



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
July 20, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David O. Morales, Board President; Ricardo O. Castellano, Board Vice President; Eduardo Mena, Board Secretary; Pablo Barrera; Paul Guerra; Cynthia A. Najera; Michael A. Najera; and Marta C. Carmona, M.Ed., Interim Superintendent

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Board President David O. Morales. All members were present and a quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Mrs. Carmona reported on personnel and district initiatives/events.

BOARD HONORS

- SISD Mariachi Groups were recognized for advancing to the 2021 UIL State Mariachi Festival.

OPEN FORUM

The following individuals addressed the Board of Trustees during open forum:

1. Denise Davis regarding naming the new combo school for Clarice Jones.
2. Tommy Hill regarding luxury buses and headphone sets.
3. Armando Rodriguez asked the Board of Trustees for their supporting and endorsement for his reelection on the Region 19 TASB Board of Directors.

2021-2024 ESSER III FEDERAL GRANT PUBLIC HEARING

The District is required to hold a public hearing on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) federal grant entitlement and planned expenditures for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 fiscal years. This public hearing is to be held prior to the District committing any grant funds and prior to submitting the ESSER III application to the Texas Education Agency. The deadline to submit the ESSER III application to TEA is July 27, 2021. At this time, the public was invited to provide comment on the ESSER III Federal Grant entitlement and planned expenditures.

Tommy Hill asked for clarification regarding upcoming stipends. Administration detailed that a \$1,000 COVID stipend will be given in August (the 15th for mid-pay employees and the 31st for monthly pay employees). In addition, a \$2,000 retention stipend for all employees will be funded through the ESSER II grant during the 2021-2022 school year. No one else came forward. At this time, the public hearing concluded. No action was taken on this agenda item.

FACILITIES REPORT

Tom Eyeington, Chief Operations Officer, provided a presentation of the 2017 Bond Program and other construction projects. Discussion followed regarding Socorro HS Reconstruction project; tower; and traffic situation on Rio Vista Rd. and Alameda. No action was taken on this agenda item.

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Safety and Security Committee provided an update on the Standard Response Protocol (SRP); Emergency Drills; Active Shooter Training; Stop the Bleed Training; COVID-19 Testing; and COVID-19 Vaccinations. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of 8E2-Agreement with Education Service Center Region 19 TEKS Resource System. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
 - District Software – RFP No. E2203
Solicitation to purchase software, subscriptions, licenses, and online program in the area of instructional, business and technical as needed district wide. (Maximum \$1,500,000-General Fund Budget and Special Revenue)
- Contracts
 - Affiliation Agreement – The University of Phoenix Field Placement
The purpose is meant to establish a collaborative relationship and provide education experiences for selected University students. It is to be used for students that are placed in school districts to complete their field experiences and practicums, for counseling or administrative internships, and for student teaching.
 - Dual Credit Partnership Agreement – El Paso Community College District (EPCC)
This is to continue to allow high school students an opportunity to earn dual high school credit and College Credit. EPCC and SISD will cooperative in the provision of dual credit College courses for qualified students. Dual Credit instruction will predominantly occur in the facilities of the High School campus. EPCC facilities may be used as appropriate, depending on the availability of resources. (Maximum \$100 per student/EPCC Instructor)
 - Social Work Program and Educational Experience Affiliation Agreements – University of Texas at El Paso College of Health Sciences
University and Socorro ISD desire to implement the provisions by providing students enrolled in the University’s College of Health Sciences with educational experience utilizing the personnel, equipment, and facilities of Socorro ISD and design an educational experience in the Social Work Programs with the assistance of the University’s Representative and Socorro ISD’s Liaison.
 - Memorandum of Agreement – El Paso Community College Emergency Medical Technician Program
This program will continue to provide entry level Emergency Medical Technology courses at the high school level and provide the opportunity to participate as dual credit or articulated credit student. (Maximum \$64,005.70-Carl Perkins Career and Technology Education)
 - Memorandum of Agreement – University of North Texas Field Placement
The purpose is to establish a clinical practice and teaching school site. Parties to this Agreement are part of a collaboration between UNT and affiliation school districts committed to advancing the learning of EC-12 students, teacher candidates, and practicing educators, and to improving public education through collaborative research and development.

CONTRACT: AGREEMENT WITH EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGION 19 TEKS RESOURCE SYSTEM (MAXIMUM \$292,413.50)

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Ricardo Castellano for discussion. Following a brief discussion regarding the program and the curriculum development, a motion was made by Ricardo Castellano, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the curriculum resource system for K-12 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

LOCAL POLICY DCE AND FDA - REVISIONS

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the revisions as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSALS FOR SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH SERVICE

The intent of the solicitation is to obtain proposals from qualified search firms interested in assisting the Socorro ISD Board of Trustees in the recruitment of a Superintendent. Administration will interview internal for Minimum Requirements; then, the Board will interview the qualified firms and/or Independent Companies based on the minimum requirements.

Following discussion regarding the search timeline, solicitation requirements, screening and interview process, a motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with a 6-1 vote. Paul Guerra voted no.

EXTERNAL AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FULL REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT

Following a brief discussion regarding the audit systems, a motion was made by Paul Guerra to table the item for further review, motion not seconded. The motion failed. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to issue an RFQ searching for firms to conduct a full review of the District. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 8:34 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendation for Assistant Principal position at Socorro High School under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Carmona recommended Erika Olivas to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Socorro High School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON AUGUST 17, 2021.