



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
December 12, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Paul Guerra, Board President; Cynthia A. Najera, Board Vice President; Michael A. Najera, Board Secretary; Hector F. Gonzalez; Antonio ‘Tony’ Ayub; Angelica Rodriguez arrived at 6:03 p.m.; Gary Gandara; and Jose Espinoza, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS**

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

**BOARD HONORS**

- Four students were recognized for winning the 2017 Winter Holiday Art Contest.
- SISD students were recognized for participating in the City’s Annual Chalk the Block Art Event.
- SISD students were recognized for winning the 2017 El Paso Community College Art Contest.
- The El Dorado High School varsity volleyball team was recognized for winning district and bi-district championships.
- The Montwood High School varsity football team was recognized for winning district and bi-district championships.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- Two SISD teachers were recognized for winning the 2017-2018 University of Texas at El Paso Mentor and Novice Teacher Schwartz Awards.

**OPEN FORUM**

Erika Carrasco and Jesus Morales provided a presentation regarding naming the new elementary school after Sgt. Jose F. Carrasco.

Alonzo Mendoza addressed item 10.E regarding the DACA program.

**REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD MEMBER CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS**

As required by the *Texas Administrative Code* Chapter 61.1(j), Board President Paul Guerra, announced the completed, deficient and exceeding Board training continuing education hours for each Trustee. No action was taken on this agenda item.

All Board Members met requirements in Tier I, Legislative Update; Tier II, Board Team Building; met and exceeded requirements in Tier III, discretionary continuing education credit hours. *Congratulations Board of Trustees!*

## **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 Gary Gandara, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting and November 15, 2017 Special Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)  
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Requests for the Use of School Facilities
  - El Paso Police Department Basketball League for the use of Ensor Middle School
  - Jehova’s Witnesses for the use of Escontrias Elementary School
  - Supers Athletic Organization for the use of Pebble Hills High School
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Awarding of Bids
  - Irrigation Supplies – RFP No. 199-1128-E1823  
Solicitation to purchase irrigation supplies and materials as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$115,000)
  - Landscaping, Xeriscaping and Masonry Services – RFP No. 199-1128-E1827  
Solicitation to purchase landscaping, xeriscaping and masonry services as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$200,000)
- Contracts
  - Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing – San Antonio Independent School District  
School districts routinely and frequently solicit bids and proposals for goods and services which are necessary for the operation of a school district. (No cost to the District)
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and El Paso Community College (EPCC)  
This is to continue with the organization of a cohort of administrators/faculty to pursue and obtain Masters and Doctoral Degrees in the fields of education/administration with a one hundred percent of face-to-face classes held at either Socorro ISD facilities or EPCC facilities. (No cost to the District)
    - a. The Master’s Degree Program in Educational Administration
    - b. The Doctoral Studies Cohort
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – The Far West Adult Education Consortium, Workforce Solutions Borderplex  
The purpose is to continue the cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the parties and to set forth the relative responsibilities of the parties as they relate to the delivery of adult education and job skills development as well as being in compliance with the new federal law (the Workforce Innovative and Opportunity Act) that governs Adult Education and Literacy. The partnership will continue the efforts delineated in the original agreement and expand on the responsibilities of the two systems to truly integrate into workforce partners. (No cost to the District)
  - Purchasing Cooperative – US Communities Contract #15-JLP-023 to Trane US, Inc.  
To furnish and install water softeners at eleven (11) campuses. (Maximum \$132,000-Committed Funds)

- **Auction of Surplus Property**

The Department of Maintenance & Operations and Child Nutrition Services have identified surplus property items. Upon approval, the Department of Facilities & Planning will proceed with selecting a date to conduct the sale.

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF “SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT UNLIMITED TAX BUILDING AND REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2018”**

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to approve the Order authorizing the issuance of “Socorro Independent School District Unlimited Tax Building and Refunding Bonds, Series 2018” in an amount not to exceed \$208,970,000 for school building and debt service savings purposes; levying a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax for the payment of such Bonds; and resolving other matters incident and related to the issuance and sale of such Bonds, including delegating certain matters to an authorized District official within certain specific parameters as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSAL TO WIDEN PELLICANO DRIVE**

The County of El Paso and the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority are proposing to widen Pellicano Drive from Joe Battle (Loop 375) to Darrington Road into a 6-lane divided drive to include provisions for bicycles and pedestrians. No action was taken on this agenda item.

**DONATION FROM FARMERS INSURANCE AGENT, MIRIAM RENTERIA THROUGH HOME TEAM MARKETING**

This item was pulled from the agenda. No action was taken.

**AMENDMENT OF ARCHITECT CONTRACT WITH VLK ARCHITECTS**

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to approve the Amendment to Architect contract with VLK Architects for the “prototype” design of elementary school No. 30 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION AND CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING DACA PROGRAM AND SISD STUDENTS**

A motion was made by Hector Gonzalez to table this item for further review. There being no second for the motion, the motion failed.

Following a discussion, a motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the Resolution and Correspondence regarding DACA Program and SISD students with a minor revision to the language of the correspondence as discussed. The motion carried with a 6-1 vote. Hector Gonzalez voted Nay.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 7:48 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel regarding status and possible acquisition of real estate property adjacent to the Socorro Student Activities Complex, property from J.A. and M.E. Perez, property from C.A. Brewster and property from Ranchos Real XVI, LLC for school district needs; for discussion regarding the status and employment of G. McClure to include recommendation from administration to suspend without pay and terminate employment for good cause; status and employment of G. Saucedo to include recommendation from administration to suspend without pay and terminate employment for good cause; to consider rescinding resignation of Erika Cruz, teacher at William D. Slider Middle School; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to consider administrative recommendations for Director of Human Resources/Staffing and Recruiting, Principal

position at Robert R. Rojas Elementary School, Assistant Principal positions at James P. Butler Elementary School, Pebble Hills High School and Sun Ridge Middle School under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

#### **ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NEEDS**

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to approve Resolution for acquisition of real property adjacent to the Socorro Student Activities Complex as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to approve Resolution for acquisition of property from J.A. and M.E. Perez as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to approve Resolution for acquisition of property from C.A. Brewster as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Hector Gonzalez, to approve Resolution for acquisition of property from Ranchos Real XVI, LLC as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **EMPLOYMENT OF G. MCCLURE AND RECOMMENDATION FROM ADMINISTRATION TO SUSPEND WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT FOR GOOD CAUSE**

A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote. Michael Najera abstained.

#### **EMPLOYMENT OF G. SAUCEDO AND RECOMMENDATION FROM ADMINISTRATION TO SUSPEND WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT FOR GOOD CAUSE**

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **RESCINDING RESIGNATION OF ERIKA CRUZ**

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Espinoza recommended Angelica Herrera to assume all roles and responsibilities as Director of Human Resources/Staffing and Recruiting. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Cynthia Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Maria Del Rosario Flores to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal of Robert R. Rojas Elementary School. A motion was made by Cynthia Najera, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation for Assistant Principal position at James P. Butler Elementary School was pulled. No action was taken.

Dr. Espinoza recommended April Granados to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal of Pebble Hills High School. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Michael Najera, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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Recommendation for Assistant Principal position at Sun Ridge Middle School was pulled. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON JANUARY 16, 2018.**