

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, July 24, 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 Grace Camargo. Mrs. Camargo 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 7:00 p.m. at which time he was assured by Superintendent, Marla M. Guerra 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:

Graciela Camargo	Weslaco
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Maria G. Leal	Palmhurst
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Joe L. "Joey" Lopez	Brownsville
Eliceo Muñoz, III	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Berta Palacios	San Juan
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville

The following board members were absent:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Yolanda Chapa	McAllen
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Javier Farias	McAllen
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following staff members were present:

Marla M. Guerra, Ed.D.	Jeff Hembree
J.P. Villarreal	Marla R. Knaub
Sonia E. Rodriguez	Amanda Odom
Jaclyn Buelow	Barbara Heater, Ph.D.
Nora Casarez, Ed.D.	David Gamboa, Ed.D.
Carrie Saucedo	Ann Vickman
Adrian Caceres	

The following guests were present:

Leandra Ortiz - Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle PC

4. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

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 students for their performance at the UIL Music Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Administration, Amanda Odom presented a certificate of recognition to the UIL Music Texas State Solo-Ensemble winners

B. Recognition of Med High, RSA, Science Academy and STPA for being named to the 2017-2018 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll.

On behalf of the Board and Administration, Marla M. Guerra, Ed.D. and President Joe Lopez presented certificates of recognition to Med High, Rising Scholars, Science Academy, and South Texas Preparatory Academy for being named to the 2017-2018 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll.

C. Recognition of STPA for its re-designation as a Texas School to Watch.

On behalf of the Board and Administration, Marla M. Guerra, Ed.D. and President Joe Lopez presented a certificate of recognition to South Texas Preparatory Academy for its re-designation as a Texas School to Watch.

- D. Recognition of Maria G. Leal for receiving an award from Region One ESC for her years of service as a Board Member.

The Board of Directors recognized Mrs. Maria G. Leal for her 20 years of service as a Board Member with South Texas ISD and Mission CISD.

The Board President asked to move the order of the agenda at this time to give the attorney an opportunity to address items during executive session (Agenda Item #12). A motion was made by Homero Garcia, seconded by Maria G. Leal, changing the order of the day as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

After the board came back in open session, the Board President asked the Board to move the order of the agenda once again in order to take action on Agenda Item: 11.I (Superintendent's retirement resignation) before taking action on the items discussed in executive session. A motion was made by Henry LeVrier, seconded by Abiel Cantu changing the order of the day as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

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 Homero Garcia seconded by Grace Camargo, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on the May 22, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

In the absence of the Committee-Chairs, Berta Palacios., reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on Policy Update 111, First Reading.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Yearly report on site-based councils.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the 2018-2019 Student Code of Conduct.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on the following Memorandums of Understanding related to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program for the 2018-2019 school year:

1. Cameron County
2. Hidalgo County

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Report on local certification through the District of Innovation Plan.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. *Action: Review and act on announcement of vacancy for Summer School Extended Year Services Teacher.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- H. *Action: Review and act on updating Policy BBB (Local) - Board Members Elections.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- I. Report on 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

Jeff Hembree provided a first-year report on the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. The district has made considerable progress with the strategies that were identified for the first year of focus. The district strategic design team will meet again in

fall 2018 to hear a report on the first-year progress and make recommendations for moving forward in year two.

J. Report on State Assessment Results Spring 2018 - STAAR & End of Course Exams.

Jeff Hembree provided a report on the state assessment results Spring 2018 for 7th/8th grade and End of Course Exams. The STARR results are strong. The administration uses these scores to guide classroom instruction.

K. Report on 2018 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate scores.

Jeff Hembree provided a report on the Advanced Placement and International "Baccalaureate scores. There were 287 students who were recognized as AP Scholars for 2018, an increase from 272 in 2017.

As for the IB Scores, the report shows the continued strong positive development of the IB students and program at BETA campus. There were 54 candidates eligible for Diploma and 28 candidates earned the Diploma in 2018.

L. Action: Review and act on proposed local evaluation systems for teachers and principals, Final reading.

A motion was made by Berta Palacios, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving the local evaluation systems for teachers and principals as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Action: Review and act on revision to DNA (LOCAL) policy, Final reading.

A motion was made BY Hector Gonzales, seconded by Grace Camargo, approving the revision to policy DNA (LOCAL) as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

N. Action: Review and act on recommendation from the Facilities Naming Sub-committee on the Science Academy Innovation Lab.

Facilities Naming Sub-committee Chair Adrian Garcia gave a report on the committee's work. The committee carefully reviewed district policy CW(LOCAL) and the nomination to name the new Science Academy Innovation Lab. The committee voted unanimously to take the recommendation to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Homero Garcia, seconded by Maria G. Leal, naming the new Science Academy Innovation Lab the Congressman Rubén Hinojosa

Science Academy Innovation Lab as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- O. Action: Review and act on request for additional teaching position for 2018-2019 and announcement of vacancy.

A motion was made by Grace Camargo, seconded by Abiel Cantu, approving the new teacher position for the 2018-2019 school and approved the announcement of vacancy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Buildings & Grounds - Abiel J. Cantu & Homero Garcia, Co-Chairs

Abiel J. Cantu., reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on the 2018-2019 school lunch and breakfast prices.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on the following projects:

1. Science Academy Innovation Lab project.

JP Villarreal shared pictures of the work in progress at the Science Academy Innovation Lab. The project remains on schedule for completion by the end of August 2018.

2. Med High Air Handler Units and Chiller Line Replacement project.

JP Villarreal provided an update on the project. The project remains on schedule for completion for July 28, 2018.

3. Intercom Replacement project.

JP Villarreal provided an update on the intercom replacement project. The projects remains on schedule for completion by August 1st.

4. Science Academy Re-roofing project.

JP Villarreal provided an update on the Science Academy Re-roofing project. The contractor has had 11 days delay due to rain or threat of rain. The projected completion date for the project is October 2, 2018.

- C. Action: Review and act on Change Order #1 to the Betterment Fund for the Science Academy Innovation Lab project.

A motion was made by Abiel Cantu, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving Change Order #1 in the amount of \$4,125 to the Betterment Fund for the Science Academy Innovation Lab project for material, labor and installation of 120V Power. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Action: Review and act on Change Order #1 to the Betterment Fund for the Med High Air Handler Units and Chiller Line Replacement project.

A motion was made by Abiel Cantu, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving Changer Order #1 in the amount of \$6,395 to the Betterment Fund for the Med High Air Handler Units and Chiller Line Replacement project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Finance - Maria G. Leal & Israel Quintanilla, Co-Chairs

Maria G. Leal, 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. *Report on 2017-2018 third quarter student activity accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Report on the Child Nutrition Revenues/Expenditures.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Annual review of district policy CDA (LOCAL) Other Revenues & Investments.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. *Action: Review and act on approving 13 paychecks for new employees.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- H. *Action: Review and act on 2018-2019 school year job descriptions.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- I. *Action: Review and act on setting date for public meeting to discuss the 2018-2019 budget and proposed tax rate to be published on the notice of the public hearing.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- J. *Report on 2018-2019 preliminary school budget.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- K. *Action: Review and act on 2018-2019 Employee Benefits and Travel Reimbursement Schedule.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- L. *Action: Review and act on approving the Hidalgo County Tax Assessor's fee for the taxable year 2018.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- M. *Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing bank signatures for BETA campus.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- N. *Action: Review and act on approving the 2018-2019 Stipend Agreements.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- O. Action: Review and act on approving wage payments to district employees for time missed during closing of district due to severe rain/flooding conditions.

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving wage payments to district employees due to severe rain/flooding conditions as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

P. Action: Review and act on awarding proposals for the following:

1. Property, Liability and Auto Insurance.

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Ramon Montalvo, awarding the Property, Liability and Auto Insurance to Shepard Walton King for September 1, 2018 through April 1, 2019 for a premium of \$161,489. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Security Guard Services.

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Henry LeVrier, awarding the Security Guard Services to American Surveillance Company, Inc. as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Special Education Contracted Services.

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Homero Garcia, awarding the Special Education Contracted Services to Ardor Health Solutions, Centrix Therapy, Class A Therapeutic & Educational Services, Community Rehab Associates, Inc., Epic Health Services, Georgina Vela, Julie Welch-Tripp, RDZ Psychological Clinic, PC, Specialized Assessment & Consulting, Sylvan Learning and Therapia Staffing as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Q. Action: Review and act on authorizing administration to extend Workers Compensation Insurance with TASB Risk Management.

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Homero Garcia, extending Worker's Compensation Insurance with TASB Risk Management for September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Application for payments #11 and #12 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Science Academy Innovation Lab project.
2. Application for payments #8 and #9 to D. Wilson Construction for the Science Academy Innovation Lab project.
3. Application for payments #4 and #5 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Med High Air Handler Units and Chiller Line Replacement project.

4. Application for payments #3 and #4 to D. Wilson Construction for the Med High Air Handler Units and Chiller Line Replacement project.
5. Application for payments #1 and #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Science Academy Re-roofing project.
6. Application for payments #1 and #2 to American Contracting USA for the Science Academy Re-roofing project.
7. Application for payments #1 and #2 to Superior Alarms for the Intercom Replacement project.

A motion was made by Israel Quintanilla, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving the application for payments #11 & #12 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$7,919.18 each for the Science Academy Innovation Lab; application for payments #8 & #9 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$1,920,979.75 and \$611,363.98 for the Science Academy Innovation Lab project; application for payments #4 & #5 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$710.64 and \$2,131.92 for the Med High A/C and Chiller Line Replacement project; application for payments #3 & #4 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$50,240.75 and \$171,966.15 for the Med High A/C and Chiller Line Replacement project; application for payments #1 & #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$68,400 and \$6,156 for the Science Academy Re-roofing project; application for payments #1 & #2 to American Contracting USA, Inc. in the amount of \$303,620 and \$180,500 for the Science Academy Re-roofing project; and application for payment #1 & #2 to Superior Alarms for the Intercom Replacement project in the amount of \$42,615 and \$87,480 as presented. The Board did not have a June board meeting, therefore applications for payment were retroactively approved. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Outdoor furniture and installation valued at \$6,400 from the STPA PSTO to STPA.
2. Medical equipment valued at \$300 from Culture of Life Ministries to Med High.
3. \$600 from Jailbreak Racing Events, LLC to Med High.
4. \$500 from the Science Academy PTSO to the senior class.
5. \$300 from South Texas Technology Educators Association to Science Academy.

A motion was made by Israel Quintanilla, seconded by Henry LeVrier, approving the following donations: Outdoor furniture and installation valued at \$6,400 from STPA PSTO; Medical equipment valued at \$300 from Culture of Life Ministries; \$600 from Jailbreak Racing Events, LLC; \$500 from Science Academy PTSO and \$300 from South Texas Technology Educators Association as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Requisition #067945 to Dell for Science Academy.
2. Requisition #067757 to Kudelski Security for districtwide wireless access points.
3. Requisition #068087 to Teaching Systems Inc. for Science Academy.
4. Requisition #068090 to South Texas School Furniture for Science Academy.
5. Requisition #068096 to Alamo Iron Works for Science Academy.
6. Requisition #068110 to Home Depot for Science Academy equipment
7. Requisition #068124 to Insight Public Sector for Science Academy

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving requisitions #067945 to Dell Marketing in the amount of \$132,720 for Science Academy ; #067757 to Kudelski Security in the amount of \$76,944 for districtwide wireless access points; #068087 to Teaching Systems Inc. in the amount of \$37,120.80 for Science Academy; #068090 to South Texas School Furniture in the amount of \$55,865 for Science Academy; #068096 to Alamo Iron Works in the amount of 106,329.68 for Science Academy; #068110 to Home Depot in the amount of \$143,611.87 for Science Academy equipment; and #068124 to Insight Public Sector in the amount of \$64,539.92 for Science Academy. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Superintendent's Report - M. Guerra, 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. M.D. Anderson Summer Research Program, July 10-14, 2018, Bastrop, Smithville and Houston, TX
2. 2018 National Health Science Conference, September 25-28, 2018, Denver, CO

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Chester Lee Mink
2. Colette Rogers
3. Santos Peña

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on Resolutions/Interlocal Agreements to participate in the following purchasing cooperatives:

1. Texas SmartBuy Membership Program
2. Region One ESC Library, PEIMS, Cafeteria & Food and Transportation Co-ops
3. Texas Association of School Boards Purchasing Co-op
4. U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance
5. National IPA Co-op
6. Purchasing Association of Cooperative Entities (PACE)
7. Region III ESC Purchasing Cooperative
8. Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Buy Co-op
9. Harris County Department of Education Purchasing Co-op
10. TIPS Purchasing Co-op Region VIII ESC
11. Allied States Cooperative Region 19 ESC

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. *Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing the Superintendent to contract for school-related services (S 1).

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. *Action: Review and act on Resolution calling for South Texas ISD Board of Directors elections, November 6, 2018.

Approved with the consent agenda.

G. Annual review of Board Operating Procedures.

The Board President reported that the Board Operating Procedures were developed as a result of a Team Building goal. The Board Operating Procedures

are reviewed annually. However, since the procedures were first created in 2014, this is a good time to name a Committee to review and make recommendations for changes/updates.

Board President will be seeking volunteers to serve on this committee.

H. Action: Review and act on endorsing a candidate for the TASB Board of Directors, Region I.

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Grace Camargo endorsing Patricia O'Caña-Olivarez as a candidate for the TASB Board of Directors, Region I. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on Superintendent of Schools retirement resignation.

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia S. Garza, seconded by Homero Garcia, approving the retirement resignation for Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marla M. Guerra. Board members expressed their gratitude for Dr. Guerra's years of service, her leadership, her empathy for others, her community service and how she will be missed. Board President Joe Lopez stated Dr. Guerra will surely be missed. In the meantime, a lot of work is ahead in finding a suitable replacement and looks to Dr. Guerra for her help in doing so. The motion passed unanimously.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board met on July 24, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. in a closed or executive session in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, 551,084 and 551.001. The Presiding Officer appointed Maria G. Leal 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 summer programs (G2).
2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year.
 - a. Teacher(s)
 - b. Principal
 - c. Counselor(s)
 - d. Assistant Principal
 - e. Instructional Technology Specialist
3. Consultation with Attorney regarding threatened and pending litigation:
 - a. Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding a.) pending or contemplated litigation b.) settlement offer; or c.) a matter in which the duty of the attorney to South Texas Independent School District under the Texas

Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Tx. Gov't Code 551.071):

1. Discussion regarding potential settlement concerning C.C.
4. Consultation with Attorney regarding legal issues related to Superintendent search.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:24 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 summer programs (G2)

The Superintendent recommended the employment of the professional staff for the 2018 summer programs as listed on agenda page 512. A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Hector Gonzales approving the professional staff for the 2018 summer programs as recommended. The motion passed unanimously

2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year.
 - a. Teacher(s)
 - b. Principal
 - c. Counselor(s)
 - d. Assistant Principal
 - e. Instructional Technology Specialist

The Superintendent recommended the employment of the professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year for the following: Ruben Garcia, Cassandra L. Leal, Maritza Garza, Alejandro Rosel, Elizabeth Arriola, Cindy Keller, Vanessa Ochoa, Miguel Celio Torres, Robert Schmidt, Cassandra Garcia, Janelle Sternberg, Victoria Garcia as teacher (10 month contract) and James Mills (11 month contract); Efrain Garza as principal (12 month contract); Marcos Leonel Flores as assistant principal (11 month contract); Ezelina Marroquin and Wilmer Romero as counselor (11 month contract); and Alberto Tudon Jr as instructional technology specialist (12 month contract).

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Hector Gonzales approving the professional staff for the 2018-2019 school year as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding settlement concerning C.C.

A motion was made by Maria Leal, seconded by Abiel Cantu, approving the settlement regarding Dr. Celeste Cardenas, as discussed in executive session and authorized the Superintendent to finalize the settlement documents, as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider and take possible action regarding Superintendent search.

A motion was made by Abiel Cantu, seconded by Maria Leal, authorizing the law firm of Walsh Gallegos to initiate and conduct a Superintendent Search for South Texas ISD; authorize the Board President and the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract with an education consultant to assist in the Superintendent Search; and authorize the creation of a Special Committee to advise and report to the Board regarding the Superintendent Search pursuant to District policy BDB (Legal) and BDB (Local). The committee shall have the authority to establish a timeline for the search, develop an applicant profile, request background checking, seek applications, review and rank applications, conduct preliminary interviews and recommend a final list of applicants for interviews and consideration by the Board.

Dr. Richard Fleming added the caveat that any board member wishing to be on the committee to be allowed.

The motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Abiel Cantu, seconded by Grace Camargo adjourning the board meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.