



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
February 16, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Hector F. Gonzalez

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Board President Angelica Rodriguez. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

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

BOARD HONORS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- SISD choir and band students were recognized for being named to All-State Choir, All-State Band and All-State Jazz.
- The SISD Purchasing Department was recognized for earning the Texas Association School Business Officials Award of Merit for Purchasing and Operations with Recognized Status for the fifth year in a row.

OPEN FORUM

Angelica Soto, Socorro AFT President, signed up to speak during Open Forum. However, when her name was called to approach the podium, she had left the meeting.

FACILITIES REPORT

Tom Eyeington, Chief Operations Officer, provided a presentation of the 2011 Bond program HVAC upgrade projects at Sanchez, Slider and Socorro Middle 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.

SISD HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

Marivel Macias, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, provided a presentation on a campaign partnership between all SISD health and wellness stakeholders to ensure SISD students are provided with healthy, nutritious meals that enable them to be physically prepared to excel academically. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of C2-Request of the Use of Facilities submitted by City of El Paso Parks and Recreation; C6-Request for the Use of School Facilities submitted by El Paso County Sheriff's Office; E4-Concrete Redi Mix Bid; E5-District Network Electronics Bid; E8-Internet Services and WAN Services Bid; E9-Marching Band Uniforms and Accessories Bid; and E13-SISD Field Lighting and Bleacher Upgrades for Americas, El Dorado and Montwood High Schools Bid. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Requests for the Use of School Facilities
 - Alchemy Karate Academy for the use of O'Shea Keleher Elementary School Gymnasium
 - Congregacion Zaragoza Spanish for the use of Escontrias Elementary School
 - East Spanish Congregation-Jehovah Witness for the use of Desert Wind Elementary School Cafeteria
 - Edgemere Congregation Jehovah Witness for the use of El Dorado High School Theater
 - El Paso Tabernacle for the use of Pebble Hills High School Cafeteria
 - Universal Cheerleaders Association/Varsity Brands, Inc. for the use of Montwood High School Gymnasium
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Awarding of Bids (EXHIBIT C)
 - Annual Financial Audit – RFQ No. 199-0126-E1667
Administration recommends consideration and approval to award the Annual Financial Audit Services as per Texas Government Code 2254, Professional Services. Firms were ranked on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications to perform the services. (Cost will be negotiated once awarded.)
 - Annual PM Program for Mechanical Water Treatment System – RFP No. 199-0106-E1640
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure preventive maintenance for the mechanical water treatment system as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$75,000)
 - Audio Visual Equipment – RFP No. 199-0121-E1663
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure audio visual equipment as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$200,000)
 - Electronic Video Board System Upgrade – CSP No. 199-1112-E1603
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure an electronic video board system upgrade to install a video scoreboard and speaker system at the Student Activities Complex. (Maximum \$750,000-General Fund Budget and Committed Funds)
 - Family Literacy Project – RFP No. 199-0106-E1651
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure professional services related to improving family literacy as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$50,000)
 - Painting Materials – RFP No. 199-0106-E1649
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure painting materials as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$220,000)
 - Paper Supplies – RFP No. 199-0106-E1650
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure paper supplies as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$299,490)

- Professional Development Services – RFP No. 199-0106-E1652
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure professional development services as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$500,000-General Fund Budget and Special Revenue)
- Submission of Grants
 - 2016-17 Juvenile Justice Local Grant Program
The intent of this grant is to divert juveniles from entering or progressing into the juvenile justice system. Partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters to apply for a mentoring grant and/or possibly leveraging funds with the Texas Workforce Commission to provide internship opportunities for students at Options High School and/or KEYS Academy.
 - 2016-17 Verizon & PLTW School Grant Competition
Grant funds may be used to help offset implementation expenses for PLTW participation fee, training expenses, wireless connectivity, Android tablets, desk top or laptop computers. \$20,000 grants will support the implementation of the PLTW Gateway Introduction to Computer Science units in middle schools with a free and reduced lunch program-eligible student population of 70% or greater.
 - Active Learning Center Grant
Steelcase Education provides innovative classroom furniture to transform a classroom structure to efficiently and effectively utilize active learning pedagogy. Active learning center grants cover the furniture, integrated technology, design, installation and post-occupancy measurement tool for one of four classroom types. Recipients will select between several classroom options valued a \$62,000, seating between 24 and 32 students.
 - Reaching for Excellence Grant
The Reaching for Excellence Grant has been funded by the Texas Health Institute for the last ten (10) years. The grant helps school districts plan and implement programs or initiatives that help improve the health of staff, students or a community.

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES – CITY OF EL PASO PARKS AND RECREATION

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Michel Najera for discussion. Discussion followed regarding the venue being requested for the senior event. A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Tony Ayub, to approve the use of Montwood High School track and field as requested by the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES – EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Cynthia Najera for discussion. Discussion followed regarding custodian fees for the event. A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the use of El Dorado High School Theater with correction on hours for custodian services. The motion carried unanimously.

BID: CONCRETE REDI MIX RFP NO. 199-0106-E1644

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Tony Ayub for discussion. Discussion followed regarding the price increase per yard and the quality of the concrete which includes 5,000 PSI with fiber components. A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the bid and anticipated amount of \$376,000 per year. The motion carried unanimously.

BIDS: DISTRICT NETWORK ELECTRONICS RFP NO. 199-0108-R1656 AND INTERNET SERVICES AND WAN SERVICES RFP NO. 199-0108-E1655

These items were pulled from the Consent Agenda by Michael Najera for discussion. Discussion followed regarding E-Rate funded projects. The purpose of these bids is to secure access to the necessary District funds for these projects pending funding application. The award is subject to availability of funding from the Schools and Libraries Division Reimbursement. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the bids as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BID: MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS AND ACCESSORIES RFP NO. 199-0201-E1668

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Tony Ayub for discussion. Discussion followed regarding Pebble Hills High School being the initial investment for the marching band uniforms and accessories. Thereafter, outfit rotation follows for other schools. A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the bid as presented.

SISD FIELD LIGHTING AND BLEACHER UPGRADES FOR AMERICAS, EL DORADO AND MONTWOOD HIGH SCHOOLS

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Michael Najera for discussion. Discussion followed regarding field lighting and bleachers at Pebble Hills and Eastlake High Schools and current assessment undergoing at Socorro High School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the bid as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NOTICE OF SEPARATION INCENTIVE

Following a presentation by Mr. Rudy Campoya, Chief Human Resources Officer, regarding the separation incentive in the amount of \$500 to the first seventy-five (75) classroom teachers, administrators, or other professional exempt staff assigned to a school site, who submit a Notice of Voluntary Separation effective at the end of the 2015-2016 contract year to the Department of Human Resources on or before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2016 not to exceed \$37,500, a motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2016-2017 AND 2017-2018 SOCORRO ISD STUDENT CALENDARS

Following a presentation by Lucia Borrego, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, regarding the development of both calendars, a motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the 2016-2017 calendar with 179 instructional days and the 2017-2018 calendar with 178 instructional days as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TASB UPDATE 103

Following a presentation by Marivel Macias, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, regarding the policy revisions as presented by TASB, a motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve policy GKA from TASB Update 103 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION - TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the Resolution in support of its nomination of Superintendent Dr. Jose Espinoza for the Texas Association of School Boards Superintendent of the Year award as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 7:02 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel regarding status of litigation/intervention in application of El Paso Electric Company to change rates pending before the State Office of Administrative Hearings SOAH Docket No. 473-15-5257 PUC Docket No. 44941; judgement in favor of SISD re: J. Encino; to receive updates on litigation with ESD #1 and pending litigation involving L. Guerra v. SISD; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendations for Director of Athletic Services, Director of Maintenance and Operations, Principal at Loma Verde Elementary School and Assistant Principal(s) at Americas High School under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY – CHANGE RATES PENDING BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-15-5257 PUC DOCKET NO. 44941

No action was taken on this item.

SETTLEMENT OF A JUDGEMENT REGARDING J. ENCINO

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Tony Ayub, to authorize legal counsel to negotiate settlement as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Director of Athletic Services – Administration pulled this item from the agenda. No action was taken.

Dr. Espinoza recommended David Carrasco to assume all roles and responsibilities as Director of Maintenance and Operations. A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Principal of Loma Verde Elementary School – Administration pulled this item from the agenda. No action was taken.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Yvonne Avila and Sergio Jaurrieta to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principals of America High School. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON MARCH 22, 2016.