



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
March 22, 2022 – 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 Nate Carman, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**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**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

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

**BOARD HONORS**

- An SISD student was honored for winning Second Place in the Take Care of Texas Video Contest.
- An SISD student was honored for winning First Place in the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station Nuclear Power Institute Nuclear Science Week Competition.
- SISD Basketball Teams were recognized for winning 2021-2022 UIL Basketball Championships.
- SISD Wrestling Teams were honored for winning 2021-2022 UIL Championships and SISD Student-Athletes were honored for qualifying and competing at the 2022 UIL State Wrestling Championship.
- SISD Mariachi Groups were recognized for qualifying for and competing at the 2022 UIL State Competition.

**MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD PROCLAMATION**

The Proclamation recognizes the month of April as “Month of the Military Child” and April 15, 2022, as “Purple-Up Day” recognizing all sacrifices our military-connected parents and their children have made. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH PROCLAMATION**

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will observe the month of April for its 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of School Library Month (SLM) and will be celebrated in conjunction with National Library Week, April 3-9, 2022. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**OPEN FORUM**

The following individual addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of Schools:

1. Tommy Hill welcomed Dr. Carman to Team SISD.

## **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.

## **UPDATE IN SPED BILINGUAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Administration provided a update concerning teacher certification requirements when serving emergent bilingual students. Discussion followed concerning vacancies, teachers currently certified in both areas and certification training. 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 February 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting; February 16, 2022, February 17, 2022, February 18, 2022, February 19, 2022, February 21, 2022, March 8, 2022, and March 14, 2022 Special Board Meetings
- Employment of Personnel
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
  - Identification System Equipment and Supplies - RFP No. E2244  
Solicitation to purchase identification system equipment and supplies as needed district wide. (Maximum \$650,000-General Fund Budget)
  - Math Instructional Resources - RFP No. E2234  
Solicitation to purchase math instructional resources, materials, supplies, and related services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$1,200,000-General Fund Budget, Federal Funds, and ESSER Funds)
  - Requests for Increase
    - a. District Projectors and Accessories - RFP No. E2010  
The total annual awarded amount was increased by \$400,000 for a new total annual amount of \$1,600,000 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. (Request for Increase \$400,000-General Fund Budget, Federal Funds, and ESSER Funds)
    - b. Physical Education Supplies - RFP No. E1934  
The total annual awarded amount was increased by \$500,000 for a new total annual amount of \$580,000 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. (Request for Increase \$500,000-General Fund Budget, Federal Funds, and ESSER Funds)
- Contracts
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Prevent Blindness Texas  
Prevent Blindness Texas (PBT), a non-profit organization, desires to partner with SISD to conduct Children's Vision Screening Certification Course and train/certify participants who successfully complete the course following PBT and Texas Department of State Health Services Vision Screening for SISD Nurses and Parent Volunteers.
  - Purchasing Cooperatives
    - a. Texas DIR Contract TSO-3763 - Dell Financial Services  
For a lease to replace and upgrade the Network Load Balancer in the amount of \$193,861.65 to include principal and interest. The lease agreement will be through Dell Financial Services for five (5) years with an annual payment of \$38,772.33. (General Funds)
    - b. Vehicles for Maintenance and Operations Department  
For the acquisition of 3 vehicles (1 truck, 1 cargo van and delivery truck with liftgate) for the Maintenance and Operations Department in the amount of \$225,000. (General Funds)

**FINAL CONTRACT SUM FOR THE NEW AUXILIARY GYMS AT CAMPESTRE, ESCONTRIAS, H.D. HILLEY, HUECO AND ROBERT R. ROJAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS- BID PACKAGE 3 (BP-3) - \$6,496,921.27**

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

**SOLICITATION FOR AN RFQ/CSP FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL TURF AT VARIOUS EXISTING FOOTBALL FIELDS**

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

**SOLICITATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT SERVICES TO REVIEW THE 16 AUXILIARY GYMS UNDER THE 2017 BOND PROGRAM TO INCLUDE GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR REVIEW, PROGRAM, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**

Following discussion regarding the review of the 16 auxiliary gyms, a motion was made by Ricardo Castellano, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with a 4-3 vote. Aye: Ricardo Castellano, Pablo Barrera, Eduardo Mena, and David Morales. Nay: Cynthia Najera, Michael Najera, and Paul Guerra.

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR LEGAL COUNSEL**

Following discussion regarding the issuance of the RFQ, a motion was made by Ricardo Castellano, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with 4-3 vote. Aye: Ricardo Castellano, Pablo Barrera, Eduardo Mena, and David Morales. Nay: Cynthia Najera, Michael Najera, and Paul Guerra.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 8:01 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel regarding litigation status and possible resolution of Hita v. Socorro ISD, Cause No. 2020DCV0225; discussion with legal counsel regarding Intervention in Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) Proceeding PUC Docket No. 52195, SOAH Docket No. 473-21-2606, Application of El Paso Electric Company to Change Rates; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to consider administrative recommendations for Chief Human Resources Officer; Dean of Instruction positions at Eastlake High School, Montwood High School, and Pebble Hills High School; and Assistant Principal position at Eastlake High School under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF HITA V. SOCORRO ISD, CAUSE NO. 2020DCV0225**

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried with a 6-1 vote. Ricardo Castellano abstained.

**INTERVENTION IN PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS (PUC) PROCEEDING PUC DOCKET NO. 52195, SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-21-2606, APPLICATION OF EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY TO CHANGE RATES**

No action was taken on this agenda item.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Caman recommended Hector Madrigal to assume all roles and responsibilities as Chief Human Resources Officer. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Emma Romero to assume all roles and responsibilities as Dean of Instruction of Eastlake High School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Cassandra Hernandez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Dean of Instruction of Montwood High School. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman 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 Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Esther Valle to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal of Eastlake High School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON APRIL 19, 2022.**