, Ph.D. Irma Perez-Treviño nominated Hector Gonzales. Mr. Gonzales honorably declined the nomination.

Board President asked for further nominations. After having no further nominations, the Board ceased the nominations.

Yolanda Cuellar received the majority of the votes and was elected Vice-President of the Board.

C. Action: Election of Secretary

Board President Doug Buchanan called for nominations for the office of Secretary.

Ramon Montalvo nominated Sylvia S. Garza, Ph.D. Irma Perez Treviño nominated Henry LeVrier.

Board President asked for further nominations. After having no further nominations, the Board ceased the nominations.

Henry LeVrier received the majority of the votes and was elected Secretary of the Board.

11. 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 Joe Lopez, seconded by Irma Perez-Treviño, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. *Action: Review and act on the October 17, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

13. Policy & Curriculum - Yolanda Cuellar & Rebecca Villarreal, Co-Chairs

Yolanda Cuellar reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Report on Advanced Placement Program, Dual Credit and IB Enrollment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on College Entrance scores.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on proposed admission qualifications for students and campus target populations for 2019-2020 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. STPA new high school course Mandarin Chinese Language I
2. STPA two new high school Fine Arts courses
 - a. Music Instrumental Ensemble I
 - b. Music Strings I

A motion was made by Homero Garcia, seconded by Larry Cantu, approving STPA's new high school course Mandarin Chinese Language I and STPA's two new high school Fine Arts Courses – Music Instrumental Ensemble I and Music Strings I as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Review Board Operating Procedures (Second Reading).

Doug Buchanan reported the committee held their second meeting to review the Board Operating Procedures. Board members were encouraged to submit any recommended changes/suggestions. The Board Operating Procedures will be placed as an agenda item at the January 22nd as a third and final reading for board approval.

- F. Action: Review and act on the 2018-2019 District & Campus Improvement Plans.

Each campus Principal briefly shared highlights of their campus goals identified on their 2018-2019 Campus Improvement Plans.

- G. Action: Review and act on additional BETA Instructional Aide position and announcement of vacancy.

A motion was made by Larry Cantu, seconded by Jaime Solis approving agenda items 13.F & 13.G - the 2018-2019 District and Campus Improvement Plans and the additional BETA instructional aide position and announcement of vacancy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Buildings & Grounds - Abiel J. Cantú & Homero Garcia, Co-Chairs

Abiel J. Cantú reported on the following committee items:

- A. Action: Review and act on authorizing administration to go out for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSPs) for the following projects:
1. Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project.
 2. Edinburg Air Handler Replacement project.
 3. Science Academy Air Handler Replacement project.
 4. Rising Scholars Academy Rooftop Units Replacement project.
 5. STPA Administration Renovations project.
 6. Mercedes Bus Barn Parking Lot Addition project.

A motion was made by Joe Lopez, seconded by Abiel Cantu, authorizing the administration to go out for competitive sealed proposals (CSPs) for the projects listed above. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Finance - Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D. & Ramon Montalvo III, Co-Chairs

Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D. & Ramon Montalvo 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 annual incentive program pay for qualified employees.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on awarding Request for Proposals (RFPs) for employee uniforms.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. Annual report on tax delinquent collection from Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

Kelly Salazar, attorney representing Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson , LLP reported on the annual tax delinquent collection for Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy Counties for South Texas ISD.

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

1. Application for payment #6 to American Contracting for the Science Academy Re-Roofing project.

A motion was made by Sylvia S. Garza, Ph.D., seconded by Homero Garcia, approving application for payment #6 in the amount of \$104,500 to American Contracting for the Science Academy Re-Roofing project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Application for payment #6 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Science Academy Re-Roofing project.

A motion was made by Sylvia S. Garza, Ph.D., seconded by Joe Lopez, approving application for payment #6 in the amount of \$1,197 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Science Academy Re-Roofing project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. \$100 gift card to STPA from Dr. Panday
2. \$300 to Rising Scholars Academy from G's Phoenix Construction Co.
3. \$200 to Med High from Red Men of TX Blackcrow Tribe #16

A motion was made by Homero Garcia, seconded by Yolanda Cuellar accepting the donation from Dr. Panday, G's Phoenix Construction Co. and Red Med of TX Blackcrow Tribe #16 as presented. The motion passed unanimously. The Board expressed appreciation for the generous donation.

16. 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. HOSA State Conference Planning Meeting for State Officers, November 15-17, 2018, San Antonio, TX
 2. Collaborate with Administrators from "Schools to Learn From" Program, January 22-26, 2019, Los Angeles, CA
 3. Pan American Student Forum State Officers' meeting, January 26, 2019, San Antonio, TX
 4. Pan American Student Forum State Convention, February 28-March 3, 2019, San Antonio, TX
 5. State Chess Tournament, March 8-11, 2019, Houston, TX
 6. 2019 HOSA State Leadership Conference, March 26-30, 2019, San Antonio, TX
 7. Texas A&M University and Texas State Aquarium, April 26, 2019, Corpus Christi, TX
 8. Nationals Junior High Chess Tournament, April 26-28, 2019, Grapevine, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on the following Retirement Resolutions:
1. Jose Jesus De Anda

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Quarterly report on Education Foundation of South Texas ISD.

Approved with the consent agenda.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on November 27, 2018 at 8:30 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. Tutors

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:35 p.m.

18. 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. Tutors

The Superintendent recommended the employment of Nadia Avalos and Robert Schmidt as Teacher Tutors for the 2018-2019 school year. A motion was made by Larry Cantu, seconded by Abiel Cantú approving the professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Joe Lopez, seconded by Ramon Montalvo adjourning the board meeting at 8:36 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.