



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
February 15, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Guerra

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President David O. Morales. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

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

BOARD HONORS

- The James P. Butler Elementary School Robotics Team was recognized for winning the Inspire Award at the District's ROBOCOM 8.0 Competition.
- SISD students in Band, Choir and Orchestra were recognized for being named Texas Music Educators Association All-State Musicians.
- SISD Dance Students were recognized for representing the District at the Texas Dance Educators Association State Convention.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- The Desert Wind School Librarian and a Teacher were recognized for being finalists in the School Library Journal Librarian/Teacher Collaboration Award.
- The SISD Purchasing Department was recognized for earning the Texas Association of School Business Officials Award of Merit for Purchasing & Operations for the 11th consecutive year.

OPEN FORUM

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

1. Angie Soto regarding approval of fair and equitable salaries in May.
2. Dr. Carmen Olivas Graham regarding hiring of Superintendent.
3. Maria Ramos regarding hiring of Superintendent.
4. Jaime Diaz regarding salary increase/scale.
5. Melissa Melendez regarding salary increase/scale.
6. Dr. Katherine Kuykendall regarding school safety.

SPED BILINGUAL CERTIFICATION PRESENTATION

Administration provided a presentation concerning teacher certification requirements when serving emergent bilingual students. Discussion followed concerning teacher participation in certification training, contingency plan, number of students being affected, and SPED shortage. 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.

TASB SALARY STUDY

Tony Reza, Chief Financial Officer, reported that Administration has contracted the Texas Association of School Boards to complete a study of the district's existing salaries to see if they are in line with surrounding school districts in the state. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting; January 20, 2022 and January 27, 2022 Special Board Meetings
- Employment of Personnel
- Request for the Use of School Facilities
 - Protégé Dance Company for the use of Pebble Hills HS Theater
 - Stealth Sports for the use of Americas HS Gym and Field
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
 - Filters and Accessories, RFP No. E2238
Solicitation to provide Maintenance and Operations the ability to purchase filters and accessories as needed district wide. (Maximum \$300,000-General Fund Budget, ESSER Funds, and Federal Funds)
 - Painting Materials, RFP No. E2237
Solicitation to provide Maintenance and Operations the ability to purchase painting materials as needed district wide. (Maximum \$220,000)
- Contracts
 - Affiliation Agreement Health Professions Academy Clinical Program - EP Dentistry 4 Kids
The purpose is to provide the students a clinical learning experience through the application of knowledge and skills in actual patient-centered situation. Entities have agreed to undertake training activities and to make its facility available to identified students of Socorro High School for such purposes.
 - Affiliation and Program Agreements - The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
The purpose is to implement the provisions of such affiliation agreement by providing students enrolled in the UTMB, School of Health Professions, with educational experience utilizing the personnel, equipment, and facilities of Socorro ISD.
 - Educational Affiliation and Program Agreements - The University of Texas at El Paso
Clinical Teaching Residency Program
The purpose of this agreement is to allow UTEP to implement the *Full Year Clinical Teaching Residency Program* in the District.
 - Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing - El Paso Independent School District
School districts routinely and frequently solicit bids and proposals for goods and services which are necessary for the operation of a school district. The term for this will be for one year and will renew annually not to exceed a total of five (5) years. The school district making the purchase shall bear all cost and expenses related to the purchase of goods and services.
 - Interlocal Agreement - Region 17 West Texas Food Service Cooperative
Region 17 ESC is the coordinating center for the West Texas Food Service Cooperative. The district utilizes the cooperative for commodity entitlement, food expenditure, and paper

goods. The district has participated in the cooperative for the past several years and would like to continue the relationship. The goal of the cooperative is to obtain substantial savings on specific food service items for member districts through volume purchasing and obtain the most advantageous and best value to the District. (Maximum \$15,000,000-Federal and USDA donated commodity and commercial dollars)

- Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP - Property Value Appeal Services Agreement Renewal

The purpose is for the administrative appeal and any judicial appeal of the property value study finding as conducted by the Comptroller's Office. The district agrees to pay as compensation for services a contingent fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the additional State aid that the District qualifies for in the years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 as a result of the administrative or judicial appeal.

- Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)

- a. The Department of State Health Services, Preventive Dental Services

The purpose is to continue with the set forth understanding between DSHS and SISD regarding the provision of preventive dental services pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 43 and Title 25 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 49. Preventive dental services will be provided to eligible children at no cost to the School by DSHS regional dentists and dental hygienists, with assistance from the School's staff.

- b. U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid Program

The purpose is to continue with the set forth terms and understanding between the Department and Socorro ISD for the school district to continue participating in the electronic data collection pilot program, in which Socorro ISD will collect Impact Aid data electronically in a manner consistent with the Impact Aid program statute and regulations and other relevant federal laws.

- Interlocal Cooperative Agreement - Education Service Center, Region 19 Head Start Program
The purpose is to provide special education services for children with disabilities enrolled in the Head Start Program who reside within the District.
- Request for Increase - Purchasing Cooperative Region 19 #19-7346, Proximity Learning Administration is recommending approval to increase the total awarded amount by \$580,483.00 due to the increase of student participation for the remote conferencing learning program for a new total awarded amount of \$994,741.00 for this current term. (Request for Increase \$580,483.00-ESSER Funding)

NOTICE OF SEPARATION INCENTIVE EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

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

RESOLUTION REGARDING WAGE PAYMENTS DURING EMERGENCY CLOSURE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

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

HEALTH PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE STRATEGY

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

FINAL CONTRACT SUM FOR THE NEW AUXILIARY GYMS AT HORIZON HEIGHTS, LOMA VERDE, MYRTLE COOPER, SIERRA VISTA AND VISTA DEL SOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS-BID PACKAGE 2 (BP-2) - \$5,988,126.00

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

FINAL CONTRACT SUM FOR THE PEBBLE HILLS HIGH SCHOOL FIELD MODIFICATION AND SPORTS LIGHTING - \$898,190.20

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

SOCORRO MIDDLE SCHOOL METAL SIGN LOCATED OFF OF ALAMEDA AVENUE ON BOVEE ROAD

No action was taken on this agenda item.

SISD POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to provide a sample template for reporting incidents, and to take the pursue policy as an item to Policy Committee for review and bring back to the Board for consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 8:35 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel regarding pending interlocal agreement between the District and County of El Paso, Texas, for the donation and transfer of certain real estate by special warranty deed to the County for school needs, to be used as a deacceleration lane on Eastlake Boulevard that would provide safe access to District real estate; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to consider administrative recommendations for Principal position at H.D. Hilley Elementary School; Assistant Director of Athletics; Dean of Instruction positions at Eastlake High School, Montwood High School, Pebble Hills High School, and Socorro High School; Assistant Principal positions at Eastlake High School, and El Dorado High School under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:08 p.m.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, FOR THE DONATION AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE BY SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED TO THE COUNTY FOR SCHOOLS NEEDS, TO BE USED AS A DEACCELERATION LANE ON EASTLAKE BOULEVARD THAT WOULD PROVIDE SAFE ACCESS TO DISTRICT REAL ESTATE

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Carmona recommended Esteban Alvarez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal at H.D. Hilley Elementary School. A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion failed with a 2-4 vote. Aye: Cynthia Najera, and Michael Najera. Nay: Ricardo Castellano, Eduardo Mena, Pablo Barrera, and David Morales.

Dr. Carmona recommended Joi Woodard to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Director of Athletics. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as

presented. The motion failed with a 2-4 vote. Aye: Michael Najera, and Cynthia Najera. Nay: Ricardo Castellano, Eduardo Mena, Pablo Barrera, and David Morales.

Dr. Carmona recommended Emma Romero to assume all roles and responsibilities as Dean of Instruction of Eastlake High School. A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion failed with a 2-4 vote. Aye: Cynthia Najera, and Michael Najera. Nay: Ricardo Castellano, Eduardo Mena, Pablo Barrera, and David Morales.

Dr. Carmona recommended Cassandra Hernandez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Dean of Instruction of Montwood High School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion failed with a 2-4 vote. Aye: Michael Najera, and Cynthia Najera. Nay: Ricardo Castellano, Eduardo Mena, Pablo Barrera, and David Morales.

Dr. Carmona recommended Lorena Gomez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Dean of Instruction of Pebble Hills High School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion failed with a 2-4 vote. Aye: Michael Najera, and Cynthia Najera. Nay: Ricardo Castellano, Eduardo Mena, Pablo Barrera, and David Morales.

Dr. Carmona reported that the position of Dean of Instruction of Socorro High School was pulled. No action was needed for this agenda item.

Dr. Carmona recommended Esther Valle to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal of Eastlake High School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion failed with a 2-4 vote. Aye: Michael Najera, and Cynthia Najera. Nay: Ricardo Castellano, Eduardo Mena, Pablo Barrera, and David Morales.

Dr. Carmona recommended Jaime Sanchez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal of El Dorado High School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion failed with a 2-4 vote. Aye: Michael Najera, and Cynthia Najera. Nay: Ricardo Castellano, Eduardo Mena, Pablo Barrera, and David Morales.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON MARCH 22, 2022.