



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
September 21, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

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**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 6:00 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**

- Students and employees who won the 2021 SISD Print Those Pics cell phone photography conference were recognized.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- An SISD volunteer was recognized for earning the 2021 Heroes for Children Award from the State Board of Education.
- Member of the SISD New School Naming Task Force were recognized for their service.

**TEXAS EDUCATION HUMAN RESOURCES DAY RESOLUTION, OCTOBER 13, 2021**

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

**OPEN FORUM**

The following individuals addressed the Board of Trustees and Interim Superintendent:

- Dr. Sylvia Acosta, Arthur Westbrook, and Sharon Robinet from the YWCA invited Board Members and Team SISD to participate in this year's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes scheduled for October 22, 2021.
- Dr. Katherine Kuykendall provided information regarding the transmission of COVID-19 and how to keep children safe. (*Presentation attached*)
- Tommy Hill regarding transportation and paid leave for COVID-19.
- Angelica Soto regarding COVID sick leave.

**ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

Rene Vargas, Director of Business Services, provided a presentation of the annual investment report for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the Board of Trustees. 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. No action was taken on this agenda item.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of 9D1-Employee Benefits Consulting Services, RFP No. E2135; 9E1-Agreement to Adopt a Highway Program for Americas High School NJROTC; and 9E6-Tyler Technologies Contract for additional software and related services. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and August 31, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
  - Plumbing Services and Materials – RFP No. E2206  
Solicitation to provide Operation Services Department with plumbing services and materials as needed district wide. (Maximum \$300,000)
  - Sheet Metal Fabrication and Installation – RFP No. E2204  
Solicitation to provide Operation Services Department with sheet metal fabrication and installation services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$200,000)
  - Request for Increase – Instructional Materials, Supplies, and Services RFP No. E195  
To increase the total annual awarded amount by \$500,000 for a new total annual amount of \$4,500,000 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. The increase is to accommodate the ordering of approved ESSER II funding. (Maximum \$500,000 General Fund and Special Revenue)  
Solicitation to purchase equipment and supplies for the Socorro ISD Health Clinic and Pharmacy. (Maximum \$350,000)
  - Request for Increase – Musical Instruments, RFP No. E2208  
To increase the total annual awarded amount by \$2,800,000 for a new total annual amount of \$3,250,000 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. The increase is to accommodate the ordering of approved ESSER II funding. (Maximum \$2,800,000-General Fund and Special Revenue)
- Contracts
  - Cooperative Program Agreement – Western Technical College (Western Tech), Dual Credit  
This is to continue with the implementation of an Articulated/Dual Credit relationship allowing students the opportunity to be concurrently enrolled at SISD and Western Tech. Programs made available to SISD under this agreement will henceforth be referred to as “Western Tech High School” program(s). SISD is free to choose which programs they wish to participate in. SISD will provide daily transportation between SISD and Western Tech Plaza Circle campus. Western Tech agrees to provide instruction to SISD students at the agreed upon rate of \$2,000 per student per year plus applicable materials and resource costs. Student tuition and resources will not exceed \$3,500 per student. (CTE/PIC-22)
  - Interlocal Agreement – The University of Texas at Austin OnRamps Program  
This is to continue offering eligible high school students the opportunity to enroll in college courses while attending high school and receive simultaneous academic credits from UT Austin and their SISD high school. OnRamps offers the opportunity to earn high school credits from SISD and college credits from UT Austin through a distance education course. SISD’s annual program fees for each student enrolled in an OnRamps course for the 2021-2022 academic year is up to \$249 per student, per course. The cost for teacher training for the summer institute will be \$850 for new teachers and \$550 for returning teachers. (Maximum

- \$60,000)
- Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)
    - Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) with Ysleta ISD, Fiscal Agent  
This is for the continuation and operation of a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP), for the students, school districts, and the juvenile board in El Paso County. This agreement is between El Paso County Juvenile Board, the Ysleta Independent School District (YISD - Fiscal Agent) and Socorro ISD. The agreement will serve to combine into one system the operational, programmatic and educational standards for the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.
    - The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Advise TX Program - Advise TX is administered by the THECB which implements the College Advising Corps (“CAC”) program model of placing recent college graduates as full-time “near-peer” advisors in targeted Texas high schools. Through grant funding provided by THECB, the University employs advisers and project staff to carry out the project. THECB has awarded funds to UT-Austin for the 2021-2022 academic year to implement the Advise TX program at high schools throughout the state, including at a high school in SISD (El Dorado High School). An advisor will be appointed from the Advise TX College Advising Corps to each of the Socorro ISD high schools. (Maximum \$10,000-High School Allotment)
    - The University of Texas at El Paso Collaboration Program - The purpose of this MOU is to establish a program of exchange and collaboration in areas of interest and benefit to both institutions and establish a research-practice partnership (RPP) that is long-term and mutually beneficial that will ultimately enhance student outcomes.
  - Purchasing Cooperatives
    - BuyBoard #630-20 Blue Star Bus Sales, LTD – For the acquisition of 45 Conventional School Buses in the amount of \$5,040,755-ESSER Funding
    - BuyBoard #619-20 MakeMusic Inc. – For the acquisition of SmartMusic software licenses for teachers and students to include all music disciplines, grade levels and group session for all music classrooms learning programs in the amount of \$136,305-ESSER Funding
    - Region 19 #19-7346 Proximity Learning – For the acquisition of software licenses for the remove conferencing leaning program in the amount of \$414,258 (7-month fee) – ESSER Funding
    - Region 19 Allied State Cooperative, Temporary Services #17-7266 – To utilize all available vendors by the way of the Allied States Cooperative contract for Temporary Services for Nurse and Medical Assistant-Certified individuals will be assigned to assist all campuses through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. (Maximum \$650,00-ESSER Funding)
  - Cooperative Purchasing Organization Report  
Section 44.0331 of the Education Code requires that a written report be presented to the Board of Trustees detailing cooperative purchasing organizations used by the Socorro ISD Purchasing Department. During the 2020-2021 school year listed are the management and contract related fees associated with cooperative purchasing organizations.
  - Donations for fiscal year 2020-2021  
A list of donations was submitted for the Board's consideration.
  - Campus Attendance Committee  
In accordance with TEC25.092, the Board shall appoint one or more attendance committee(s) to hear petitions for class credit by students who have not met the 90 percent rule and have not earned class credit by completing a principal’s plan. Classroom teachers shall comprise a majority

of the attendance committee(s).

- 2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct  
Recommended revisions to the 2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct consist of revisions to comply with legislative bills from the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.
- New Job Descriptions
  - Certified Medical Assistant, Lead - The purpose of this position is to help patients by providing clinical and business office assistance. Assists with the greeting, rooming, examinations, and treatment of patients under the direction of a Physician or Physician's Assistant/Nurse Practitioner
  - Coordinator of Loss of Credit and Promotion - The primary purpose of this position is to coordinate and support the district stakeholders in the area of Administrative Services for Socorro ISD
  - Director of Attendance, Promotion, Placement and Retention - The primary purpose of this position is to provide leadership in the district's Attendance and Promotion, Placement and Retention program and to develop, implement, and administer the program to meet the needs of all eligible students
  - Fine Arts Communication Specialist - The primary purpose of this position is to provide assistance, expertise, and support to the Fine Arts Department with public relation and design skills, while recruiting and retaining students and promoting all SISD Fine Arts programs
  - Literacy Coach - The primary purpose of this position is to provide students with appropriate learning activities and experiences in the subject area(s) assigned to help them fulfill their potential for intellectual, emotional, physical, and social growth. Enable students to develop competencies and skills to function successfully in society and be college ready. In addition to regular classroom duties, serve as a mentor, and lead member of support team for respective content area teachers/resident(s) as assigned by principal

#### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONSULTING SERVICES BID – RFP NO. E2135**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Pablo Barrera for discussion. The solicitation is to provide the Department of Human Resources the ability to procure a benefits, actuarial consulting firm to assist administration with strategic planning, plan management, vendor renewals and procurement, financial management, budgeting, compliance and benefit delivery for health, employee health, clinic/pharmacy and wellness benefit programs provided to active employees and their eligible dependents on an as needed basis, at a maximum amount of \$63,000. Discussion followed concerning the consulting services, a motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGREEMENT – ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM, AMERICAS HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Guerra. The Texas Department of Transportation and Americas High School recognize the need and desirability of litter-free highways and are entering into this Agreement to permit Americas High School to contribute toward the effort of maintaining litter-free highways. The Department agrees to erect a 4' x 4' sign at each end of the adopted section with the Group's name or acronym displayed; provide fold-down traffic control signs, safety vests, trash bags and safety literature and remove the filled trash bags the first workday after the cleanup. Mr. Guerra gave Americas HS NJROTC a shout out for their commitment to the program. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **TYLER TECHNOLOGIES – ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE AND RELATED SERVICES**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Pablo Barrera for discussion. The purpose is to

purchase additional software and related services to the Maintenance agreement with Tyler Technologies for the Tyler SIS (Student Information Systems) and the Tyler Munis System for the 2021-2022 school year, at a maximum amount of \$74,684 for an 8-month fee. Discussion followed concerning the related services. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item as presented.

#### **NEW COMBO SCHOOL NAME RECOMMENDATIONS**

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the committee's recommendation and name the elementary school after Ben Narbuth. The motion did not pass.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the committee's number one recommendations and name the middle school Eastlake Middle School and name the elementary school Ben Narbuth Elementary School. The motion carried unanimously.

For information only, the committee's recommendation for the approved name of Eastlake Middle School, the mascot will be Ravens and the school colors will be purple, silver and black; for the approved name of Ben Narbuth Elementary School, the mascot will be Jack Rabbits and the school colors will be blue and gold.

#### **RENAMING THE MONTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BLUE GYM IN HONOR OF COACH MIRIAN L. BENNETT, HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH FROM 1990 TO 2006**

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **TASB UPDATE 117 AND LOCAL POLICY**

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the revisions to policies under TASB Update 117: CH, CV and DEC; and local policies: BED, CR and FL as presented. For information only the following exhibits were presented: BBD and BED. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **FINAL CONTRACT SUM FOR THE NEW AUXILIARY GYMS AT BENITO MARTINEZ, ELFIDA CHAVEZ, HELEN BALL, LUJAN CHAVEZ, O'SHEA KELEHER AND SGT. ROBERTO ITUARTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS – BID PACKAGE 1 (BP-1)**

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the final contract sum of \$7,690,247.12 and the final payment of \$381,377.36 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **CHANGE ORDER TO AMERICAS HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE CAFETERIA FURNITURE/GRAPHICS FROM EDU-SOURCE CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$377,978.34**

A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC. (TERRACON) FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TESTING AT SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$276,504**

A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **SISD BUS CANOPY STRUCTURE – CSP NO. 2216**

A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve Banes General Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$398,400.00 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REDISTRICTING OF SISD MEMBER DISTRICTS PROPOSAL**

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP to conduct the redistricting of SISD Single Member Districts as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 7:51 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; to receive and consider the Level III Grievance Appeal filed by D.E.; to review Board Operating Procedures; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendations for Principal positions at Pebble Hills High School and Col. John O. Ensor Middle School, Assistant Principal positions at Eastlake High School, Socorro High School and Sgt. Jose F. Carrasco Elementary School, and Employee Health Clinic Physician Assistant under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:14 p.m.

### **LEVEL III GRIEVANCE APPEAL FILED BY D.E.**

Legal Counsel reported that the background information was provided to the Board of Trustees for the grievance appeal filed by D.E. for review. The item will be brought back in October for the Board's consideration. No action was taken on this agenda item.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mrs. Carmona recommended Ivan Ramirez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal at Pebble Hills High School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Stephen Fernandez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal at Col. John O. Ensor Middle School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Jesus Vasquez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Eastlake High School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Vincent Thomas to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Eastlake High School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Brenda I Serda Gerardo to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Socorro High School. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Dr. Danielle Navariz to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Sgt. Jose F. Carrasco Elementary School. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Raul Villalobos to assume all roles and responsibilities as Employee Health Clinic Physician Assistant. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting – Board of Trustees  
District Service Center  
September 21, 2021  
Page 7

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON OCTOBER 19, 2021.**