



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
April 18, 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

- Sun Ridge Middle School students were recognized for being commissioned by the City of El Paso to create an Earth Day themed painting on full-sized trash cans for the city’s Annual Earth Day Celebration.
- SISD students were recognized for advancing to the 2017 Texas Science and Engineering Fair.
- Three SISD high school mariachi groups were recognized for advancing to the 2017 UIL State Mariachi Competition.
- SISD boys soccer teams were recognized for winning 2016-2017 championships.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- An El Dorado High School art teacher was recognized for being a statewide finalist for the 2017 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award.
- James P. Butler Elementary School Principal was recognized for being a statewide finalist for the 2017 Texas National Distinguished Principal (NDP) finalist by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association.
- SPC Rafael Hernando III Middle School was recognized for being designated a Texas School to Watch campus by the Texas Middle School Association (TMSA).
- The SISD Special Education Department presented in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY, MAY 10, 2017

Following a presentation by Rebecca Madrid, Nurse Manager, regarding the accomplishments of the SISD’s school nurses in meeting the needs of today’s students by improving the effective delivery of health care in our schools, a motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the Proclamation as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Yvette Lares addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent regarding intra-district transfer policy.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of item C3-Request for the Use of School Facilities submitted by School Board Election Campaign Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2017 Regular Board Meeting and March 30, 2017 Board Workshop
- Employment of Personnel
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Requests for the Use of School Facilities
 - Alpha Xi Delta for the use of Montwood High School Football Field
 - Champion Dance Studio for the use of Socorro High School Theater
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Awarding of Bids (EXHIBIT C)
 - Request for Increase – Instructional Materials for Special Education, RFP No. 199-0325-E1585E
Increase in the total annual award amount of \$150,000. The new annual amount for this current term and any remaining extended terms will be \$300,000. Administration is pleased with the service awarded to multiple vendors and unanticipated usage resulted for the requested increase. (Maximum \$150,000-General Fund and Special Revenue)
- Contracts
 - Purchasing Cooperative Utilization (2)
 - Region 8 TIPS Programs – Scholar Craft Products Inc. (Reseller-Texas Furniture Source Inc.) – for the acquisition of pre-k through 8th grade classroom furniture for Socorro Feeder Pattern, to update classrooms at Rojas, Escontrias, Hueco, HD Hilley, Campestre, Keys Elementary, Serna, Sanchez and Socorro Middle. (Maximum \$2,000,000-General Fund)
 - Texas DIR Contract – JourneyEd.com, Inc. – for acquisition of antivirus software plus financial agreement, for computers used district-wide. (Maximum \$442,557-5 year financing agreement at \$94,650 per year)

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES – SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Cynthia Najera for discussion. Following a discussion regarding the candidate forum, a motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to deny the request. The motion carried unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFIED CONTRACT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the 2017-2018 professional certified contract recommendations for teachers, librarians, nurses, counselors, speech therapists and educational diagnosticians as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RFP SOLICITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FIRM

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to process a publication notice for consulting services firm to possibly open an onsite Employee Health Clinic as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AT&T LEASE EXPIRATION PROGRAM and CONTEL CELLULAR OF THE SOUTHWEST, INC. c/o CROWN CASTLE

A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to postpone both items until further notice. The motion carried unanimously.

TASB UPDATE 107

A motion was made by Tony Ayub, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve revisions to policies from TASB Update 107 CJ and DC as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer as the district's representative to the Tax Advisory Committee as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 7:46 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel regarding possible acquisition of real property for school site; consultation with legal counsel regarding threatened litigation and possible settlement of *Student v. Socorro Independent School District*, Texas Education Agency Mediation Docket Numbers 066-DM-0117 and 068-DM-0117; discussion of recommendations to propose termination of probationary contract teacher(s) [J.P. at Desert Wind School and W.H. at Americas High School]; and discussion of personnel and real estate matters under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.0821, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:21 p.m.

TERMINATION OF PROBATIONARY CONTRACT(S)

No action was needed for teacher J.P. employed at Desert Wind School.

In the best interest of the District, a motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to terminate probationary contract of teacher W.H. employed at Americas High School at the end of the contract term and to issue all required notices to the teacher as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT V. SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY MEDIATION DOCKET NUMBERS 066-DM-0117 AND 068-DM-0117

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to accept the recommendation of the school's attorney and direct the Chief Financial Officer and the school's attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session concerning this matter. The motion carried unanimously.

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ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR SCHOOL SITE

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to authorize administration and legal counsel to move forward with Letter of Intent and complete due diligence required to enter into a contract to purchase the real estate that was identified and discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON MAY 16, 2017.