



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
August 18, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Angelica Rodriguez, Board President; Antonio ‘Tony’ Ayub, Board Vice President; Gary Gandara, Board Secretary; Hector F. Gonzalez; Michael A. Najera; Cynthia A. Najera; Paul Guerra; and Dr. José Espinoza, Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

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

BOARD HONORS

- Nine SISD students were recognized for winning the annual Peter Piper Pizza Calendar Art Contest.
- A John Drugan School student was honored for winning the National Dance Title Champion 2015 in the Talent on Parade Competition.
- Winners of the 2015 Smile Team SISD: Superintendent’s Photo Contest were recognized.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- Two SISD bus drivers were recognized for winning the Region 19 School Bus Road-eo Competition and advancing to the state competition.
- Montwood High School Principal Rosemary Mireles-Menchaca and El Dorado High School Principal Cynthia Retana were recognized for being selected to attend the Principal’s Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

OPEN FORUM

None

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 2015-16 TAX RATE

Following a presentation by Tony Reza, Chief Financial Officer, regarding the proposed 2015-16 Tax Rate of \$1.274794 per \$100 valuation, the public was invited to comment on the adoption of the tax rate. No one came forward to address the Board. No action was taken on this agenda item.

FACILITIES REPORT

Tom Eyeington, Chief Operations Officer, provided a presentation of the 2011 Bond program on the following construction projects: Pebble Hills HS; Purple Heart ES; and on the three (3) HVAC upgrades at Sanchez, Slider and Socorro Middle Schools. Discussion took place concerning HVAC upgrades at El

Dorado and Socorro High Schools to include upgrades in some kitchen areas at several elementary schools. No action was taken on this agenda item.

GRANTS REPORT

Ann Darnell, Grant Writer, provided an update on active discretionary grants for the District. No action was taken on this agenda item.

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

Marta Carmona, Internal Auditor for Curriculum and Instruction and Joe San Miguel, Internal Auditor for Finance, provided a presentation of completed and in-progress audit projects. No action was taken on this agenda item.

TEAM SISD SMART GOALS REPORTS

Alisa Zapata-Farmer, Chief Academic Officer; Lucia Borrego, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Daniel Escobar, Chief Communications Officer; and Tony Reza, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation concerning their SMART Goal. Each member provided a brief overview of their department's goal, data and steps used to accomplish goal, and its impact. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Tony Ayub, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of F2-Interlocal Agreement with Ysleta ISD; F3-Letter of Agreement with ESC Region 19 for Eduphoria Aware/TEKSbank; F5-Memorandum of Understanding with Three Rivers Education Foundation, Inc.; and F7-Utilization of Purchasing Cooperative The Buy Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2015 Regular Meeting
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Requests for the Use of School Facilities
 - Basketball El Paso for the use Montwood High School
 - El Paso Performing Arts Dance Studio for the use of Americas High School Theater
 - Race El Paso for the use of the Student Activities Complex (SAC) and Aquatics
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Awarding of Bids (EXHIBIT C)
 - Cafeteria Supplies – RFP No. 199-0805-E1602
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure cafeteria supplies as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$772,322-General Fund and National School Lunch Program)
 - Paper Supplies-Part II – RFP No. 19-0805-E1614
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure paper supply products as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$349,209)
- Contracts
 - Contract – Texas Workforce Commission Adult Education and Literacy Grant with the Presidio Independent School District (Service Provider)
The SISD's Community Education Department as the lead organization for this grant proposes to provide the Presidio ISD's Adult Education Program with resources to act as a service provider for the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Adult Education and Literacy

- (AEL) Grant as specified in the Notice of Grant Award (TWC Contract # 1014AEL000). (No cost to the District)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Advise TX
Advise TX is administered by the THECB which implements the CAC program model of placing recent college graduates as full-time “near-peer” advisors in targeted Texas high schools. Through grant funding provided by THECB, the University employs advisors and project staff to carry out the project. Advise TX is an education program as defined in 34 CFR §99.3. THECB has awarded funds to UT-Austin for the 2015-2016 academic year to implement the Advise TX program at high schools throughout the state, including at high schools in SISD (Socorro High School, Americas High School and El Dorado High School). (No cost to the District)
 - Utilization of Purchasing Cooperative US Communities – GameTime
Administration recommends consideration and approval to utilize the purchasing cooperative US Communities Contract #110179 up to \$140,000 for the 2015-2016 school year for the acquisition of playground equipment, services and supplies from GameTime. The first transaction is to be purchase equipment for John Drugan School, Vista Del Sol Elementary, Jane Hambric School, Horizon Heights Elementary and Hueco Elementary. (Maximum \$140,000)

CONTRACT: INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH YSLETA ISD CONTRACT #212041CSP MEDICAID SHARS SPECIAL EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Angelica Rodriguez for separate consideration. Ysleta ISD Contract #212041CSP awarded to ESPED.COM, Inc. will provide SISD with reimbursement for services provided to students identified with special needs who have an IEP with billable SHARS services; pricing structure for Socorro ISD: 5.5% chargeback from billable services. A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote. Angelica Rodriguez abstained.

CONTRACT: LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH ESC REGION 19 - EDUPHORIA AWARE/TEKS BANK

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Guerra for discussion. Following a discussion concerning the term of the agreement, a motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the interlocal agreement for the purpose of providing a three (3) year fixed cost plan for Worker’s Compensation Benefits for the employees of SISD and retain a third party administrator to provide professional services necessary to administer the plan at a maximum cost of \$561,136. The motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THREE RIVERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Michael Najera for discussion. Following a discussion concerning the term of the proposal and transition plan as per grant stipulations, a motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to postpone the item for further review. The motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT: UTILIZATION OF PURCHASING COOPERATIVE – THE BUYBOARD: RAMTECH BUILDING SYSTEMS

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Tony Ayub for discussion. Following a discussion concerning status of previously purchased portables, a motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by

Michael Najera, to approve the acquisition of two (2) double-wide portable classrooms for John Drugan K-8 School in the amount of \$121,720. The motion carried unanimously.

2015-16 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAX RATE

A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to adopt the 2015-16 Maintenance and Operations tax rate of \$0.976140 per \$100 valuation in order to support the 2015-16 fiscal year budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2015-16 INTEREST AND SINKING FUND TAX RATE

A motion was made by Hector Gonzalez, seconded by Michael Najera, to adopt the 2015-16 Interest and Sinking fund tax rate of \$0.298654 per \$100 of valuation in order to support the 2015-16 fiscal year budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION WHICH OFFICIALLY LEVIES THE TAX RATE FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to approve the Resolution which officially levies the tax rate for the Socorro Independent School District for the 2015-16 school year as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJUST COMPRESSED TAX RATE FOR ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the district's participation to adjust compressed tax rate for additional state funding and to submit the written notification to the Texas Education Agency prior to September 1. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 7:47 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; to receive and review recommendation of hearing officer in the Level III Grievance of I.S.C and L.G.; to discuss resolution of Level III Grievance of L.C.; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendation for Assistant Principal at Desert Wind PK-8 School under Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 p.m.

LEVEL III GRIEVANCE OF L.C.

No action was taken on this item.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Espinoza recommended Noel Astorga to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal of Desert Wind PK-8 School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2015.