



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
November 16, 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; and Marta C. Carmona, M.Ed., Interim Superintendent

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael A. Najera

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Board President David O. Morales. 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 SISD 3rd Annual What's Poppin Pop Art Contest were recognized
- SISD athletes were recognized for competing at the 2021 UIL State Cross Country Meet
- El Dorado and Eastlake Varsity Volleyball Teams were recognized for winning 2021 UIL Championships

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- SISD Counseling Teams were recognized for being 2021-2022 Lone Star State School Counselor Association Award Recipients

PUBLIC HEARING – FINANCIAL INTEGRITY RATING SYSTEM OF TEXAS (FIRST)

Tony Reza, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the District attained a Superior Achievement performance for the 2020-2021 financial rating under the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). This report covers 2020 data. Also, in the Financial Services website, information relative to the Superintendent's contracts and Board of Trustees' reimbursements are posted for the public's review. No action was taken on this agenda item.

The public was invited to provide input regarding the FIRST Ratings. No one came forward. The Board proceeded to the next item.

OPEN FORUM

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

- Dr. Acosta from the YWCA thanked SISD for their participation in Walk a Mile Event.
- Holli Yeager regarding special education teacher requirements.
- Tom Hill regarding transportation.
- Elda Marmolejos regarding inappropriate book "The Perks of Being a Wallflower".

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 Cynthia Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel
- Request for the Use of School Facilities
 - Elite Academy of Dance Winter Dance Recital for Pebble Hills HS Theater
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
 - Coolers and Parts for Breakfast in the Classroom - RFP No. E2225
Solicitation to purchase coolers and parts for breakfast in the classroom as needed district wide. (Maximum \$126,000-National School Lunch Program Funds)
 - District Network Electronics - RFP No. E2223
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure network electronics district-wide. (E-Rate funding application to be sent to Schools and Libraries Division). This award is subject to the availability of funding from the Schools and Libraries Division and General Fund Budget. The Board of Trustees authorizes Administration to secure access to the necessary District funds for these “E-Rate” projects. (Maximum \$4,000,000-General Fund Budget / E-Rate Schools and Libraries Division Reimbursement)
 - Locksmith Supplies - RFP No. E2205
Solicitation to provide the Department of Maintenance and Operations with locksmith supplies as needed district wide. (Maximum \$110,000)
 - PA Audio Equipment - RFP No. E2221
Solicitation to purchase PA audio equipment as needed district wide. (Maximum \$300,000)
 - Paper Supplies - RFP No. E2226
Solicitation to provide the Department of Maintenance and Operations the ability to purchase paper supplies as needed district wide. (Maximum \$300,000)
 - Personal Protective Equipment and Accessories - RFP No. E2219
To provide the District with personal protective equipment, supplies and accessories as needed district wide. (Maximum \$300,000-ESSER Funds and General Fund Budget)
- Contracts
 - Agreements
 - El Paso Community College Electrocardiogram Program
The purpose of this agreement is to outline the responsibilities and outcomes; to develop and provide a program of entry-level Electrocardiogram course(s) at the high school level; and the opportunity will be offered to the senior students enrolled in the PLTW Biomedical program and at the completion of the program students are eligible to sit for the board exam. (Maximum \$5,040 per cohort-CTE Funds)
 - El Paso Community College Phlebotomy Program
The purpose of this agreement is to outline the responsibilities and outcomes; to develop and provide a program of entry-level Phlebotomy course(s) at the high school level; and the opportunity will be offered to the senior students enrolled in the PLTW Biomedical program and at the completion of the program students are eligible to sit for the board exam. (Maximum \$12,000 per cohort-CTE Funds)

- Amendment One – Communities In Schools of El Paso (CIS), Choices Program
The purpose for this Amendment is to add twelve (12) CIS Program Coordinators to implement the CIS program in the Socorro ISD at a prorated amount for seven months starting December 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. (Maximum \$330,995-ESSER Funds)
- Purchasing Cooperative – Furniture and Equipment for Ben Narbuth Elementary School and Eastlake Middle School
This is to purchase furniture and equipment as needed. Purchases will be issued using multiple vendors via SISD approved co-operative contracts. (Maximum \$1,750,000-General and Bond Funds)
- Second Memorandum of Understanding – El Paso Community College and The University of Texas at El Paso College Readiness Initiative
The purpose is to continue participating in the El Paso College Readiness Initiative to assess the college readiness of high school students, to provide intervention for those students whose placement is below college-level, to collect, analyze, and share student data to track performance and improve student success from high school through higher education. EPCC, UTEP, and District representatives from the major initiatives and programs will all serve as communication liaisons to the initiative.
- Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Language Pathology Program Agreement and Educational Experience Affiliation Agreement – The University of Texas at El Paso
The University and SISD will continue providing students enrolled in University’s College of Health Science with educational experience in these areas by utilizing appropriate facilities and personnel.
- New Job Description – ESSER Dean of Instruction-High School
The primary purpose of this position is to assist the principal in establishing an environment, on the assigned campus, where all children can learn, where employee satisfaction is at a high level and where public confidence in the school is strong. The primary focus of the Dean of Instruction: High School will be to oversee efforts to mitigate student learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, to include HB 4545 requirements and implementation, accelerated instruction programs, social-emotional learning, on-time acquisition of credits, on-time graduation, and appropriate professional development opportunities for staff. This position will be exclusive to academic curriculum and instruction of core content. (ESSER Funded)
- 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, Montwood HS qualifies for this waiver.

AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

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

SOCORRO ISD BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEARS

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

LOCAL POLICY CPAB

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEM UPGRADES – SISD AQUATIC CENTER, CSP NO. 2229

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to accept proposal from Dessert Contracting in the amount of \$2,099,000 for the upgrades as presented. The motion carried with a 5-0-1 vote. Aye: Eduardo Mena, Cynthia Najera, Pablo Barrera, Ricardo Castellano and David Morales. Paul Guerra abstained.

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

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve a contract amount of \$58,959,500 with Banes General Contractor as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AMEND APPROVED STIPEND PAY SCHEDULE

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with a 4-2 vote. Aye: Paul Guerra, Cynthia Najera, Eduardo Mena, and David Morales. Nay: Ricardo Castellano, and Pablo Barrera.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 8:14 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; to receive and consider the Level III Grievance Appeal filed by C.D.; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendations for Principal position at Ernesto Serna School; Assistant Principal positions for El Dorado High School, Pebble Hills High School, Jane Hambrick School, Lujan Chavez Elementary School and Purple Heart Elementary 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 8:45 p.m.

LEVEL III GRIEVANCE APPEAL FILED BY C.D.

The Board of Trustees received the information regarding the appeal for review. No action was taken on this agenda item.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Carmona recommended Raul Caldera to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal at Ernesto Serna PK-8 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 Melissa Haggerty to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at El Dorado High School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Luis Carrillo to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Pebble Hills 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 Michelle Escajeda to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Jane A. Hambric School. A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Angie Peña to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Lujan Chavez Elementary School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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Mrs. Carmona recommended Kristine Horn to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Purple Heart Elementary School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded Paul Guerra, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carmona recommended Angelica Hernandez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Director of Attendance, Promotion, Placement and Retention. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON DECEMBER 14, 2021.