



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
March 28, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Gandara, Board President; Paul Guerra, Board Vice President; Cynthia A. Najera, Board Secretary; Hector F. Gonzalez; Michael A. Najera; Antonio ‘Tony’ Ayub; Angelica Rodriguez; 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 Gary Gandara. 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

- Eight SISD students were recognized for advancing to state in the 2017 Visual Arts Scholastic Event Competition.
- Four SISD students were recognized for placing at the citywide 2017 Black History Art Contest.
- Three students at Americas High School were recognized for winning the El Paso Women’s Bar Association Essay Contest.
- SISD students were recognized for winning the district’s 3rd Annual Robocom Competition.
- SISD elementary students were recognized for winning the district’s 2nd Annual Math Bee Competition.
- The winner of the district’s 2nd Annual Battle of the Bluebonnets Reading Competition was recognized.
- Destination Imagination teams were recognized for advancing to the state contest.
- Americas High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team was recognized for winning 2016-2017 championships.
- High school wrestlers were recognized for advancing to the UIL state competition.

PROCLAMATION FOR MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Following a presentation by Marivel Macias, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, regarding the month of April being recognized as “Month of the Military Child” and April 21st will be “Purple-Up Day” recognizing all the sacrifices our military-connected parents and their children have made, a motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH

Following a presentation by Marcy Sparks, Library Services Coordinator, regarding National Library Week being celebrated April 10-16, 2017, with activities to help schools and local community celebrate

the essential role that strong school library programs play in transforming learning, a motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Veronica Hernandez expressed her gratitude to the Board of Trustees and Superintendent for their support on a very successful Texas AFT Lobby Day.

SOCORRO VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

The following individuals addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent regarding the request for Socorro Veteran's Memorial: Eugene Trujillo, Jesse Montelongo and Daniel Lopez.

The meeting was closed at 7:10 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel regarding this request under *Texas Government Code* Section 551.072.

The meeting reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

Following a discussion regarding a request submitted by Socorro Veterans Memorial Organization to assist their organization by either leasing or donating the vacant property located on 10200 Socorro Road, a motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to review the options for a long term lease and come back to the Board with more information. The motion carried unanimously.

FACILITIES REPORT

Tom Eyeington, Chief Operations Officer, provided a presentation of the 2011 Bond Program and other district-wide construction projects. 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.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Hector Reyna, Chief Technology Officer, provided an update on the district's technology services focusing on the cameras initiative. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Requests for the Use of School Facilities
 - Clint Congregation/Jehovah's Witnesses for the use of Socorro High School Band Room
 - EP E-Z Driving School for the use of Montwood High School Classroom
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)

- Awarding of Bids (EXHIBIT C)
 - Musical Instruments – RFP No. 199-0303-E1756
Solicitation to purchase musical instruments as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$600,000-General Fund and Special Revenue)
 - Myrtle Cooper and Robert R. Rojas Elementary Schools Kitchen Renovations – CSP No. 199-0223-1759
Solicitation to construction services to provide kitchen renovations for Myrtle Cooper and Robert R. Rojas Elementary Schools. (Maximum \$659,000-National School Lunch Program)
 - Paper Supplies – RFP No. 199-0127-E1751
Solicitation to purchase paper supplies as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$267,473-General Fund)
 - Sheet Music – RFP No. 199-0303-E1749
Solicitation to purchase sheet music as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$75,000-General Fund and Special Revenue)
 - Video Security Equipment, Materials and Installation – RFP No. 199-0210-E1754
Solicitation to purchase video security equipment, materials and installations as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$700,000-General Fund)
- Contracts
 - Amendment(s) to Texas Workforce Commission Adult Education and Literacy Grant Contract(s)
The contract amendments for year three (3) is to amend the TWC awarded Adult Education and Literacy by increasing the total funding amount by \$372,501. The additional funds are being obligated to the SISD contract to expand the adult education and career pathway classes currently provided in our region. Ysleta Independent School District's Division of Finance acts as the fiscal agent for the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Grant. The contract period is also being amended to change the end date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018.
 - a. El Paso Community College (EPCC) – *Service Provider*
 - b. El Paso Independent School District – *Service Provider*
 - c. Presidion Independent School District – *Service Provider*
 - d. Ysleta Independent School District – *Service Provider*
 - Texas Workforce Commission Local Performance Quality Improvement Award Acceptance
This contract was previously approved by the Board on November 17, 2015. This request is to accept the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Local Performance Quality Improvement Award in the amount of \$40,000.
 - a. El Paso Independent School District – *Service Provider*
 - b. Ysleta Independent School District – *Service Provider*
 - Extending Depository Contract Board Resolution
The Board of Trustees selected Wells Fargo Bank on May 21, 2013 to service the Socorro ISD banking functions for the district as a result of Request for Proposal #199-0501-E1397. The term of this agreement is to extend the services for an additional two-year term from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. (Maximum \$70,000)
 - Purchasing Cooperative Utilization (3)
 - a. BuyBoard Blue Star Bus Sales, LTD
This is for the acquisition of ten (10) 77-passenger school buses for the Transportation Department. (Maximum \$866,400-General Fund)

- b. BuyBoard Hatch iSS Mobile Classpack Tablets
The iStartSmart tablets will be used in Pre-Kindergarten classrooms in a blended learning environment (i.e. stations, small group). This will allow the students to begin using technology as independent learners. (Maximum \$313,320-Special Revenue Funding)
- c. Choice Partners and ESC Region 19-National Restaurant Supply and Pasco
For the purchase of kitchen equipment for the remodeling projects at Myrtle Cooper Elementary and Rojas Elementary; and mixers for Mission Early College High School and Escontrias Early Childhood Center. (Maximum \$198,671-Federal CNS Funds)
- Statement(s) of Impact
 - Harmony Science Academy-El Paso
Additional loss of revenue of approximately \$150,000 per year due to expanded grade level affecting budget, staffing, and facilities which is in addition to revenue already lost of approximately \$2.7M.
 - IDEA Public Schools
Loss of revenue approximately \$9.6M per year due to opening of four IDEA El Paso campuses (PK-5th Academy & 6th-12th college preps) affecting budget, staffing and facilities.
 - UT Tyler Innovation Academy
Loss of revenue of approximately \$776,000 per year due to the addition of the online/virtual campus affecting budget, staffing and facilities.
- Career and Technical Education Textbook Adoption-Proclamation 2017
CTE submitted the selection of books for Proclamation 2017-CTE Textbook Adoption.
- LOTE Proclamation 2017 Textbook Adoption Results for foreign languages
Instructional materials adopted under this proclamation are scheduled to be implemented beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. LOTE Proclamation 2017 focuses on foreign languages for middle school and high school.
- IMA and TEKS Certification
Districts and open-enrollment charter schools are required to certify annually to the State Board of Education and the commissioner that for each subject in the required curriculum, students have access to the instructional materials that cover all of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFIED AND NON-CERTIFIED CONTRACT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the Administrator Certified and Non-Certified Contract Recommendations for 2017-2018 School Year as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TASB UPDATE 107 AND LOCAL POLICY

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve revisions to policies from TASB Update 107 FEA and local policy FDB, EI and EIF as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

LEASE WITH SBA TOWERS IX, LLC, A, DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Following a presentation by Mr. Eyeington regarding the lease with SBA on a site located at 13000 Emerald Pass Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79928 (Eastlake High School) with an initial term of ten (10) year; upon commencement date, Lessee shall pay to Lessor a one-time payment in the amount of \$10,000 and rental payments in the amount of \$1,400 per month; thereafter, the current rental fee will be increased by three percent (3%), a motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Tony Ayub, to approve the agreement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2016 COUNTY PREVAILING WAGE RATE

Administration provided a presentation on the request received from El Paso County regarding the District's participation in the adoption of the 2016 County Prevailing Wage Rate. The Board did not take any action on this item. Therefore, Socorro ISD will continue to use the Davis Bacon Act per the Texas Government Code 2258.022.

JORDAN FOSTER CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER FOR INSIDE TOWER AT THE AQUATICS CENTER

A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve Change Order in the amount of \$60,000 for inside tower at the Aquatics Center as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

FINAL CONTRACT SUM FOR SANCHEZ MS, SOCORRO MS, SLIDER MS AND PURPLE HEART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Eyeington reported that the Facilities and Planning Department has completed their due diligence on Sanchez MS, Socorro MS, Slider MS and Purple Heart Elementary School and presented the contract sum, deductive change order, final contract sum and final payment for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Michael Najera, to accept the work as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFICATE OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES AND ORDER CANCELLING THE MAY 6, 2017 ELECTION FOR DISTRICTS 2, 3 AND 5

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to accept the Certificate of Unopposed Candidates for Single Member Districts 2, 3 and 5; and approve the Order Cancelling the Election for Single Member Districts 2, 3 and 5 declaring the unopposed candidates elected to office after the canvass of the May 6, 2017 Election of the Socorro Independent School District. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 8:00 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel regarding application of El Paso Electric Company to change rates pending before the State Office of Administrative Hearing SOAH Docket No. 473-17-2686 PUC Dockets No. 46831; ESD No. 1 v. Socorro ISD; L. Guerra v. Socorro ISD; and to discuss personnel and real estate matters under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve entering an interlocal agreement with other El Paso County School Districts and like entities to intervene in the State Office of Administrative Hearings Docket No. 473-17-2686 PUC Docket No. 46831 to challenge the proposed increase to Rate 41 and authorize the District to hire special counsel the law firm of Husch Blackwell to represent the District in the matter; further, the Board authorize the District to commit an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for legal fees, expert fees and expenses for that matter. The motion carried unanimously.

ESD NO. 1 V. SOCORRO ISD

A motion was made by Hector Gonzalez, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to authorize administration and legal counsel to complete settlement on the terms discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

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L. GUERRA V. SISD

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to authorize administration and legal counsel to complete the settlement on the terms discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON APRIL 18, 2017.