



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
August 20, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cynthia A. Najera, Board President; Angelica Rodriguez, Board Vice President; Paul Guerra, Board Secretary; Gary Gandara; Paul Garcia, arrived at 6:13 p.m.; Eduardo 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. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS**

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

**BOARD HONORS**

- An Americas High School student was recognized for being a 2019 Texas High School Aerospace Scholarship recipient.
- Team SISD students were recognized for participating in the 2019 Lone Star Leadership Academy Camps.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- Board Secretary Paul Guerra was recognized for his support of the Socorro AFT and First Book “Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader” Book Giveaway Campaign.

**OPEN FORUM**

The following individuals addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent:

1. Mike Evans presented the 2019 Cigna Honorable Culture of Well-Being Award to Socorro ISD
2. Vibert Skeete congratulated SISD and its community on becoming an A Grade district; and provided information on Hispanic and Latin Ex-American Heritage Month Activities at Eastlake HS
3. Vanessa Arreola and Rebecca Orozco regarding Board’s reconsideration on stipends
4. Jeannette Escontrias regarding Board’s consideration of reinstating stipends
5. Sandra O. Castro regarding initiatives for peace and climate

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 2019-2020 TAX RATE**

Following a presentation by Tony Reza, Chief Financial Officer, regarding the proposed 2019-2020 Tax Rate of \$1.368954 per \$100 valuation, Administration explained that this is a 1.2 cent tax rate decrease due to new Legislation under House Bill 3. The public was invited to comment on the adoption of the tax rate. No one came forward to address the Board. No action was taken on this agenda item.

## **FACILITIES REPORT**

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
- Requests for the Use of School Facilities
  - Albuquerque Baseball Academy for the use of Pebble Hills High School
  - El Paso Driving Academy for the use of Pebble Hills High School
  - Expressions Dance Academy for the use of Pebble Hills High School
  - SrA Danny Ray Sanchez Foundation for the use of Montwood High School
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Awarding of Bids
  - District Advertising Materials and Services – RFP No. E2001  
To purchase advertising materials and services as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$300,000)
  - District Promotional T-Shirts  
To purchase promotional t-shirts, primarily for campus wear for the benefit of building morale, teaching teamwork, having kids identify with and be part of the school. This purchase will be done by using an SISD Bid and/or Coop Contract. (Maximum \$160,000)
  - Energy Management Controls, OEM Parts and Equipment – RFP No. E2004  
To purchase energy management controls, OEM parts and equipment as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$300,000)
  - Fine Arts Uniforms – RFP No. E2002  
To purchase fine arts uniforms, mariachi uniforms and accessories as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$75,000)
  - Request for Increase – Musical Instruments RFP No. E1930  
The new total amount for this current term and any remaining extended terms would be \$400,000. Administration is requesting additional funds to help support the 19-20 school year budget for musical instruments. (Maximum \$150,000-General Fund and Special Revenue)
  - Visual Performing Arts Supplies and Accessories – RFP No. E2003  
To purchase visual performing arts supplies and accessories as needed district-wide. (Maximum \$150,000)
- Contracts
  - Amendment One – Communities In Schools of El Paso (CIS) Choices Program  
The purpose is to add a program coordinator at Col. John O. Ensor Middle School for an additional amount starting September 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. (General Funds Budget and Title I)
  - Advise TX Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and The University of Texas at Austin  
Advise TX is administered by the THECB which implements the College Advising Corps (CAC) program model of placing recent college graduates as full-time “near-peer” advisers in targeted Texas high schools. An adviser will be appointed to each of the following Socorro ISD high schools: Socorro, Americas and El Dorado. (Maximum \$30,000-High School Allotment)

- Ground/Facilities Lease – ESC Region 19  
To continue the leasing of the property located at H.D. Hilley Elementary School located at 693 N. Rio Vista, Socorro, Texas 79927, Socorro Head Start Center (land) and Options High School located at 12380 Pine Springs Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928, Options Head Start Center (facilities).
- Interlocal Cooperation Contract – University of Texas at El Paso Academic Technologies and Technology Support  
To continue the technology program for students to focus on current and developing technologies to allow camp participants an engaging real-world head start in technology innovation before they reach college programs. The program will expose SISD WIN students to better prepare them and engage them in academic programs, technical jobs, and STEAM related fields. (Maximum \$246,668-Kellogg Grant and General Funds)
- Memorandum of Understanding – Emergency Medical Technician Program (EMT) El Paso Community College (EPCC)  
To continue to provide entry level Emergency Medical Technology courses at the high school level and provide the opportunity to participate as dual credit or articulated credit student. (Maximum \$60,537-Carl Perkins Funds)
- Premises Use License – El Paso County Parks and Recreation Department Sports  
To use the El Paso County Parks and Recreation Sports Field for league or tournament usage for Socorro High School Softball for a total of 20 games with a refundable deposit of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) required to reserve.

#### **2019-2020 DISTRICT AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

Following a brief presentation by Dr. Adam Starke, Director of State and Federal Programs, on the process involved in the development of the District and Campus Improvement Plans, a motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **2019-2020 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAX RATE**

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Gary Gandara, to adopt the 2019-20 Maintenance and Operations tax rate of \$0.970000 per \$100 valuation in order to support the 2019-20 fiscal year budget as presented. The motion carried with the following voice vote: Paul Garcia voted aye; Eduardo Mena voted aye; Paul Guerra voted aye; Cynthia Najera voted aye; Angelica Rodriguez voted aye; David Morales voted aye; and Gary Gandara voted aye.

#### **2019-2020 INTEREST AND SINKING FUND TAX RATE**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to adopt the 2019-20 Interest and Sinking fund tax rate of \$0.398954 per \$100 of valuation in order to support the 2019-20 fiscal year budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTION WHICH OFFICIALLY LEVIES THE TAX RATE FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR**

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the Resolution which officially levies the tax rate for the Socorro Independent School District for the 2019-20 school year as presented. The motion carried with the following voice vote: Paul Garcia voted aye; Eduardo Mena voted aye; Paul Guerra voted aye; Cynthia Najera voted aye; Angelica Rodriguez voted aye; David Morales voted aye; and Gary Gandara voted aye.

**ADDITIONAL SERVICE PROPOSAL WITH HKS, INC. ARCHITECTS TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMPLEX**

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the development of a master plan to help incorporate the existing SAC with the newly acquired 60 acres for SAC II into a long-term plan for the site. The motion carried with a 6-1 vote. Angelica Rodriguez voted nay.

**GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP) FOR PACKAGE TWO OF THE RE-CONSTRUCTION OF SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the GMP presented by Buford • Thompson Company in the amount of \$138,036,113.00 for Package Two of the Re-construction of Socorro High School to include artificial turf at the existing baseball field and at the new softball field as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**HB 3 TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve a salary increase (5.5%) for teachers with six years experience and above as opposed to a \$250.00 stipend in order to meet state requirements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**LOCAL POLICY**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by David Morales, to approve the revisions to local policy EIC as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 8:13 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel to receive and discuss the recommendation of administration to terminate the term contract of A.L. teacher at Montwood High School and S.W. teacher at Eastlake High School for good cause; for discussion regarding Board operating procedures; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to conduct evaluations of Internal Auditors: Curriculum and Instruction and Finance; to consider administrative recommendations for Assistant Principal position at Ernesto Serna School and Employee Health Clinic Pharmacist under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 11:18 p.m.

**TERM CONTRACT OF A.L. TEACHER AT MONTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

**TERM CONTRACT OF S.W. TEACHER AT EASTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL**

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

**EVALUATION OF INTERNAL AUDITOR: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

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

**EVALUATION OF INTERNAL AUDITOR: FINANCE**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Espinoza recommended Yvonne Vallejo to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Ernesto Serna 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 Erik Garcia to assume all roles and responsibilities as Employee Health Clinic Pharmacist. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2019.**