

# 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, February 26, 2019, beginning at 7:00 PM in the South Texas Academy for Medical Professions, Eliseo B. Vega Library, 10650 North Expressway 77/83, Olmito, 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 Israel G. Quintanilla. Mr. Quintanilla recited the district's Call to Action.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence. Board President asked to keep Mario Garcia's family 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.

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
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Jaime Solis	Edinburg
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Yolanda Chapa	McAllen
Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas

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.
Gilbert Arreola	Juan Hinojosa
Ann Vickman	

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

Mrs. Grace Camargo asked to address the Board to ask for board members' support for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Toast to Success scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> at IBC Bank in Brownsville. All proceeds will benefit the students of STISD through scholarships and enrichment opportunities.

- 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 Larry Cantu, seconded by Yolanda Cuellar, approving the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- \*Action: Review and act on the January 22, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Larry Cantu 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 Policy Update 112, First Reading.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Action: Review and act on revising Policy BBB (Local) Board Members Elections.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. Action: Review and act on the following proposed actions:

1. Pre AP Courses Name Change to Honors and Pre IB
2. Principles of Manufacturing Science Academy
3. ENG 2341 DE – Introduction to Forms of Literature Science Academy
4. ENG 2321 – British Literature Science Academy
5. Calculus I CP Science Academy
6. Sculpture I Science Academy
7. IB Course Additions BETA
8. Advanced Language for Career Applications BETA
9. Summer Program Medical Academy and the University of Houston Sugar Land School of Allied Health

A motion was made by Martin Castillo, D.C., seconded by Grace Camargo, approving the proposed actions for course change, new courses, and a summer camp as listed above and as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

9. 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 the ranking of proposals for construction services for the following projects and approval of a purchase order for each project:

1. Rising Scholars Academy HVAC Replacement project.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Hector Gonzales, ranking the proposals for construction services on the Rising Scholars Academy

HVAC Replacement project as recommended by the ranking committee; awarding the project to Central Air & Heating Service, Inc. (CAHS) and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a construction agreement pursuant to Texas Government Code section 2269.155, authorized the Superintendent to execute the construction agreement on behalf of the district; and approved the purchase order for the cost including the base bid and adding alternate #1 in the amount of \$527,150. The motion passed unanimously.

2. BETA/STPA & Science Academy HVAC Replacement project.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Irma Perez Treviño, ranking the proposals for construction services on the BETA/STPA & Science Academy HVAC Replacement project as recommended by the ranking committee; awarding the project to Central Air & Heating Service, Inc. (CAHS) and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a construction agreement pursuant to Texas Government Code section 2269.155, authorized the Superintendent to execute the construction agreement on behalf of the district; and approved the purchase order for the cost including the base bid and adding alternate #1 in the amount of \$527,150. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Adrian Garcia 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 HEAL2 YEAR 3 (288 -2019-2020) budget amendment #1.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Requisition #074330 to Lensec, LLC for security cameras
2. Requisition #074648 to The College Board for AP Exams
3. Requisitions #074559, 074704, 074742 and 074915 to Apple for Technology Supplies for BETA

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Rick Villarreal, DDS, approving requisition #074330 to Lensec, LLC for security cameras in the amount of \$92,669.86. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Martin Castillo, DC, approving requisition #074648 to The College Board for AP Exams in the amount of \$56,400. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, approving requisitions #074559, 074704, 074742 and 074915 to Apple for Technology Supplies for BETA in the amount of \$51,125.75. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. \$5,000 from Ms. Gloria Fitch to Med High
2. \$496 from Dr. Monzer H. Yazji to Med High
3. \$1,000 from Wonderful Giving to Science Academy
4. \$500 from Perry Mechanical Systems, LLC to Science Academy
5. \$500 from Willacy County Young Farmers to Science Academy
6. \$50 from D. Garcia to Rising Scholars Academy
7. \$50 from P. Zimney to Rising Scholars Academy
8. \$285 from Dixie Tool Company to Rising Scholars Academy

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Yolanda Cuellar approving \$5,000 donation from Ms. Gloria Fitch to Med High; \$496 from Dr. Monzer H. Yazji to Med High; \$1,000 from Wonderful Giving to Science Academy; \$500 from Perry Mechanical Systems, LLC to Science Academy; \$500 from Willacy County Young Farmers to Science Academy; \$50 from D. Garcia to Rising Scholars Academy; \$50 from P. Zimney to Rising Scholars Academy; and \$285 from Dixie Tool Company to Rising Scholars Academy. The Board expressed appreciation to the donors for their support and generosity. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Action: Review and act on adding Social Media Specialist to the 2018-2019 Stipend Agreement.

A motion was made by Hector Gonzales, seconded by Jaime Solis, adding Social Media Specialist to the Stipend agreement in the amount of \$450 for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

11. 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:
1. Texas A & M University at Kingsville campus visit, March 1, 2019, Kingsville, TX
  2. UIL/Texas Forensic Association State Meet, March 13-16, 2019, Houston, TX
  3. National Association of Community Health Centers Policy and Issues Forum, March 27-30, 2019, Washington, DC
  4. Mathcounts State Competition, March 29-30, 2019, Austin, TX
  5. Texas A & M University School of Veterinary Medicine Open House, March 30, 2019, College Station, TX
  6. State SkillsUSA Conference & Competition, April 4-7, 2019, Corpus Christi, TX
  7. University of Texas-San Antonio, University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University in Waco and Rice University campus tours, April 5-7, 2019, San Antonio, Austin, Waco, Houston, TX
  8. 2019 Texas Envirothon, April 11-15, 2019, Nacogdoches, TX
  9. UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, May 31-June 1, 2019 in Austin, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Action: Review and act on board members to attend the following:
1. MASBA 2019 Annual Conference, March 1-3, 2019, Austin, TX
  2. Region One School Board Association Spring Conference, May 17-18, 2019, South Padre Island, TX
  3. TASB's Summer Leadership Institute, June 13-15, 2019, San Antonio, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

The Administration reported having received three RFQs submissions from Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, Luis C. Orosco, CPA, and Park Fowler & Co. for independent auditor services. Board members had the opportunity to review the submissions and evaluated the firms.

Board member Adrian Garcia voiced that the firm Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC was a reputable and experienced firm throughout the state and made a motion, seconded by Larry Cantu, selecting Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC as the district's independent auditor for the 2018-2019 audit.

Martin Castillo, DC, voiced giving consideration to review two firms. In addition, he expressed being familiar with the work experience of Luis Orosco through his involvement with the Edinburg Housing Authority.

Ramon Montalvo also suggested forming a committee to review and interview firms.

After a brief discussion, the motion passed with 5 against selecting Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC as independent auditor for the 2018-2019 audit (Against: M. Garcia, M. Castillo, DC, I. Perez-Treviño, R. Montalvo & H. Gonzales).

- E. Action: Review and possible action on district's legal services request for qualifications.

The Administration reported having received six RFQs submissions from Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle P.C., Eichelbaum Wardell Hansen Powell & Mehl, P.C., Jones, Galligan, Key, & Lozano, L.L.P., The Pruneda Law Firm PLLC, O'Hanlon, Demerath, & Castillo P.C. and Powell & Leon, L.L.P. for legal services. Board members had the opportunity to review the submissions received and evaluated the firms.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Yolanda Cuellar, selecting Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle, P.C. as the best qualified for legal services.

Grace Camargo, Yolanda Cuellar and Larry Cantu voiced in favor of Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle, PC because they have served STISD well and they provide legal experts in all areas of school law.

The motion to select Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle, P.C for legal services passed with one against (M. Castillo, DC) and one abstention (S. Lopez).

- F. Report on the NSBA Advocacy Institute from Larry Cantu & Adrian Garcia.

Larry Cantu and Adrian Garcia gave a brief report on their experience, work and contacts made while attending the Advocacy Institute in Washington DC on January 27-29, 2019.

- G. Report on the STISD Day at the Capitol from Board President Doug Buchanan.

Board President Doug Buchanan reported a delegation of 9 board members and Dr. Lara traveled to Austin to participate in the STISD Day at the Capitol. The experience was very rewarding and also had the opportunity to meet with Legislators and or their Chief of Staff to address pertinent issues to STISD. Special recognition was expressed for Rep. Bobby Guerra and his office for their role in hosting STISD at the Capitol and for the Resolution presented on the Texas House floor.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on February 26, 2019 at 7:54 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 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 Tutors
  2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2019 summer programs.
  3. Rescission of professional employment contract for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:02 p.m.

13. 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 Tutors

The Superintendent recommended the employment of Miriam Garcia and Sally Ites as teacher tutors for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Jaime Solis approving the teacher tutors as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2019 summer programs.

The Superintendent recommended the employment of Erika Sarabia, William McKinney, Diana Martinez, David Wood, Elva Figueroa, Jose Perez, Leticia S. de Castillo, Sonia Brown and James Konecny for the 2019 summer programs.

A motion was made by Grace Camargo, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, approving the professional staff for the 2019 summer programs as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Action: Review and act on rescission of professional employment contract for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Superintendent recommended the rescission of the 2018-2019 school year professional employment contract for Holly Ann Dixon.



A motion was made by Jaime Solis, seconded by Irma Perez-Treviño, rescinding the employment contract as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Jaime Solis adjourning the board meeting at 8:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.