



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
May 21, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cynthia A. Najera, Board President; Angelica Rodriguez, Board Vice President; Gary Gandara; Paul Guerra; Paul Garcia, Eddie Mena; David O. Morales; 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 Cynthia Najera. All members were present and a quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

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

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Ms. Najera opened the floor for nominations for Board President.

A motion was made by Angelia Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Guerra, to nominate Cynthia Najera for Board President. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Najera opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice President.

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Gary Gandara, to nominate Angelica Rodriguez for Board Vice President. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Najera opened the floor for nominations for Board Secretary.

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to nominate Paul Guerra for Board Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD HONORS**

- SPC. Rafael Hernando III Middle School student was recognized for winning the National Read 180 Student Award.
- Team SISD student was recognized for winning a 2019 Gates Millennium Scholarship Award.
- SISD students were recognized for placing in the citywide Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event.
- Team SISD students were recognized for earning honors at the state 2018-2019 UIL One Act Play Contest and for qualifying to compete at the state UIL Costume Design Contest.
- SISD students were recognized for winning the 2019 Operation H.O.P.E. Acts of Kindness Contest.
- SISD students were recognized for winning the Metamorphosis Art to Treasure III Contest.
- Montwood High School students were recognized for winning the 2019 Environmental Services Department "Recycle Right, El Paso" Video Contest.

- Montwood High School students were recognized for winning the 2019 Better Business Bureau Paso del Norte Video Contest.
- SISD Baseball and Softball Teams were recognized for winning 2018-2019 UIL Championships.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- The Counselor at Helen Ball Elementary School was recognized for earning the 2019 Recognized ASCA Model Program School Award by the American School Counselor Association.
- SISD Transportation Employees were recognized for advancing to state in the 2019 School Bus Safety Road-eo Competition.

### **OPEN FORUM**

The following individuals signed up to address the Board of Trustees and Superintendent regarding salary, stipends and health insurance:

1. Lisa Lopez
2. Maria Y. Nieto
3. Elizabeth Lopez
4. Tom Hill
5. Veronica Hill
6. Mary Helen Cholka
7. Jeanette Escondrias, Vanessa Arreola, Rebecca Orozco
8. Kerry Mildon
9. Amanda L. Ayala
10. Angie Soto

Vibert Skeete addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent regarding showcasing the talents and accomplishments of our scholars and schools thru community partnerships.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – 2019-2020 HAZARDOUS ROUTES FOR THE SOCORRO ISD (CNA) LOCAL & LEGAL**

The Administration shall develop criteria for determining if a transportation route qualifies for addition to the list of hazardous areas or if an area currently listed as hazardous no longer qualifies and should be removed from the list. Once the determination has been made, at least one public hearing shall be held for each area where a change is being proposed. Residents of the area and surrounding areas shall be invited to attend the hearing. The Socorro Independent School District advertised the public hearing in the El Paso Times, on April 3, 2019 and in El Diario, on April 5, 2019. SISD hosted public hearings to discuss proposed bus transportation route changes. Administration shared criteria used to determine if a transportation route qualifies for addition to the list of hazardous areas or if an area currently listed as hazardous no longer qualifies and should be removed from the list. At this time, the hearing was open for public input.

There being no public input, the Board of Trustees proceeded to the next item. No action was taken on this agenda item.

### **BUDGET PROCESS FOR FY2019-2020**

Administration provided a presentation on the budget process for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The presentation highlighted funding elements along with the funding allocations given out to the campuses and the departments. No action was taken on this agenda item.

## **FACILITIES REPORT**

Tom Eyeington, Chief Operations Officer, provided a presentation of the 2017 Bond Programs and other district-wide construction projects. No action was taken on this agenda item.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve all items listed under the Consent Agenda with the exception of F8c-Contract with Region 19 Frontline Education (ESPED). The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and April 23, 2019 Board Workshop
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
- Requests for the Use of School Facilities
  - Advance Soccer Academy for the use of Americas High School
  - El Paso Flames for the use of the Student Activities Complex
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Awarding of Bids
  - Charter Bus Services – RFP No. E1948  
Solicitation to obtain charter bus services as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$300,000-General Fund and Special Revenue)
  - District Insurance (Property, General, Automobile, Law Enforcement, Cyber and Crime) – RFP No. E1942  
Solicitation for District Insurance to include property, general liability, automobile, law enforcement, cyber and crime as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$1,724,944)
  - Paving Services – RFP No. E1940  
Solicitation to provide District’s Operations Department with the ability to procure paving services as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$200,000)
  - Retail Goods – RFP No. E1936  
Solicitation to purchase at local retail stores, items such as: arts & crafts, floral arrangements and supplies, grocery items, houseware, furnishing, tools, hardware, and other items as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$850,000-General Fund Budget and Special Revenue)
  - Science and Laboratory Equipment – RFP No. E1953  
Solicitation to purchase science and laboratory materials, supplies and equipment as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$200,000-General Fund Budget and Special Revenue)
  - Staffing Services – RFP No. E1924  
Solicitation to procure staffing services as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$5,000,000-General Fund Budget and National School Lunch Program)
- Contracts
  - Affiliation and Program Agreements – The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (School of Health Professions)  
The parties desire to implement the provisions of such Agreements by providing students enrolled in the UTMB School of Health Professions Physical Therapy program with educational experience utilizing the personnel, equipment, and facilities of SISD.
  - Agreements
    - a. Education Service Center Region 19
      - 1. OnDataSuite – software provides LEA administrators and staff the ability to collect, analyze, and share TSDS/PEIMS academic performance data. Student enrollment as

of October 2018: 46,814 x \$.50 for a total of \$23,407 includes hosting and unlimited data. (9/1/19-8/31/20)

2. Texas Student Data Systems (TSDS) PEIMS Support Cooperative – statewide system that modernizes and improves the quality of data collection, management and reporting in Texas education. ESC Region 19 will provide training to the LEA’s TSDS stewards on all modules necessary. Membership Fee is \$1,000 for four (4) LEA attendees. (19-20 school year)
  - b. National Math and Science Initiative College Readiness Program  
The purpose of this agreement is to implement the National Math and Science Initiative’s College Readiness Program at El Dorado High School. NMSI’s mission is to advance STEM education to ensure all students, especially those furthest from opportunity, thrive and reach their highest potential as problem solvers and lifelong learners who pursue their passions and tackle the world’s toughest challenges. (Maximum \$2,000)
    - Contract – Communities In Schools of El Paso (CIS) Choices Program  
Ongoing agreement to provide supportive guidance, educational enhancement, health and human services, parental involvement, employment/pre-employment enrichment for the students at Socorro ISD for the 2019-2020 school year; total cost is for the 31 participating campuses. (Maximum \$1,190,000-General Fund Budget and Title I)
    - Contract/Grant – Youth Engagement in Sports (YES) Collaboration to Improve Physical Activity and Nutrition  
The initiative intends to identify characteristics of effective collaborations that improve physical activity and nutrition via increase sport participation. The target population is racial/ethnic minority and/or socioeconomically disadvantaged male and female in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
    - District Grant Texas Action for Healthy Kids/Institute of Healthy Living  
To establish the terms and conditions under which AFHK has awarded a grant to Socorro ISD. The grant in the amount of \$3,000, specifically support district engagement and staff participation in the 2019 calendar project with TX AFHK and the Institute of Healthy Living’s time for attending meetings/training and work done that support enhanced school health and wellness infrastructure, programs policies, and practices. Socorro ISD agrees to comply with such reasonable procedures established by AFHK as requirements for the grant.
    - Interlocal Agreement – El Paso Community College for the Operation of the Empire Early College High School, Falcon Early College High School and Pebble Hills Early College High School  
For operating and maintaining the early colleges. To continue three (3) early college high schools so that students have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and a two-year Associate’s Degree upon graduation from the early college high school. The goals are to reduce dropout rates, attract and better prepare students for higher education, assure students of the support necessary to be successful in college, and provide SISD students a seamless transition between high school and college.
    - Maintenance Agreement – Tyler Technologies  
Ongoing maintenance agreement will be for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. For Tyler SISD and Online Registration Module; and Tyler Minus Support System and Operating System Database totaling \$448,338.
    - Purchasing Cooperatives
      - a. Region 8 TIPS/TAPS Blackboard Inc. to continue the services for Mass Notification, App Integration and Social Media Manager utilizing contract numbers 2092216 & 4022516 in the amount of \$149,020.65 from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

- c. Region 19 ACO Remodeling & Construction to apply the stain floor system at Campestre Elementary and Socorro Middle School in the amount of \$171,631.31 utilizing contract #17-7261.
  - Innovative Course – Comprehensive Wellness II  
Course would allow SISD to offer a state approved innovative course to enable our students to master knowledge, skills, and competencies that are not included in the essential knowledge and skills of health education. This course would satisfy the health education requirement for Socorro ISD.
  - Resolution adopting list of current Brokers, Investment Pools, and Investment Training Sources  
The Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA) requires the Board of Trustees to approve and adopt a list of brokers and investment pools as well as an independent source for training for the investment officers.

#### **CONTRACT – REGION 19 FRONTLINE EDUCATION (ESPED)**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Angelica Rodriguez for separate consideration. This is to continue the services using contract #15-7144 Web-based program for Federal, State and Local compliance for students with disabilities, Americans with Disabilities Act and 504 Students and Students at Risk. A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote. Angelica Rodriguez abstained.

#### **NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH – MAY 2019**

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **TASB UPDATE 112 AND LOCAL POLICY**

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve revisions to policies from TASB Update: BJA, DCB, DH, DIA and local policy CDA as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **2019-2020 HAZARDOUS ROUTES FOR THE SOCORRO ISD – (CNA) LOCAL & LEGAL**

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR FOR TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, NURSES, COUNSELORS, SPEECH THERAPISTS AND EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIANS**

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the additional contract recommendations as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP) FOR PACKAGE ONE OF THE RE-CONSTRUCTION OF SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL - BUFORD•THOMPSON COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,429,181**

A motion was made Paul Guerra, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**SPORT LIGHTING PACKAGE PROPOSED GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP) FOR EL DORADO HIGH SCHOOL – DANTEX GENERAL CONTRACTORS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$881,649**

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Eddie Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMS – FOR A FINE ARTS AND COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIP(S)**

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 9:27 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel regarding status and employment of R. Soto to include recommendation of final action on the termination of employment for good cause; to review and discuss level III grievance appeal filed by Socorro AFT on behalf of Diagnosticians and SLP members; for discussion regarding status of M. Melchor v. SISD; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendation for Assistant Principal positions at various campuses under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 11:31 p.m.

**R. SOTO – EMPLOYMENT AND RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE FINAL ACTION ON THE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT FOR GOOD CAUSE**

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 Nancy Guereque to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Cactus Trails Elementary School. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Monica Hernando to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Cactus Trails Elementary School. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Irene Mendez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at El Dorado High School. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON JUNE 18, 2019.**