



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
August 16, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eduardo Mena, Board President; Pablo Barrera, Board Vice President; David O. Morales, Board Secretary; Ricardo O. Castellano; Paul Guerra; Cynthia A. Najera; and Nate Carman, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael A. Najera

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Eduardo Mena. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

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

BOARD HONORS

- A Montwood High School student as be recognized for being selected as a Class of 2022 El Paso Bank of America Student Leader.
- SISD students were recognized for their selection for and participation in Education in Action's Lone Star Leadership Academy Summer Camps.

OPEN FORUM

The following individuals addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent:

- Veronica Vargas regarding COVID procedures and preparation.
- Margarita Parra regarding accountability for safety in the Transportation Department.
- Jaime Martinez regarding bus drivers' incidents.
- Darlene Renteria regarding safety protocols for COVID and other illnesses.
- James E. Brown regarding accountability for parents and administrators with students who ride school buses.
- Sammy Carrejo regarding putting kid's safety first and finding solutions to problems.

PROPOSED 2022-2023 TAX RATE – PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Trustees is required to have conducted a public hearing for the purpose of discussing the proposed tax rate before the adoption of the said item.

At this time, the public was invited to provide comment on the proposed tax rate. No one came forward. The Board of Trustees proceeded to the next item.

FACILITIES REPORT

Administration provided a presentation of the 2017 Bond Program and other construction projects. Discussion followed regarding fire alarm/mother board status for SHS; parking and traffic flow at SAC; and restrooms for auxiliary gyms. No action was taken on this agenda item.

HB3 BOARD GOALS UPDATE

Goals were adopted in May 2020 by the Board of Trustees under House Bill 3 in the areas of Early Childhood Literacy, Early Childhood Math and College, Career and Military Readiness. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Paul Guerra to approve all items under the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2022 and July 26, 2022 Regular Board Meetings; and August 2, 2022 Special Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Request for Use of School Facilities
 1. SrA Danny Ray Sanchez Foundation for the use of Montwood HS Gym and Parking Lot
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
 1. College Preparatory Materials and Services - RFP No. E2260
Solicitation to purchase college preparatory materials and services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$2,000,000-General Fund Budget and Federal Funds)
 2. District Advertising Materials and Services - RFP No. E2306
Solicitation to purchase advertising materials and services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$500,000-General Fund Budget)
 3. Musical Instruments - RFP No. E2304
Solicitation to purchase musical instruments and services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$1,500,000-General Fund Budget, Federal Funds, and ESSER Funds)
 4. Physical Education Supplies - RFP No. E2243
To provide the Socorro Independent School District with physical education supplies. This will be done on an as needed basis, district wide. (Maximum \$500,000-General, Federal Budget, and ESSER Funds)
 5. Socorro I.S.D. Ancillary Benefits - RFP No. E2323
Solicitation for ancillary benefits to include basic life with AD&D, dental, vision, voluntary life with AD&D, educators disability, cancer, accident, critical illness, voluntary hospital care, ID theft services, telehealth, individual life, and emergency medical transportation. (Maximum \$81,000 Basic Life-General Fund Budget)
 6. Requests for Extension
 - a. Radio Communications Equipment, Installation and Support - RFP E2105
Extension of this bid for an additional year, through August 20, 2023, which is the second and last possible extension. (Maximum \$300,000-General Fund Budget and Grant)
 - b. Sheet Metal Fabrication and Installation - RFP E2204
Extension of this bid for an additional year, through October 29, 2023, which is the first possible extension. (Maximum \$200,000-General Funds)
 7. Requests for Increase
 - a. Coolers and Parts for Breakfast in the Classroom - RFP E2225
Increase the total annual amount by \$62,000 for a new total amount of \$208,000 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. Administration is requesting additional funds to help support the purchase of additional coolers needed at District Cafeterias. (Request for Increase \$62,000-National School Lunch Program Funds)

- b. **Janitorial Supplies - RFP E2102**
Increase the total annual awarded amount by \$80,000 for a new total of \$980,000 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. Administration is requesting additional funds to help support Fiscal Year 22-23 Warehouse Department. (Request for Increase \$80,000-General Funds)
- **Contracts**
 - 1. **Agreements**
 - a. **YWCA El Paso del Norte Region, Inc. After School Learning Centers and 21st Century Grant Coordination**
YWCA desires to continue providing appropriate staffing for specific after school learning centers to be administered by SISD campus locations for students enrolled and participating in specific 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant funded program. (Maximum \$957,000-21st Century Grant Funds)
 - b. **YWCA El Paso del Norte Region, Inc. Proposal for After School Program Partnership**
YWCA will continue to provide all necessary materials and equipment for site operations, and open and maintain operations at SISD sites that sustain a population of 15 children and assures State licensed daily After-school programming to all elementary campuses on days in which school is in session from 2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 - 2. **Consulting and Data Sharing Agreement - Contigo Ed and Cambiar Education and CREEED**
In collaboration with CREEED, Contigo Ed will assess Socorro ISD's current processes in preparing every student for some type of postsecondary education post their high school graduation, ranging from seeking a higher education degree to an industry-accepted credential aligned with high-demand jobs paying a living wage ("CCMR Goal"). Contigo Ed sets the professional fees to account for their anticipated staffing and support costs associated with the projected scope of work.
 - 3. **Ground/Facilities Lease - Region 19 Education Service Center (ESC19)**
For the purpose of leasing the property located at H.D. Hilley Elementary School, 693 N. Rio Vista, Socorro TX 79927-Socorro Head Start Center (Land) and Options High School, 12380 Pine Springs Dr., El Paso, TX 79928-Options Head Start Center (Facilities) to provide the Socorro Head Start Program.
 - 4. **Purchasing Cooperatives**
 - a. **Texas DIR Contract TSO-3763 Dell Technologies**
For the purchase of Bitdefender Antivirus License Renewals in the amount of \$421,850 for the 2022-2023 school year. (ESSER Funds)
 - b. **Texas DIR Contract TSO-4288 Microshare, Inc.**
For the purchase of the Network Firewall Support and Security Subscription Service Renewals in the amount of \$181,589.20 for the 2022-2023 school year. (ESSER Funds)
 - 5. **Second Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding - Digital Promise Global**
To implement the Inclusive Innovation for Adolescent Writing Project. The purpose of the Amendment is to extend the end of the period of performance from February 28, 2022 to December 31, 2022; no changes are being made to the contract value.
- **Investment Accounts for Socorro ISD**
To inform the Board of Trustees about the investment accounts for Socorro ISD. The administration needs to update forms, add the CFO to the account, and collect signatures from Board President and Board Secretary.
- **Wells Fargo Bank Accounts for Socorro ISD**
To inform the Board of Trustees about the Wells Fargo Accounts for Socorro ISD. Requesting approval to add Chief Financial Officer as a signer on all accounts.

ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEFEASANCE OF CERTAIN CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT

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

2022-2023 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAX RATE OF \$0.8546 PER \$100 VALUATION

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

2022-2023 INTEREST AND SINKING FUND TAX RATE OF \$0.395112 PER \$100 VALUATION

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

RESOLUTION WHICH OFFICIALLY LEVIES THE TAX RATE FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

I, Ricardo Castellano, move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$1.249712, which is effectively a 12.14% increase in the tax rate, the motion was seconded by Pablo Barrera. Ricardo Castellano voted aye. Paul Guerra voted aye. David Morales voted aye. Eduardo Mena voted aye. Pablo Barrera voted aye. Cynthia Najera voted aye. The motion passed.

2022-2023 DISTRICT AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS/PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

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

TPA OF GROUP MEDICAL HEALTH BENEFITS, MEDICAL PROVIDER NETWORK, PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT, STOP LOSS REINSURANCE, HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT ADMINISTRATION, COBRA ADMINISTRATION, RFP NO. E2807 (ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ONLY)

A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the Atena for Medical Health Benefits, Prescription Drug, Stop Loss, and FSA/HAS; and WEX Health for COBRA Administration. The motion carried unanimously.

UPDATES TO THE COMPENSATION PLAN

Following a brief presentation concerning the updates on the athletic competitive stipends, two (2) travel stipends for early college advisors being funded by Title IV, and Fine Arts Communications Specialist cell phone stipend being funded by ESSER, a motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

REVISIONS TO TASB UPDATE 119 AND LOCAL POLICY

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

1. CPC - Office/Records Management
2. EHAA - Basic Instructional Program Required Instruction (All Levels)
3. EHB - Curriculum Design Special Programs
4. EHBAA - Special Education Identification, Evaluation, and Eligibility
5. EHBB - Special Programs Gifted and Talented Students
6. EIF - Academic Achievement Graduation
7. FFBA - Crisis Intervention Traume-Informed Care
8. FFH - Student Welfare Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation
9. FFA (LOCAL) - Student Welfare Wellness and Health Services

ADOPTION OF REDISTRICTING CRITERIA

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

RESOLUTION OF THE SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING AN EXTENSION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY PAID SICK LEAVE FOR PERSONNEL FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Following a brief discussion regarding the 5 days of EPSL to be paid using ESSER funds or other available funds for vaccinated or not-vaccinated employees, a motion was made by Paul Guerra to approve the item as presented. After further discussion, Paul Guerra made a motion to rescind his motion and amended it to 6 days. There being no seconded, Paul Guerra made a motion to amend his motion to 6 days but no more than 5 days used on any one incident, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 8:37 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel related to 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 receive report regarding the status of L. Hernandez v. SISD; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; proposal to terminate the term contract of the Chief of Police for good cause; to consider administrative recommendations for Principal position at Bill Sybert School; Assistant Principal positions at Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School, Options High School, Sun Ridge Middle School and Desert Wind School under Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 10:11 pm.

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

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

SETTLEMENT IN L. HERNANDEZ V. SISD; CAUSE NO. 2020-DCV3887

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

PROPOSAL TO TERMINATE THE TERM CONTRACT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR GOOD CAUSE

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

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Carman recommended Rebecca Parada to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal of Bill Sybert School. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Lorenzo Lopez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle 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 Raquel Ferreira to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Options High 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 Elizabeth Huerta to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Sun Ridge Middle School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Ileana Castillo to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Sun Ridge Middle School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman recommended Elizabeth Saucedo to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Desert Wind School. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2022.