

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, May 28, 2019, beginning at 7:30 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, remembering the 2019 graduates.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 8:00 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
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville

Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas

The following Board members were absent:

Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
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
Jaelyn Buelow	Barbara Heater, Ph.D.
Efrain Garza	Carrie Saucedo
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Ana Castro	Juan Hinojosa
Ann Vickman	

5. 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 Michele Guajardo, Ph.D., teacher, for receiving her Doctorate in Leadership Studies from Our Lady of the Lake University.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Administration, Mrs. Amanda Odom presented a "Leading by Example" award to Dr. Michele Guajardo for having earned a doctoral degree.

- B. Recognition of all four high schools for ranking among the best in the state and nation as per U.S. News & World Report released its 2019 Best High Schools.

On behalf of the Board and Administration, Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr. and President Doug Buchanan presented certificates of recognition to BETA, Med High, Medical Academy and Sci Tech for ranking among top high schools in the state and nation as per the 2019 U.S. News & World Report "Best High Schools."

- C. Recognition of all four high schools for receiving 2019 College Success Awards from GreatSchools.

On behalf of the Board and Administration, Dr. Lara. and President Doug Buchanan presented certificates of recognition to BETA, Med High, Medical Academy and Sci Tech for receiving the 2019 College Success Awards from GreatSchools.

6. 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 Mrs. Chapa, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on the April 16 and April 23, 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 vacancy for 2019 summer program.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Action: Review and act on request from night custodian, Nestor Hernandez, to use 12 consecutive days of personal leave to travel to Columbia to attend to business/family matter.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, approving the new additional Professional Positions requested for South Texas ISD for the 2019-2020 School Year: A Special Education Teacher at the Science Academy and an Assistant Principal at STPA. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Report on State Assessment Results Spring 2019:

1. Preliminary STAAR 7th & 8th grades
2. STAAR End of Course exams

Mr. Jeff Hembree reported on the 2019 STAAR results. The administration utilizes our local formative assessments to refine classroom instruction. The STAAR EOC scores will continue to improve as we keep our focus on higher-level objectives and adjusting based upon the individual student needs. Mr Hembree reported the State accountability ratings for the district and campuses will be assigned later this year in the fall using the A through F system from the state.

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

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

A. Report on the following:

1. Rising Scholars Academy HVAC Replacement project
2. BETA, STPA & Science Academy HVAC Replacement project
3. Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project
4. Rising Scholars Academy Floor Tile Replacement project
5. STPA Administration Security Renovation project

Mr. JP Villarreal reported on the status of the projects listed above and pictures of the work in progress were shared.

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. *Action: Review and act on the following job descriptions:

1. Administrator for Human Resources

2. International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator
3. Assistant Principal

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Budget Amendment #1 for the Summer Seamless Program.
2. Budget Amendment #3 for the General Fund.
3. Budget Amendment #2 for the HEAL2 Year 3 Program.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on updates to bank resolution.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Payment application #1 (final) to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Edinburg Bus Maintenance Facility project.
2. Payment application #2 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at BETA, STPA and Science Academy.
3. Payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the HVAC Replacement project at BETA, STPA and Science Academy.
4. Payment applications #1 and #2 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy
5. Payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Homero Garcia, approving payment application #1 (final) to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Edinburg Bus Maintenance Facility project in the amount of \$90,000; payment application #2 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at BETA, STPA and Science Academy in the amount of \$46,901.50; payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the HVAC Replacement project at BETA, STPA and Science Academy in the amount of \$1,685; payment applications #1 and #2 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy in the amount of \$19,000 and \$247,950 respectively; and payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy in the amount of \$3,352.67. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. \$1,000 from Sam Hunt to Science Academy
2. \$1,700 from the Rising Scholars PSTO to Rising Scholars Academy
3. \$100 from Orange Theory Fitness Gym to Rising Scholars Academy
4. \$200 from Will Sub to STPA
5. \$250 from Davis Equity Realty to STPA.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the \$1,000 donation from Sam Hunt; \$1,700 from RSA PSTO; \$100 from Orange Theory Fitness Gym; \$200 from Will Sub and \$250 from Davis Equity Realty as presented. The Board expressed appreciation for the generous support. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and act on requisition #077409 to Bauer Sport Floors for refurbishing the World Scholars gym floor.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, second by Mr. Solis, approving requisition #077409 to Bauer Sport Floors for refurbishing the World Scholars gym floor as presented. 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. Baylor College of Medicine (Doc Prep Program), June 9-15, 2019, Houston, TX
2. IB Program Workshop, June 26-29, 2019, Santa Fe, NM
3. IB Program Workshop, July 17-21, 2019, New Orleans, LA
4. TAMUK Residential Engineering Camp, July 21-25, 2019, Kingsville, TX
5. UTRGV Residential STEM Camp, July 21-25, 2019, Edinburg, TX

6. Texas State Leadership Camp - Texas State University, July 22-26, 2019, San Marcos, TX
7. Formative Assessment National Conference, July 28-31, 2019, College Park, MD

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Karen Muñiz
2. Lilia Cardiel

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. Action: Review and approve nomination of Mrs. Yolanda Cuellar to the Region I, Position B seat on the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. Solis, nominating Mrs. Yolanda Cuellar to the Region I, Position B seat on the TASB Board. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Correspondence.

A. Thank you card from Ernesto Alvarado's Family.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on May 28, 2019 at 8:43 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. Counselor
 3. Rescission of professional employment contracts for the 2019-2020 school year
- B. Deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Section 5541.072 of the Texas Government Code.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 9:09 p.m.

14. 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., Superintendent of Schools, recommended professional staff for the 2019 summer programs as listed on agenda pages 137.

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. Solis, 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. Counselor

Additionally, Dr. Lara recommended the following professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year: Teachers (10 month contract) Rebecca Van Cleave, Rafael Bravo, Efren Rodriguez, Raul C. Diaz, Dafne Carapia, Ana A. Cortez, Edna I. Hernandez, Anthony Hughes, Ricardo Benavidez, III, Amber N. Gonzalez, Casandra M. Martinez, Emily Finch, Tomas Ramos, Cynthia Cavazos, Rebekah L. Valenzuela and Cynthia Sarmeto; and Counselor (11 month contract) Kimberly Garza.

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

3. Action: Review and act on rescission of professional employment contracts for the 2019-2020 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mrs. Chapa rescinding Dora Navarrete's professional contract for the 2019-2020 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Consider and take possible action regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

A motion was made by Mr. Solis, seconded by Mr. A. J. Cantú, authorizing the Superintendent to proceed as discussed in closed session. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzales seconded by Mr. A. J. Cantú, adjourning the board meeting at 9:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.