

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, March 26, 2019, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Gateway to the World Library, 510 S. Sugar Rd., Edinburg, 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. Cantu. Mr. Cantu recited the district's Call to Action.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence. Board President asked to keep Irma Perez-Treviño's husband and the family of David Ramos and Ernesto Alvarado in our thoughts and prayers.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:19 p.m. at which time he was assured by Superintendent, Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr. 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
Yolanda Chapa	McAllen
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Javier Farias	McAllen
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg

Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime Solis	Edinburg
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas

The following Board members were absent:

Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
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	Carrie Saucedo
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Gilbert Arreola	Juan Hinojosa
Ann Vickman	

The following guests were present:

Michael Cano, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson
Mike Saldaña, Walsh Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle P.C.

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

Winifred Rios asked to address the Board of Directors to address the topic of her proposed non-renewal of her employment contract.

- 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.

Ramon Montalvo asked the February 26, 2019 board meeting minutes be corrected to clarify that the board did not rank the independent auditor and legal services proposals – instead the minutes should read the board reviewed the submissions and evaluated the firms. A motion was made by Grace Camargo, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving the consent agenda as presented and the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on the February 26, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

The meeting minutes were corrected to reflect the board did not rank the independent auditor and legal services proposals. The corrected minutes were approved with the consent agenda.

The Board President asked to move the order of the agenda at this time to give the attorneys an opportunity to address item in Superintendent's report 11.F and items during executive session (Agenda Item #12 & #13).

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

Grace Camargo reported on the following committee items:

A. *Action: Review and act on the annual instructional materials allotment and TEKS certification for 2019-2020.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. Action: Review and act on the following Proposed Actions:

1. Performance Arts Summer Camp - STPA
2. Advanced Placement Spanish Culture & Language Course - RSA
3. IB Course Additions - BETA
4. Electives & Innovative Course Additions – BETA

A motion was made by Javier Farias, seconded by Abiel J. Cantu, approving the proposed actions listed above as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Action: Review and act on Policy Update 112, Final Reading.

A motion was made by Grace Camargo, seconded by Homero Garcia, adopting Policy Update 112 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Action: Review and act on school calendar for the 2019-2020 school year and legend.

A motion was made by Doug Buchanan, seconded by Homero Garcia, tabling the 2019-2020 school year calendar and legend until next meeting as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Action: Review and act on 2019-2020 Campus Course Sequences.

A motion was made by Grace Camargo, seconded by Abiel J. Cantu, approving the 2019-2020 campus course sequences as presented. BETA course sequence will be presented to the Board at the April board meeting reflecting the program change. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Action: Review and act on program change at BETA with an emphasis on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program.

A motion was made by Grace Camargo, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving the program change at BETA as recommended by the administration as it is in the best interest of current and future students and will have no detrimental effect upon the services to handicapped students, present or in the future. The program change would start now and will be fully implemented in the 2019-2020 school year. The program change is an emphasis on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, including both IB academic and IB career technology courses. In addition, the program change will include the continued development and expansion of dual and concurrent courses offered through the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The program change may require a reduction in force of teachers and will know by next board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and act on campus name change from South Texas Business, Education, and Technology Academy (BETA) to South Texas ISD World Scholars.

A motion was made by Grace Camargo, seconded by Yolanda Cuellar, approving the campus name change from South Texas Business, Education, and Technology Academy (BETA) to South Texas ISD World Scholars for use in current recruitment activities and officially changed as of July 1, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

- H. Action: Review and act on requests for additional positions for the 2019-2020 school year and approval of announcement of vacancies:

1. Professional positions.

2. Non-contract positions.

A motion was made by Grace Camargo, seconded by Abiel J. Cantu, approving the additional professional and non-contract positions and announcement of vacancies for the 2019-2020 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Buildings & Grounds - Abiel J. Cantu & Richard Fleming, MD, Co-Chairs

Abiel J. Cantu reported on the following committee items:

- A. Action: Review and act on approving the ranking of proposals for construction services for the Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project and approval of a purchase order.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantu, seconded by Jaime Solis, ranking the proposals for construction services on the Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project as recommended by the ranking committee; authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a construction agreement with RG Enterprise, LLC (DBA G & G Contractors) pursuant to Texas Government Code section 2269.155; authorize the Superintendent to execute the construction agreement on behalf of the District; and approve the purchase order for the base bid amount of \$249,685.00. The motion passed unanimously.

10. 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. *Review and act on district Investment Report.

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. *Action: Review and act on the Child Nutrition Report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. General Fund Budget Amendment #1
2. International Baccalaureate Incentive Award Budget Amendment #1

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Action: Review and act on Child Nutrition Director's job description and revising the Public Relations and Marketing Assistant job description.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. Action: Review and act on extending the tax delinquent collection contract with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson or authorize administration to seek Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

Mr. Michael Cano, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP attorney was present to answer any questions.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Grace Camargo, extending the tax delinquent collection contract with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson as presented. The motion passed with one against (E. Rodriguez).

- H. Report on tax delinquent collection from Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP.

Mr. Michael Cano with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP reported on the tax delinquent collection for September 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019. This was a report only – no board action was taken.

- I. Action: Review and act on the City of Alamo's Tax Resale Private Bid on a struck off property and approval of a Resolution as submitted by Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Javier Farias, approving the City of Alamo's Tax Resale private bid on a struck off property and approved the Resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- J. Action: Review and award the depository contract for 2019-2021 biennium.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Javier Farias, awarding the bank depository contract to Plains Capital Bank for the biennium September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Requisition #075345 to Noble Texas Builders for the BETA and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project.
2. Requisition #075517 to The College Board for Medical Academy AP exams.
3. Requisition #075360 to The College Board for Science Academy AP exams.
4. Requisition #075097 to International Baccalaureate for BETA IB exams.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Abiel J. Cantu, approving requisitions #075345 to Noble Texas Builders in the amount of \$555,742.75 for the BETA and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project; #075517 to The College Board in the amount of \$59,999.98 for Medical Academy AP exams; #075360 to The College Board in the amount of \$138,462 for Science Academy AP exams and #075097 to International Baccalaureate in the amount of \$57,029 for BETA IB exams as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the HVAC Replacement project at STPA, BETA and Science Academy.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Abiel J. Cantu, approving the payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$74,880 for the HVAC replacement project at BETA, STPA, and Science Academy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Abiel J. Cantu, approving the payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$25,303.20 for the HVAC replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy as presented.

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. State Soccer Tournament, April 5-6, 2019, Georgetown, TX
2. SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Anti-Tobacco Summit, April 26-27, 2019, San Antonio, TX
3. Texas Math and Science Coaches Association Championship Meet, April 26-27, 2019, San Antonio, TX
4. Science Olympiad State Competition, May 2-5, 2019, College Station, TX
5. Texas A&M University Medical Scholars Summer Program, June 9-14, 2019, College Station, TX
6. University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio's (UTHSCSA) Biomedical Excellent and Academic Training (BEAT), June 17-22, 2019, San Antonio, TX
7. 2019 HOSA International Leadership Conference, June 18-23, 2019, Orlando, FL
8. Exploring Houston's Medical Branch Summer Enrichment Program, June 23-29, 2019, Houston, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Sandra Mink
2. Rafael Martinez
3. Dennis Bates
4. Harry Stout

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. *Action: Request from Board Member Homero Garcia to attend Region One School Board Conference, May 17-18, 2019, South Padre Island, Texas.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. Action: Review and act on DGBA Level III Grievance of E.S.

A motion was made by Ramon Montalvo, seconded by Jaime Solis moving the DGBA Level III Grievance of E.S. to executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on March 26, 2019 at 7:31 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 Abiel J. Cantu 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 summer programs.
 2. Review recommendations for renewal/extension of employment contracts for the following: Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Public Relations & Marketing Coordinator, Principals, Administrator for Support Services, teachers and other professional staff.
 3. Pursuant to Sections 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, consideration and deliberation of DGBA Level III Grievance of E.S.
 4. Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, consultation with attorney concerning possible legal issues in connection with DGBA Level III grievance of E.S.
 5. Report on Rolando Garcia vs. South Texas ISD.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:57 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 2019 summer programs.

The Superintendent recommended the employment of professional staff for the 2019 summer programs as listed on agenda pages 218-221.

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.

2. Action: Review and act on recommendations for renewal/extension of employment contracts for the following: Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Public Relations & Marketing Coordinator, Principals, Administrator for Support Services, teachers and other professional staff.

The Superintendent recommended the extension of employment contracts through June 30, 2021 for Jeff Hembree, Marla Knaub, JP Villarreal, Amanda Odom, Harry Goette, Efrain Garza, Irma Castillo, Ed.D., Barbara Heater, Ph.D., Ana Castro and Carrie Saucedo. In addition, the Superintendent recommended the renewal of employment contract for teachers and other professional staff as listed on agenda pages 222-241 for the 2019-2020 school year.

A motion was made by Javier Farias, seconded by Yolanda Cuellar, approving the extension and renewal of employment contract for the professional staff as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action regarding DGBA Level III Grievance of E.S.

Board President asked for a motion regarding the Level III Grievance that was heard during closed session. No Board action was taken. The Board President stated the Level III Grievance Hearing was concluded.

4. Rolando Garcia vs. South Texas ISD

No board action was taken.

14. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Jaime Solis adjourning the board meeting at 8:57 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.