



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
May 17, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David O. Morales, Board President; Ricardo O. Castellano arrived at 6:44 p.m., 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 6:01 p.m. by Board President David O. Morales. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUSINESS

Mr. Morales opened the floor for nominations for Board President.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to nominate Eduardo Mena as Board President. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morales opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice President.

A motion was made by Michael Najera to nominate Paul Guerra as Board Vice President. Paul Guerra declined the nomination. Motion did not pass.

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by David Morales, to nominate Pablo Barrera as Board Vice President. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morales opened the floor for nominations for Board Secretary.

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to nominate David Morales as Board Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD HONORS

- The El Dorado Varsity Girls Golf Team was recognized for winning the 2-5A District Championship.
- SISD Track and Field Athletes were recognized for qualifying for and competing at the 2022 UIL State Track and Field Meet.
- SISD Varsity Softball Teams were recognized for winning 2022 UIL Softball Championships.
- SISD Students in Career and Technical Student Organizations were recognized for winning top spots at State Competition.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Socorro High School and Pebble Hills High School Baseball Coaches were recognized for taking heroic action to protect students.

OPEN FORUM

The following individuals signed up to address the Board of Trustees and Superintendent:

1. Angie Soto regarding working conditions and salaries
2. Veronica Hernandez regarding salary/raises
3. Lisa Lopez regarding salary/raises
4. Veronica Lindsey regarding employee salary raise
5. Yvonne Salazar regarding salary raises
6. Rafael Jaquez regarding salary raise
7. Jaime Martinez regarding compensation and more academies
8. Lydia Valenzuela regarding compensation
9. Elizabeth Ramos regarding raise
10. Rudy Martinez regarding raise
11. Rosie Perez regarding respect
12. Tommy Hill regarding compensation proposal
13. Beatriz Chavarri regarding raise and bonuses
14. Manuel Ruiz regarding teacher raise
15. Abigail Tapia regarding H.D. Hilley Principal issue
16. Eric Oshefski regarding Fine Arts preparatory periods
17. Melisa Melendez regarding salary increase

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2022-2023 HAZARDOUS ROUTES FOR THE SOCORRO ISD

On a yearly basis, administration uses the criteria outlined in policy CNA local and legal to determine if a transportation route qualifies as hazardous. Seven public hearings were held to obtain public input for the proposed bus transportation route changes. Administration shared criteria used to determine if a transportation route qualifies for addition to the list of hazardous areas or if an area currently listed as hazardous no longer qualifies and should be removed from the list. The meetings were held at Purple Heart Elementary, Dr. Sue A. Shook Elementary, Eastlake High School, James P. Butler Elementary, Sgt. Jose F. Carrasco Elementary and Virtually <https://bit.ly/3Kp8Go> on March 30th, April 5th, April 7th, April 13th, April 27th and May 3rd, respectively. The Socorro Independent School District advertised the public hearings in the El Paso Times, on March 30, 2022, and in El Diario, on March 23, 2022, and mailed a postcard to all potentially impacted families.

This presentation was also held as a hearing for public discussion. The public was invited to provide comment. No one came forward. No action was taken on this agenda item.

FACILITIES REPORT

Administration provided a presentation of the 2017 Bond Program and other construction projects. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda item 10E2 regarding the bid solicitation for Charter Bus Services, RFP No. E2247 was pulled to be addressed separately.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda except item 10E2 regarding the bid solicitation for Charter Bus Services, RFP No. E2247 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting and May 10, 2022 Special Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel
- Budget Amendments

- Awarding of Bids
 - Athletic Apparel and Miscellaneous Items – RFP No. E2250
Solicitation to purchase athletic apparel and miscellaneous items as needed district wide. (Maximum \$550,000)
 - District Instructional Curriculum – RFP No. E2248
Solicitation to purchase instructional materials, curriculum, testing material, educational software and other related items as needed district wide. (Maximum \$7,000,000-General and Federal Funds)
 - Sewage and Grease Trap Services – RFP No. E2302
Solicitation to procure sewage and grease tap services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$200,000-General Fund Budget and National School Lunch Program Funds)
- Contracts
 - Agency Affiliation Agreement – El Paso Community College Health Career & Technical Education, Math and Science Division
The purpose is for students enrolled in the Health Career Education Programs to continue the provided benefit of educational facilities and resources at the affiliate for practical experience in clinical services and procedures. SISD shall make available to EPCC such use of classrooms, libraries and teaching aids as may be necessary for the implementation, training, and education of the students during the clinical phase of the program/course.
 - Amendment Three License Agreement – GECU Pebble Hills HS Branch
The purpose is to support a high-quality educational program for Pebble Hills HS students. Both parties have determined that offering on-site credit union services tied directly to a course on financial literacy will enhance the education program for participating students through an authentic experiential learning opportunity for both students and their families. The amendment addresses the term of the agreement to be extended and for automatically renewal and extensions annually.
 - Contract – Communities In Schools of El Paso (CIS) Program
The purpose is to continue with the supportive guidance, educational enhancement, health and human services, parental involvement, employment/pre-employment enrichment services for the students of the 35 participating campuses for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - Interlocal Agreement(s)
 - a. El Paso County Community College District for the Development and Support of Montwood High School Pathways in Technology Early College High School, P-TECH program at Montwood HS Synergi⁴
This is for the purpose of providing a select population of SISD students a unique educational opportunity to attend both high school and college in a special campus environment that will challenge students to excel in their academic and personal endeavors. Students will follow a course of study that will combine high school courses and postsecondary courses to enable students to earn a high school diploma and college course credits towards an Associate’s Degree, postsecondary certificate, or industry certification within four years of entering high school.
 - b. Regional Education Service Center, Board Resolutions
Texas Education Code Section 8.002 permits regional education service centers, at the direction of the Commissioner of Education, to provide services to assist school districts, colleges, and universities in improving student performance and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of school, college and university operations. In addition, authority is granted under Texas Government Code Section 791.001 et seq as amended to enter into interlocal agreements with said educational entities, as well as, other governmental entities and political subdivisions of Texas and other States. Socorro ISD wishes to be a member of the following Regional Education Service Centers:

- Region One (1) Education Service Center Purchasing Cooperative
- Region Five (5) Southwest Texas Purchasing Cooperative
- Region Six (6) Education Service Center
- Region 15 791 Purchasing Cooperative (791 Coop)
- Region 16 Purchasing Cooperative
- Region 19 Education Service Center for USDA/TDA Products & Services
- Memorandum(s) of Understanding
 - a. City of El Paso Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)

The purpose is to continue the ongoing working relationships, and mutual responsibilities related to placement by the Sponsoring Agency of Foster Grandparent volunteers with Socorro ISD. Foster Grandparents volunteers will be assigned up to four (4) children having special or exceptional needs and tutor or mentor children to improve their intellectual thinking, social/emotional, motor and/or language development skills.
 - b. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (Georgia Southern University)

The purpose is to guide and direct the Institution and Socorro ISD, collectively referred to as the “Parties”, with respect to their affiliation and working relationship. The institution desires to obtain, and Socorro ISD desires to provide, high-quality applied learning experiences for the students participating, while at the same time enhancing the resources available to Socorro ISD for providing care to its clients and patients; guide and direct the parties respecting their affiliation and working relationship.
- Purchasing Cooperatives
 - a. Medicaid SHARS Billing Services – for the Special Education Department billing services via SISD approved co-operative contracts (Maximum \$500,000)
 - b. Pre-Kindergarten Furniture – to purchase furniture/equipment for pre-kindergarten classrooms as needed district wide via OMNIA contract #R191815 (Maximum \$179,192)
 - c. STEAM and Fine Arts Academy Furniture – to purchase furniture/equipment as needed using multiple vendors via SISD approved co-operative contracts (Maximum \$600,000)
- Updates to District and Campus Attendance Committees

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.
- Adoption of Policy CDA (Local)

The Public Investment Act requires the governing board to review and adopt their investment policy each fiscal year. This review will allow the district to meet the requirements of this law and the attached resolution will attest to that fact.

BID: CHARTER BUS SERVICES – RFP NO. E2250

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. Tommy Hill signed up to speak to this agenda item.

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item to obtain charter bus services as needed district wide at a maximum cost of \$300,000. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFIED PROBATIONARY CONTRACT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

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

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

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

CHANGE ORDER FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL AS REQUIRED BY THE COUNTY OF EL PASO ALONG BOB HOPE DRIVE, AIRCOUPE WAY AND SKYBLAZER PLACE

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

2022-2023 HAZARDOUS ROUTES FOR THE SOCORRO ISD

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

TASB UPDATE 118 AND LOCAL POLICY

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the revisions to the following policies from TASB Update 118: DP, EHBC, EIE, FEA, and FL; and local policy: CH. The motion carried unanimously.

NOTICE TO CITY OF SOCORRO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO END ENGAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to provide the notice as presented. The motion carried with a 4-3 vote. Aye: Pablo Barrera, Ricardo Castellano, David Morales, and Eduardo Mena. Nay: Michael Najera, Cynthia Najera, and Paul Guerra.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 9:03 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel regarding personal action concerning M.T., Assistant Principal at Walter E. Clarke Middle School; discussion regarding duties of internal auditor position; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to consider administrative recommendations for Deputy Superintendent of Human Resources, Curriculum & Instruction, and Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Chief Human Resources Officer, Principal position at H.D. Hilley Elementary School; Assistant Director of Athletics; Assistant Principal position at Ben Narbuth Elementary School; Dean of Instruction position at Socorro High School under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:53 p.m.

NEW EMPLOYMENT TERMS AND CONTRACT FOR M.T., ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT WALTER E. CLARKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

DUTIES OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR POSITION

No action was taken on this agenda item.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Caman recommended Tamekia L. Brown to assume all roles and responsibilities as Deputy Superintendent for Human Resources, Curriculum and Instruction, and Assistant Superintendent of

Schools. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Angela Gonzalez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Chief Human Resources Officer. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Darlene Hernandez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal of H.D. Hilley Elementary School. A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Eric A. Frontz to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Director of Athletics. A motion was made by Ricardo Castellano, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Liliana O'Hara to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal of Ben Narbuth Elementary School. A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Lexana Alfaro to assume all roles and responsibilities as Dean of Instruction at Socorro High School. A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RFQ FOR LEGAL SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

A motion was made by Ricardo Castellano, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve engagement for legal services with Escamilla & Poneck, LLP as presented. The motion carried with a 4-3 vote. Aye: Pablo Barrera, Ricardo Castellano, David Morales, and Eduardo Mena. Nay: Michael Najera, Cynthia Najera, and Paul Guerra.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON JUNE 21, 2022.