



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
September 20, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Paul Guerra

**CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Board President Eduardo Mena. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- Law Enforcement Agencies were recognized for partnering with SISD Police Services to ensure the safety of students and staff during a recent emergency situation at Socorro High School.
- Employees who are retiring from the district were honored for their service in Team SISD.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK, OCTOBER 10-14, 2022**

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

**OPEN FORUM**

The following individuals addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent:

- Sereka Barlow regarding YWCA Walk A Mile in Her Shoes 2022 Event.
- Tommy Hill regarding compensation packet and year of service pay.
- Crystal Salcido regarding classroom safety.
- Sammy Carrejo regarding transparency on district issues.
- Sylvia Torres regarding Nurse's Aide salary.

**ESSER III RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN UPDATES**

Under ESSER III guidelines, the district must create a Return to In-Person Instruction Plan which then must be periodically reviewed and revised if necessary. Updates that have been made to the original plan will be presented, with an opportunity for public comment on the revisions. No action was taken on this agenda 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.

## CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by David Morales to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of 8F7d-Purchasing Cooperative, Texas DIR Contract TSO-3763 Dell Financial Services, Security Camera Server Refresh Lease; 8K-Grant Application for the Socorro ISD Police Department (Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program and Body Worn Cameras Grant Program and Resolution); 8M-Clear Bad Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel  
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Request for Use of School Facilities
  1. Baker Dance School for the use of Montwood High School Theater
  2. Expression Dance for the use of Pebble Hills High School Theater
  3. Mariachi Craze for the use of Pebble Hills High School Theater
  4. Paso Del Norte Fine Arts Academy Ballet Program for the use of Paso Del Norte Elementary School
  5. Snapology of El Paso STEM Program for the use of various campuses
  6. Young Rembrandts of El Paso for the use of various campuses
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
  1. Energy Management Controls, OEM Parts and Equipment - RFP No. E2311  
Solicitation to provide Maintenance and Operation Department with the ability to purchase Energy Management Controls, OEM Parts and Equipment as needed district wide. (Maximum \$150,000-General Fund Budget)
  2. Janitorial Supplies - RFP No. E2321  
To provide Maintenance and Operations Department and Child Nutrition Services Department with the ability to purchase janitorial supplies as needed district wide. (Maximum \$980,000-General Fund Budget and National School Lunch Program)
  3. Paper Supplies Part II - RFP No. E2315  
Solicitation to provide Maintenance and Operations with the ability to purchase bathroom tissues and paper towel rolls as needed district wide. (Maximum \$467,000-General Fund Budget)
  4. Request for Extension - Coolers and Parts for Breakfast in the Classroom, RFP E2225  
Administration recommends approval to extend this bid for an additional year, through November 15, 2023, which is the first possible extension. (Maximum \$208,000)
  5. Request for Increase - Instructional Materials, Supplies, and Services RFP No. E1915  
To increase the total annual amount by \$500,000 for a new total annual amount of \$5,000,000 for this current term and any remaining extended term. The increase will accommodate the ordering of approved instructional materials, supplies, and services. (Maximum \$500,000-General Fund and Special Revenue)
- Contracts
  1. Affiliation Agreements
    - a. Grand Canyon University College of Nursing and Health Care Professions  
The purpose is for students to continue participating in the Student Teaching Internships, Practicum and Observations of the SISD school nurses.
    - b. Southeast New Mexico College Preservice Teacher Training  
This agreement establishes a Preservice Teacher Training agreement in the area of Early Childhood Education in which both parties agree to assist in the planning and implementation of the program(s) at SISD for the benefit of students from College.

- c. **Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center of El Paso (Student Clinical Experience)**  
The purpose is to continue to provide the students a clinical experience as part of the educational process and give students of the TTUHSC EP the opportunity to utilize programs and services.
2. **Addendum - National Evaluation Comprehensive Literacy State Development Impact Study Observation Data Collection**  
The purpose is to amend the current terms of the CLSD. The Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education has requested additional data collection to support the research of effective literacy practices. This addendum describes the data collection which will take place in spring 2023.
3. **Agreements**
  - a. **National Math and Science Initiative College Readiness Program**  
The purpose is to continue with the National Math and Science Initiative's College Readiness Program at Pebble Hills High School and Eastlake High School. The mission of the program is to advance STEM education to ensure all students, especially those furthest from opportunity, thrive and reach their highest potential as problem solvers and lifelong learners who pursue their passions and tackle the world's toughest challenges. (Maximum \$2,000-General Funds)
  - b. **Tyler Technologies, Versatrans**  
Administration recommends consideration and approval to renew a separate agreement with Tyler Technologies for the acquisition of the Versatrans software module. This module will be utilized by the Transportation Department. (Maximum \$130,640.98-General Funds)
4. **Educational Experience Affiliation and Program Agreements - University of Texas at El Paso, School of Nursing**  
These agreements are to continue with the roles and responsibilities of the established program of exchange and collaboration between SISD and UTEP for the purpose of placement of Nursing students for study and observation.
5. **Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement (MOUA) - Aliviane, Inc.**  
Aliviane, Inc. is committed to providing comprehensive substance abuse and mental health services for members of the community and providing needed services that are beyond the scope of this agency, and/or to augment the services provided by Aliviane. The program services will be provided to Physical Education and Health classes throughout the district.
6. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Advise TX Program**  
Advise TX is administered by THECB, which implements the College Advising Corps ("CAC") program model of placing recent college graduates as full-time "near-peer" advisors in targeted Texas high schools. (Maximum \$20,000-General Funds)
7. **Purchasing Cooperatives**
  - a. **Region 8 TIPS - Blackboard Inc.**  
This is to continue the services of Blackboard Inc. for Mass Notification, App Integration and Social Media Manager utilizing contract #210101 in the amount of \$144,079.04 from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023.
  - b. **Texas DIR Contract TSO-3763 Dell Financial Services, File Back-up System**  
This is for a lease to replace and upgrade the file backup system using contract #TSO-3763 in the total amount of \$201,924.30 to include principal and interest.
  - c. **Texas DIR Contract TSO-3763 Dell Financial Services, Power Distribution Units**  
This is for a lease to acquire power distribution units for the district's new data center using contract #TSO-3763 in the total amount of \$45,131.65 to include principal and interest.

8. Service Agreement – Care Solace, Inc.

Care Solace provides a web-based navigation system to assist its school district clients and the districts' students and parents in location and connecting with mental health treatment providers. Care Solace would like to provide the Services to Socorro ISD on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement and Socorro ISD desires for Care Solace to assist in connecting students and families with mental health treatment providers. (Maximum \$142,800-General and Federal Funds)

- Purchasing Cooperative Report for 2021-2022 School Year  
Section 44.0331 of the Education Code requires that a written report be presented to the Board of Trustees detailing cooperative purchasing organizations used by the Socorro ISD Purchasing Department.
- Donations for Fiscal Year 2021-2022  
A list of donations is being submitted for the Board's consideration.
- Donation from ITECH 361 LLC  
This is to inform the Board of Trustees of a donation for 26 pallets of hand sanitizers; the estimated value of the donation is \$100,000.
- 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.
- New Job Positions and Descriptions
  1. Chief of Innovation  
This position is to serve as the district's research and design leader, responsible for identifying and scaling creative ideas that work throughout the district.
  2. Substitute Nurse's Aide  
The primary purpose is to substitute in the absence of the nurse and help provide health care services and programs to our students and employees.
  3. Part-Time Instructional Aide  
The primary purpose is to provide targeted instructional support and interventions to students.

**PURCHASING COOPERATIVE – TEXAS DIR CONTRACT TSO-3763 DELL FINANCIAL SERVICES, SECURITY CAMERA SERVER REFRESH LEASE**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Ricardo Castellano for discussion. Following a brief discussion regarding the retention period for video surveillance, a motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the lease to replace and upgrade security server in the total amount of \$262,483.80 to include principal and interest as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE SOCORRO ISD POLICE DEPARTMENT: BULLET-RESISTANT SHIELD GRANT PROGRAM AND BODY WORN CAMERAS GRANT PROGRAM AND RESOLUTION**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Ricardo Castellano for discussion. Following a brief discussion regarding server capacity and policy on retention period for video surveillance, a motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Ricardo Castellano, to approve the grants application for Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program and Body Worn Cameras Grant Program and Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLEAR BAG POLICY FOR ALL ATHLETIC EVENTS**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Cynthia Najera for discussion. Following a brief discussion regarding the implementation of this policy to enhance the safety and security of guests and

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

### **REDISTRICTING CRITERIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY – INITIAL MAPS / PLAN 1**

A presentation of the initial maps “Plan 1” was provided for the Board of Trustees. No action was taken on this agenda item.

### **REVISIONS TO TASB UPDATE 119 AND LOCAL POLICY**

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented with the exception of DC-Employment Practices which was tabled for further review. The motion carried unanimously.

1. FDA – Admissions/Interdistrict Transfers
2. FDB – Admissions/Intradistrict Transfer and Classroom Assignments
3. GKC – Community Relations

### **FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES – RFP NO. E2325**

A motion as made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by David Morales, to approve Estrada Hinojosa & Co., Inc. as the district’s Financial Advisor as presented. The motion carried with a 5-1 vote. Michael Najera voted nay.

### **HEALTH PLAN DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023 PLAN YEAR**

Following a brief discussion regarding health plan design recommendations, a motion was made by Ricardo Castellano, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the plan with the cost as is except the recommended deductions for employees and children which will be reduced by \$25 for each plan. Discussion followed regarding the budgetary impact to the district. Michael Najera rescinded his second for clarification on the motion. A motion was made by Ricardo Castellano, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve rates to remain in all traditional PPO plans (across the board) and ACO rates to be reduced by a 12% below the adopted rates. The motion carried unanimously.

### **UPDATES TO THE COMPENSATION PLAN**

Following a brief presentation concerning the updates on supplemental pay and the updates to the compensation plan, the following action was taken.

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

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve a \$7.25 more per employee’s hourly rate as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by David Morales, to approve the Substitute Pay for Monday and Friday as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 9:02 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel regarding pursuing sanctions against employee S.L. for abandonment of employment contract; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to consider administrative recommendations for Director of Purchasing, Director of Transportation, and Dean of Instruction at El Dorado High School under Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:37 pm.

**SANCTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYEE S.L. FOR ABANDONMENT OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Carman recommended Gabriela Garcia to assume all roles and responsibilities as Director of Purchasing. A motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Dr. Carman recommended Ana Solis to assume all roles and responsibilities as Dean of Instruction at El Dorado High School. A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Pablo Barrera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**REVISIONS TO LOCAL POLICY DC – EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

Administration requested the Board of Trustees to reconsider the revisions and authorize the Superintendent to approve new teacher contracts between meetings, a motion was made by Pablo Barrera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON OCTOBER 18, 2022.**