

# 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 Thursday, August 1, 2019, beginning at 7:15 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. Yolanda Cuellar. Mrs. Cuellar recited the district's Call to Action.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence. The Board President asked to remember Becky Villarreal's husband and any other loved one that may be facing health issues.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:18 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
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Javier Farias	McAllen
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg

Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg

The following Board members were absent:

Yolanda Chapa	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Rebecca Villarreal	Peñitas
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	Ann Vickman
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Ana Castro	Albert Tudon

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 district retirees.

The Board of Directors and Administration recognized the district retirees and presented a Resolution for their service to our school community.

Mr. David Avila signed up to address the school board under the Open Forum of the meeting. He wanted to comment on his recent purchase of equipment at an auction which included old equipment previously owned by the district. He expressed his concern that all equipment sold to the public be properly sanitized (erase all data).

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 Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. \*Action: Review and act on the June 18, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

8. Policy & Curriculum - Yolanda Chapa & Yolanda Cuellar, Co-Chairs

Mrs. Yolanda Cuellar reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Report on Policy Update 113, First Reading.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Action: Review and act on the 2019-2020 Student Code of Conduct.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. \*Action: Review and act on the following Memorandums of Understanding related to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program for the 2019-2020 school year:

1. Cameron County
2. Hidalgo County

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. \*Action: Review and act on 2019-2020 appraisal calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda. Three new teachers were recommended by World Scholars Principal to teach under the local certification for the 2019-2020

school year. The teachers will be teaching career and technology content areas that fall under our District of Innovation Plan. The teachers are Mr. William Prock for Criminal Justice, Ms. Natalie Vidal for Marketing, Ms. Shyanne Diaz for Business. In addition to the three new teachers, STISD has three returning teachers who are under local certification for career and technology content areas. They are Ms. Vanessa Manrique, Medical Academy Health Science; Mr. James Mills, Science Academy Engineering; and Ms. Maria Cordova-Galvan, Rising Scholars Health Science.

G. \*Report on the District of Innovation Plan.

Approved with the consent agenda.

H. Report on 2019 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate scores.

Mr. Jeff Hembree reported on the 2019 AP Equity and Excellence reports for STISD and each of our high school campuses. He reported the administration keeps striving for our goal of reaching 100% of our graduates with a qualifying score in at least one subject area AP or IB exam. He also shared the IB scores summary report. The IB report shows the continued development of the IB program and students at World Scholars campus.

9. Buildings & Grounds - Homero Garcia & Hector Gonzales, Co-Chairs

Mr. Homero Garcia reported on the following committee items:

A. Report on the following:

1. World Scholars, STPA & Science Academy HVAC Replacement project
2. Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project
3. STPA Security Administration Entrance project
4. World Scholars and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project

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

B. Action: Review and act on Change Order #1 to the contract for the World Scholars and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving Change Order #1 to the contract for the World Scholars and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project as presented, a credit in the amount of \$19,260. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Action: Review and act on Change Order #1 to the Betterment Fund for the Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Perez-Treviño, approving Change Order #1 to the Betterment Fund for the Mercedes Bus Parking Expansion project in the amount of \$3,600.00 for labor and material to repair a fiber optic cable and conduit. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Action: Review and act on approving the Rising Scholars Academy HVAC Replacement project as substantially complete.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving the Rising Scholars Academy HVAC Replacement project as substantially complete. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Finance - Margarita Garcia & Sylvia S. Garza, Ph.D., Co-Chairs

Dr. Sylvia S. Garza 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 Resolutions authorizing bank signatures for campuses.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. \*Action: Review and act on setting date for public meeting to discuss the 2019-2020 budget and proposed tax rate to be published on the notice of the public hearing.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. \*Action: Review and act on approving the Hidalgo County Tax Assessor's fee for the taxable year 2019.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- H. \*Action: Review and act on approving wage payments to district employees for time missed due to severe rain/flooding conditions.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- I. \*Action: Review and act on renaming the Administrator for Human Resources position to Director for Human Resources.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- J. \*Action: Review and act on the General Fund budget amendment #4.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- K. Review: Discussion of recommended revisions to Board Policy CH (Local) Purchasing and Acquisition.

The Finance Committee reviewed Board Policy CH (Local) Purchasing and Acquisition and are recommending considering changing the policy to authorize Superintendent or designee the authority to make purchases that exceeds \$50,000 per single line item requiring Board approval before a transaction may take place (not a purchase order with a total that exceeds \$50,000 as it is currently in policy). This item will be placed on the agenda for board consideration at the next board meeting.

- L. Action: Review and act on authorizing to advertise for the following Request for Qualifications (RFQ's) for the renovation project of the new real estate acquisition pending final sale:

1. Architectural Services
2. Interior Design Services

A motion was made by Dr. Garza, seconded by Mr. Solis, authorizing the administration to advertise for Request for Qualifications (RFQ's) for an architect and an interior designer for the renovation project of the new real estate acquisition, pending final sale. The motion passed with two against (Mr. L. Cantu and Mr. A. Garcia).

M. Action: Review and act on extending contract for Special Education Contracted Services.

A motion was made by Dr. Garza, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, extending the contract for Special Education contracted services for one year for the following providers: Ardor Health Solutions, Centrix Therapy, Class A Therapeutic & Educational Services, Community Rehab Associates, Inc, RDZ Psychological Clinic, PC, Specialized Assessment & Consulting, Sylvan Learning and Therapia Staffing as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #4 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at World Scholars, STPA and Science Academy.
2. Payment application #4 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy
3. Payment application #4 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy.
4. Payment application #2 to Noble Texas Builders for STPA Security Administration Entrance.
5. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the World Scholars and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project.
6. Payment application #1 to Noble Texas Builders for the World Scholars and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project.
7. Payment application #1 to RG Enterprises, LLC for Mercedes Parking Lot Expansion project.
8. Payment application #1 (final) to W.E. Imhoff for the RSA Floor Tile Replacement project.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving payment application #4 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at World Scholars, STPA and Science Academy in the amount of \$457,477.25; payment application #4 to CAHS for the HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy in the amount of \$16,245; payment application #4 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for HVAC Replacement project at Rising Scholars Academy in the amount of \$189.07; payment application #2 to Noble Texas Builders for STPA Security Administration Entrance in the amount of \$32,564.10; payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc.

for the World Scholars and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project, in the amount of \$29,315.15; payment application #1 to Noble Texas Builders for the World Scholars and Science Academy Restroom Renovation project in the amount of \$207,589.96; payment application #1 to RG Enterprises, LLC for Mercedes Bus Parking Lot Expansion project in the amount of \$53,676.86; and payment application #1 (final) to W.E. Imhoff for the RSA Tile Replacement project in the amount of \$245,886 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Requisition #078105 to Carnegie Learning Inc. for RSA textbooks.
2. Requisition #078239 to National Signs for World Scholars marquee.

A motion was made by Dr. Garza, seconded by Mr. Solis approving requisition #078105 to Carnegie Learning Inc. for RSA textbooks in the amount of \$60,663 and requisition #078239 to National Signs for World Scholars marquee in the amount of \$79,907 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. \$100 from Margarita Martinez to Science Academy.

A motion was made by Dr. Garza seconded by Mr. Solis approving the \$100 donation from Margarita Martinez as presented. The Board expressed appreciation for the generous support. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.

A. \*Campus Reports

1. Preparatory Academy - A. Castro
2. Rising Scholars
3. World Scholars - E. Garza
4. Medical Professions - H. Goette
5. Health Professions - B. Heater, Ph.D.
6. Science Academy - I. Castillo, Ed.D.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. \*Action: Review and act on the following out of district student/staff travel:

1. HOSA Leadership Development Institute, August 4-7, 2019, San Antonio, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.



- C. \*Action: Review and act on the Aggie Moms Club request for the extended use of Med High facilities for monthly meetings.

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
  6. Purchasing Association of Cooperative Entities (PACE)
  7. Region III ESC Purchasing Cooperative of America
  8. Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Buy Co-op
  9. Harris County Department of Education Purchasing Co-op Choice Partners
  10. Region VIII ESC TIPS Purchasing Cooperative
  11. Allied States Cooperative Region 19 ESC
  12. National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

12. \*Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on August 1, 2019 at 8:06 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. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
    - c. Counselors
  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 8:32 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 the professional staff listed on page 297 of the agenda for the 2019 summer programs.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, 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. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
  - c. Counselors

Additionally, Dr. Lara recommended the following professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year: Teachers (10 month contract) William Prock, Kyung Lee, Rosa M. Gonzalez, Marco Barrera, Jenna Chavez, Cody Ferguson, Isabel Valdez, Natalie Vidal, Judith Al-Haddad and Shyanne Diaz; and Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (11 month contract) Leticia Peña.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the professional staff 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. L. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, rescinding the professional employment contract for Erin Sutton, Raul Diaz and Anacita Sugalan 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.

No action was taken.

#### 15. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mr. Farias, adjourning the board meeting at 8:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.