



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
October 19, 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 6:00 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

- A Pebble Hills High School student was recognized for winning first place for the Level 2 Patch in the Franklin Mountains State Park Junio Ranger Patch Design Competition
- A student who won the SISD Print Those Pics cell phone photography conference was recognized.

GENERATION TEXAS MONTH PROCLAMATION, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2021

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

RED RIBBON WEEK PROCLAMATION, OCTOBER 23-31, 2021

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

OPEN FORUM

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

- Jaime Diaz and Melissa Melendez regarding transportation improvements and pay increase.
- Angelica Soto regarding an increase to bus driver's salaries.
- Tom Eyeington provided an update on the 2021 Gracie Tovar Golf Tournament.

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

Tommy Hill and Rosie Perez from the West Texas Alliance signed up to speak to Consent Agenda item F2a the purchase of Master's buses. Concerns were expressed regarding additional responsibilities for teachers and driving responsibilities.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of 8C-Request for the Use of School Facilities submitted by All-Star Football Game and Combine for the use of the Student Activities Complex; Miscellaneous Operational Supplies Bid, RFP No. E2213; Purchasing Cooperative BuyBoard #21-004 Master’s Transportation. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of September 21, 21 Regular Board Meeting and September 29, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
 - District Awards – RFP No. E2214
Solicitation to purchase awards, which include medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques, certificates, and frames as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$175,000)
 - Food Service Equipment, Smallwares, Utensils, and Supplies – RFP No. E2217
Solicitation to purchase food service equipment, smallwares, utensils and supplies as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$350,000-National School Lunch Program Funds)
 - Food Service Tray Sealing Equipment and Supplies – RFP No. E2218
Solicitation to purchase food service tray sealing equipment supplies as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$300,000-National School Lunch Program Funds)
 - Special Education Professional Specialist/Services – RFP No. E2212
Solicitation for professional services in the area of Special Education that will be eligible and authorized to engage with the District under a non-exclusive contract as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$225,000)
- Contracts
 - Memorandum of Understanding – McRel International Raising Blended Learners Initiative Evaluation and Data Sharing, Contracted by Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation
The purpose of this document is twofold: First, MOU provides an overview of the evaluation and describes the expectations and responsibilities for Socorro ISD and McREL. Second, it serves as a data sharing agreement (DSA) between the district and McREL. Socorro ISD understands the purpose of the evaluation and agrees to provide the requested data for the evaluation.
 - Purchasing Cooperatives
 - BuyBoard #641-21
This is to resurface and repair eight tennis courts at Montwood High School in the amount of up to \$112,000.00 to include materials, labor, and installation.
 - Texas DIR Contract #TSO-3763
This is to replace servers for Finance and Student Information Systems in the total amount of \$107,459.00 to include principal and interest.
- New Job Description – Physical Education and Health Facilitator
The primary purpose is to lead the development of Physical Education and Health curriculum to support the delivery of integrated instruction aligned to the district instructional framework. (ESSER III Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief III; continued employment contingent upon funding)
- Revisions to Job Descriptions
 - Senior Graphic Designer - The primary purpose of this position is to serve as the senior graphic designer for the district.
 - Graphic Designer - The primary purpose of this position is to serve as the graphic designer for the school district.
- TEA Low Attendance Waiver
The Texas Education Agency allows school districts that have experienced a significant drop in

attendance to apply for a waiver application for low attendance days. Due to safety related concerns, El Dorado HS, Ensor MS, and Americas HS qualify for this waiver.

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES SUBMITTED BY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME AND COMBINE FOR THE USE OF THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMPLEX (SAC)

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Administration. Administration reported that there was a change in the fees due to additional security staff. A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AWARDING OF BID: MISCELLANEOUS OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES, RFP NO. E2213

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Pablo Barrera for discussion. This solicitation is to purchase miscellaneous operational supplies as needed district wide at a maximum amount of \$300,000.

A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item revising the maximum amount from \$300,000 to \$400,000 and removing INSCO from the awarded vendors. The motion failed with a 4-2-1. Nay: Eduardo Mena, David Morales, Cynthia Najera, and Michael Najera. Aye: Pablo Barrera and Ricardo Castellano. Abstained: Paul Guerra.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as brought by Administration and with the correction of the maximum amount from \$300,000 to \$400,000. The motion carried with a 4-2-1. Aye: Michael Najera, Cynthia Najera, Eduardo Mena, and David Morales. Nay: Pablo Barrera and Ricardo Castellano. Abstained: Paul Guerra.

CONTRACT: BUYBOARD #21-004 MASTER’S TRANSPORTATION

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Pablo Barrera for discussion. This contract is for the acquisition of six (6) Collins Type “A” Buses standard 14 passenger buses at a cost of \$65,500 each totaling \$393,800 including \$800 purchase order processing fee imposed by BuyBoard. Discussion followed regarding the purpose of purchasing six (6) type “A” buses and safety issues.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to table the item and bring back for the Board’s consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION REGARDING EXTENSION OF LEAVE FOR FULLY VACCINATED EMPLOYEES UPON CONTRACTION OF COVID-19 FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Sukie Moreno member of West Texas Alliance signed up to speak to this agenda. Ms. Moreno thanked the Board of Trustees for considering this Resolution.

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

INCREASING THE CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TESTING FOR EASTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL (COMBO SCHOOL EASTLAKE) WITH TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$92,204.00

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SCHOOLS FROM LAS VACA’S MEAT MARKET & KITCHEN

No action was taken on this agenda item.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & ZONING DIVISION CORRECTION NOTICE FROM MUSEUM BAR

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to provide a no objection letter. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION OF SOCORRO ISD STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMPLEX II – CSP NO. 2220

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Paul Guerra, to start negotiating the final price with the following firms in the following order 1) Banes General Contractor; 2) Dantex General Contractors; 3) Hensel Phelps Construction, Co.; and 4) Harrington Construction, LLC dba HB Construction and bring back the final price for the Board’s consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

REPAVE THE EAST AND WEST PARKING LOTS AT MONTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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

AMEND APPROVED STIPEND PAY SCHEDULE

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to return the item to the appropriate committees for further review and then bring back to the Board for consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

EXTEND SUPPLEMENTAL DUTY AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOCORRO ISD AND MARTA C. CARMONA TO SERVE AS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

The employee agrees to continue performing the supplemental duty of Acting Superintendent, beginning October 19, 2022, and continuing until such time as the Employee or Board of Trustees of Socorro ISD elects to terminate this Agreement or until such time as the District appoints and enters into a contract with a superintendent of schools, whichever occurs first. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2022-2023 TERM

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to reappoint Eduardo Mena for the 2022-2023 term as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 8:13 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; to consider the Level III Grievance Appeal filed by D.E.; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; for discussion regarding duties of interim superintendent to include communication with Board of Trustees; and to consider administrative recommendations for Principal positions at Lujan Chavez Elementary School, Walter E. Clarke Middle School; Assistant Principal positions at SSG. Manuel R. Puentes Middle School, El Dorado High School, Montwood High School; and Director of Attendance, Promotion, Placement and Retention under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:21 p.m.

LEVEL III GRIEVANCE APPEAL FILED BY D.E.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Carmona recommended Brenda Mills to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal at Lujan Chavez Elementary School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Yvonne Avila to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal at Walter E. Clarke 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 Sonia Duffy to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at SSG. Manuel R. Puentes Middle School. A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Administration will be reposting the Assistant Principal position for El Dorado High School. No action was taken on this agenda item.

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

Director of Attendance, Promotion, Placement and Retention
No action was taken on this agenda item.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON NOVEMBER 16, 2021.