

# 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, April 23, 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 Mrs. Becky Villarreal. Mrs. Villarreal recited the district's Call to Action.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:07 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
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Yolanda Chapa	McAllen
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
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
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas

The following Board members were absent:

Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Jaime Solis	Edinburg
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
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
Jaelyn Buelow	Barbara Heater, Ph.D.
Efrain Garza	Carrie Saucedo
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Ana Castro	Eduardo Arias
Ann Vickman	

The following guests were present:

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).

- 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 Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Mrs. Grace Camargo reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the 2019-2020 school year calendar and legend as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Action: Review and act on the South Texas ISD World Scholars Course Sequence for 2019-2020 school year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving the South Texas ISD World Scholars Course Sequence for 2019-2020 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Medical Academy Physical Education Mentor course
2. Science Academy Summer Entrepreneurship Academy with Long Island University

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, approving the Medical Academy Physical Education Mentor course and Science Academy Summer Entrepreneurship Academy with Long Island University proposed actions as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Action: Review and act on request for additional professional positions for the 2019-2020 school year at South Texas ISD World Scholars and approval of announcement of vacancies.

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar approving the additional professional positions and the announcement of vacancies for the 2019-2020 school year at the South Texas ISD World Scholars as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Abiel J. Cantú reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Action: Review and act on declaring a district truck as surplus equipment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Mr. Adrian Garcia reported on the following committee items:

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Report on 2018-2019 second quarter student activity accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Action: Review and act on the General Fund 199 budget amendment #2.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:

1. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. application for payment #1 for the Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project in the amount of \$10,837.87. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Payment application #1 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at BETA, STPA and Science Academy.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving CAHS application for payment #1 for the HVAC Replacement project at BETA, STPA, and Science Academy in the amount of \$87,694.50. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Requisition #076570 to Finals site for district and campus website redesign & hosting.
2. Requisition #076413 to Noble Texas Builders for the STPA Administration Building Security Renovation project.
3. Requisition #075291 to College Entrance Examinations for Med High AP Exams.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving requisitions #076570 to Finals site for district and campus website redesign & hosting; #076413 to Noble Texas Builders for the STPA Administration Building Security Renovation project; and #075291 to College Entrance Examinations for Med High AP Exams as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. \$550 from Rio Grande Valley Chapter of Texas Association of Softball Officials (TASO) to Med High scholarships
2. \$240 from Improved Order of Red Men of Omaha #25 to Med High HOSA
3. \$300 from South Texas Technology Education Association to Science Academy TSA
4. \$550 from Dr. Ricardo Ochoa for STPA
5. \$1,520 from the STPA-PSTO for the STPA Volleyball Club
6. \$400 from Dr. Ricardo & Mrs. Sandra Ochoa to BETA

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Perez-Treviño, approving \$550 donation from Rio Grande Valley Chapter of Texas Association of Softball Officials (TASO) to Med High scholarships; \$240 from Improved Order of Red Men of Omaha #25 to Med High HOSA; \$300 from South Texas Technology Education Association to Science Academy TSA; \$550 from Dr. Ricardo Ochoa for STPA; \$1,520 from the STPA-PSTO for the STPA Volleyball Club; and \$400 from Dr. Ricardo & Mrs. Sandra Ochoa to BETA as presented. The Board expressed appreciation to the donors for their support and generosity. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Review: Discussion of possible change to Board Policy CH (Local) Purchasing and Acquisition.

The Finance Committee reviewed and discussed district's Board Policy CH (Local) Purchasing and Acquisition and agreed it was not necessary to make changes - to keep the policy as is.

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. ASU/GSV Educational Summit, April 7-10, 2019, San Diego, CA
2. History Club Field Trip, April 20, 2019, Austin, TX
3. Congressional App Awards Ceremony, May 5-8, 2019, Washington, DC
4. Beach to Bay Marathon Relay, May 17-19, 2019, Corpus Christi, TX
5. Texas State Aquarium Visit, May 18, 2019, Corpus Christi, TX
6. 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee, Mar 26-31, 2019, Washington, DC
7. National and State Parks/McDonald Observatory, June 13-16, 2019, West Texas
8. Rice Summer Symposium, June 17-28, 2019, Houston, TX
9. University of California Summer Institute for the Gifted, July 13-August 2, 2019, Berkeley, CA
10. Cornell Curie & Catalyst Summer Academy, July 14-20, 2019, Ithaca, NY
11. Long Island University Entrepreneurship Academy, July 21-27, 2019, Long Island, NY
12. Johns Hopkins Discover Program, July 22-August 2, 2019, Baltimore, MD
13. HOSA Leadership Development Institute, August 4-7, 2019, San Antonio, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. David Goldstein
2. Louisa Benavides
3. Lisa Ashley
4. Tara Pratt

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. \*Action: Review and act on amending summer 2019 office hours.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. \*Action: Review and act on board members to attend the following:

1. Legislative Meeting, April 16-17, 2019, Austin, TX
2. TASA/TASB Annual Convention, September 20-22, 2019 in Dallas, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. Action: Name delegate and alternate for the TASA/TASB Convention, September 20-22, 2019 in Dallas, TX.

A motion was made by Mr. Lerma, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, naming Grace Camargo to serve as the delegate and Margarita Garcia as alternate for the TASA/TASB Convention scheduled for September, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on April 23, 2019 at 7:19 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 Mr. 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 2019 summer programs.
  2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year.
    - a. Teachers
    - b. Nurse
    - c. Librarian

3. Review recommendations for renewal/non-renewal of employment contracts for the 2019-2020 school year for teachers and other professional staff.
  - a. Renewal of professional staff for 2019-2020 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 2018-2019 school year (W.R. and R.G.).
  - c. Pursuant to 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, deliberation concerning proposed non-renewal of the term contract of employee(s) (A.G., A.G., R.G.) employed in the South Texas Business, Education & Technology Academy due to BETA's program change (emphasis on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program for IB academic and IB career technology courses).

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 7:42 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.

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr. recommended professional staff for the 2019 summer programs as listed on agenda pages 131-134.

A motion was made by Mr. A. J. Cantú, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving the professional staff for the 2019 summer programs as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year.
  - a. Teachers
  - b. Nurse
  - c. Librarian

Additionally, Dr. Lara recommended the following professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year: Teachers (10 month contract) Edward Reza, Mireya Marroquin, Esequiel Garcia, Jr., Lane Dougherty, Damon Reed, Dora Navarrete, Geronimo Perez, Eva M. Williamson and Annalisa R. Salinas; Nurse (10 month contract) Meagen Attebery; and Librarian (11 month contract) Sandra Naranjo.



A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. A. J. Cantú, approving the professional staff (teachers, nurse and librarian) for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Action: Review and act on recommendations for renewal/non-renewal of employment contracts for the 2019-2020 school year for the following: teachers and other professional staff.

- a. Renewal of professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Lara recommended the renewal of employment contract for the 2019-2020 for the teachers and other professional staff as listed on agenda pages 144-148.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chapa, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, renewing the employment contracts of teacher and other professional staff as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consider and take possible action regarding termination of probationary contract teacher at the end of the 2018-2019 school year (W.R. and R.G.).

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, terminating the Chapter 21 probationary contract of Winifred Rios at the end of the 2018-2019 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 with one abstention (H. Gonzales).

A motion was made by Mrs. Chapa, seconded by Mrs. Villarreal, terminating the Chapter 21 probationary contract of Ruben Garcia at the end of the 2018-2019 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.

- c. Consideration of and possible action on the proposed non-renewal of the term contract for employee(s) (A.G., A.G., R.G.) employed in the South Texas Business, Education & Technology Academy due to program change.

Whereas, the board previously determined the need for a program change exists requiring the elimination of certain full time positions, A motion was made by Mrs. Villarreal, seconded by Mr. Gonzales accepting the Superintendent's recommendation based on the Superintendent's application of the criteria recommended in Board policy DFFB (Local), to propose the nonrenewal of the Chapter 21 term contract of employee,

Alejandro F. Garcia, due to the declared program change at the BETA campus and authorized the Superintendent to give written notice to employee that the board proposes nonrenewal of the term contract due to program change at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Whereas, the board previously determined the need for a program change exists requiring the elimination of certain full time positions. A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Perez-Treviño accepting the Superintendent's recommendation based on the Superintendent's application of the criteria recommended in Board policy DFFB (Local), to propose the nonrenewal of the Chapter 21 term contract of employee, Aaron D. Garza, due to the declared program change at the BETA campus and authorized the Superintendent to give written notice to employee that the board proposes nonrenewal of the term contract due to program change at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Whereas, the board previously determined the need for a program change exists requiring the elimination of certain full time positions. A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Castillo accepting the Superintendent's recommendation based on the Superintendent's application of the criteria recommended in Board policy DFFB (Local), to propose the nonrenewal of the Chapter 21 term contract of employee, Rosa M. Gonzalez, due to the declared program change at the BETA campus and authorized the Superintendent to give written notice to employee that the board proposes nonrenewal of the term contract due to program change at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 14. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. A. J. Cantú, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, adjourning the board meeting at 7:49 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.