



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
November 15, 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; Paul Guerra; Cynthia A. Najera; Michael A. Najera; and Nate Carman, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Board President Eduardo Mena. All members were present and a quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

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

**BOARD HONORS**

- Students and employees who won the SISD 4th Annual What's Poppin Pop Art Contest were recognized.
- An SISD Athlete was recognized for competing at the 2022 UIL State Cross Country Meet.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- An SISD Community Education Graduate was recognized for winning the 2022 Texas Workforce Commission Scholar of the Year Award.
- SISD teachers were honored for earning The Arc of El Paso Everyday Hero of IDD Award.
- SISD Counseling Teams were recognized for being 2022-2023 Lone Star State School Counselor Association Award Recipients.
- A representative from New York Life presented a \$25,000 donation for Socorro ISD campuses.
- A presentation on Redistricting of Single-Member Trustee District's Boundaries was provided.

**PUBLIC HEARING – COMMUNITY INPUT ON REDISTRICTING OF SINGLE-MEMBER TRUSTEE DISTRICT'S BOUNDARIES**

A public hearing for the purpose of public comment regarding changes to the Board's Single-Member Trustee District's Boundaries as required by applicable law. No input from the public was received. No action was taken on this agenda item.

**PUBLIC HEARING – FINANCIAL INTEGRITY RATING SYSTEM OF TEXAS (FIRST)**

The Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the District's 2021-2022 financial rating using 2021 data. Public input was provided by Sammy Carrejo regarding proposals for an external audit to conduct a review of the District.

**OPEN FORUM**

The following individual(s) addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent:

- Angie Soto regarding approval of compressed study/reclassification update to the compensation plan.
- MNK Architects recognized Montwood HS for earning the Learning By Design Award.

- Tommy Hill regarding compensation update and recognizing the years of experience.
- Melissa Melendez regarding employee salaries.
- Sammy Carrejo regarding district procedures and complaints.
- Gabriel Chavez regarding a parent concern.

### **DISTRICT INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT FINDINGS**

Administration reported that an Intruder Detection Audit was conducted in the district by Region 19 ESC. Findings will be shared with the District School Safety and Security Committee, and the Board of Trustees. A plan of action is in place and will be shared with the Board of Trustees. 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 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes
  - October 17, 2022 Board Workshop
  - October 18, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
  - October 19, 2022 Board Workshop
- Request for Use of School Facilities
  - All-Star Football Game and Combine for the use of the Student Activities Complex (SAC)
  - Sun Bowl Football Team for the use of the Student Activities Complex (SAC)
  - Urban Institute of Dance & Performing Arts for the use of Montwood High School Theater
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
  - Instructional Materials, Supplies, and Services - RFP No. E2328  
Solicitation to purchase instructional materials, supplies and services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$7,000,000-General Fund Budget, Federal Funds, and Special Revenue)
- Contracts
  - Agreements
    - Care Solace, Inc.  
Care Solace provides a web-based navigation system to assist its school district clients and the districts' students and parents in locating and connecting with mental health treatment providers. The amendment is for the initial term (November 16, 2022 through June 30, 2023) and district cost (from \$142,800 to \$119,000-based on student enrollment of 47,600) upon execution of this Agreement.
    - Texas Tech University (Lubbock) Student Intern  
This agreement will establish a partnership between Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas and Socorro ISD. It outlines the responsibilities of the cooperating parties as they contribute to the learning experience of interns who benefit from and participate in the Internship Program.
  - Amendment - Project SEARCH at The Hospitals of Providence East Campus Agreement, Tenet Hospitals Limited  
This agreement is to implement the Hospitals of Providence East Campus Project SEARCH a best practice for hiring individuals with intellectual disabilities modeled after Project SEARCH at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Center.
  - Interlocal Agreements
    - El Paso Community College Operation of Mission Early College High School

- The purpose is for the continuation of an early college high school so that students will have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and a two-year Associate's Degree upon graduation from the early college high school with the intent to enroll students in grades 9-12 in MECHS and provide the financial support necessary.
- **Region 13 Education Service Center Purchasing Membership**  
Socorro ISD wishes to be a member of the Region 13 Education Service Center Purchasing Cooperative.
  - **Memorandums of Understanding**
    - **El Paso County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) operated by Ysleta ISD**  
This is for the continuation and operation of the JJAEP, for the students, school districts, and the juvenile board in El Paso. It services to combine into one system the operational, programmatic and educational standards for the JJAEP required students who have been expelled from school for conduct for which expulsion is mandatory under Texas Education Code Chapter 37.
    - **New Mexico State University Student Teacher Experience**  
This agreement is to establish a set of common regulations and procedures for the student teaching programs and appropriate student teacher placement that allows the student teacher to meet all certification requirements.
    - **Western Carolina University Educator Preparation Program**  
This MOU establishes a field and clinical experience essential to accomplish the educational objectives for those students enrolled in the EPP's Teacher Education Program; and for students to gain experience in school districts and partner schools: field experiences, clinical internships, and clinical residencies.
  - **Purchasing Cooperatives (Purchases over \$100,000)**
    - **Advanced Network Management, Inc. Texas DIR Contract DIR-TSO-4167**  
To lease the upgrade of the existing phone system's hardware and software in the total amount of \$2,640,775.91 to include principal and interest. The lease agreement will be through Key Government Finance Inc. for three (3) years with an annual payment of \$880,258.64 starting December 15, 2022.
    - **ESC Region 19 Allied States Cooperative #17-7247, Frontline**  
For the renewal of the Special Education student system ESPED in the amount of \$137,748.56.
    - **Legal Services - RFQ No. E2254**  
Solicitation to purchase Legal Services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$750,000-General Fund Budget)
    - **OMNIA Partners Contract #R190503, School Specialty**  
For the purchase of Art Kits for grades 4-12 in the amount of \$422,259.04 for 6 grade levels. (ESSER Funding)
    - **OMNIA Partners Contract #R220601, Daktronics**  
To purchase a video control system upgrade including cameras and headset for the Student Activities Complex (SAC) Production Booth in the amount of \$157,697.00.
  - **Texas Education Agency Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) Application**  
The OFSDP application is in conjunction with the Graduation Alliance Texas Student Reengagement Program agreement which was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 18, 2022. In accordance with the requirements of Texas Education Code Section 29.081(e-2) the program is to provide educational opportunities for eligible students who are working toward course credits which can be converted to high school credits through the Student Program. Individuals under the age of 26 years who have not yet earned their high school diploma are

eligible for the Program if they meet the criteria listed on the agreement.

- Donation from New York Life in the amount of \$25,000  
To inform the Board of Trustees of a donation in the amount of \$25,000; \$500 per campus
- Revisions to Local Policy  
EDH – Curriculum Design Alternative Methods for Earning Credit  
FMG – Student Activities Travel  
EIF – Academic Achievement Graduation
- Holiday Extra Duty Pay update to the Compensation Plan
- Compression Study/Reclassification Update to the Compensation Plan

#### **VACANCY ON THE SISD FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

#### **REDISTRICTING-MAPS: PLAN 1, PLAN 1A, AND/OR OTHER PROPOSED PLAN**

Discussion followed regarding the different proposed plans. The item will be brought back for consideration. No action was taken on this item.

#### **AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

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

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 7:49 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; to receive letters regarding Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings for Col. John O. Ensor Middle School, Ernesto Serna School, Desert Wind School, El Dorado High School, and Paso Del Norte School; discussion on appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, dismissal of or complaint against an employee; to consider proposed settlements in A. Gomez v. SISD Cause No. 2021DCV2866 and L. Luna v. 2021DCV2865; to consider administrative recommendations for Assistant Principal position at Bill Sybert and Director for Facilities/Construction under Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.074 and 551.076.

The meeting reconvened at 8:41 pm.

#### **PROPOSED SETTLEMENT IN A. GOMEZ V. SISD; CAUSE NO. 2021DCV2866**

No action was taken on this agenda item.

#### **PROPOSED SETTLEMENT IN L. LUNA V. SISD; CAUSE NO. 2021DCV2865**

No action was taken on this agenda item.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Carman recommended Rosa Jimenez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Bill Sybert School. A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carman reported that the recommendation for Director of Facilities/Construction was being pulled. No action was taken on this agenda item.

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**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON DECEMBER 13, 2022.**