



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
January 21, 2020 – 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; 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 6:00 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.

**BOARD HONORS**

- An SISD School Robotics Team was recognized for winning the District's Annual ROBOCOM Competition.
- Team SISD students were recognized for winning the 2019-2020 Volunteer Sports Program Soccer Championships.
- Eastlake High School Varsity Football Team was recognized for winning 2019-2020 UIL Championships.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- The SISD Board of Trustees was recognized in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S WEEK PROCLAMATION, FEBRUARY 3-7**

Following a presentation by Tammi Mackeben, Director of School Counseling, regarding the American School Counselors Association honoring school counselors February 3-7, 2020, a motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**OPEN FORUM**

Andres 'Andy' Renteria addressed the Superintendent and Board of Trustees regarding multi-purpose facility at Horizon Heights ES.

**PUBLIC HEARING - DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT**

The *Texas Education Code* Chapter 39.306 requires each district's Board of Trustees to hold a public hearing on the District's Annual Report to include the TAPR, district accreditation status, campus performance objectives, information on violent or criminal incidents, and information on the performance

of the previous year's graduate in their first year of college, as reported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

At this time, the public was invited to make comments relative to the District Annual Report. No one came forward. The Board proceeded to the next 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.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE UPDATE – *KEEP SISD SAFE***

The Safety and Security Committee members provided a bi-yearly update regarding the District Emergency Management Program, Visitor Video System, SAC Metal Detectors, Community Emergency Response Training, Emergency Drills, AED's/Stop the Bleed, and Elementary Police Officers. 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 with the exception of D3-Grant Award Agreement-Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation; and E-New Job Description-District Athletic Trainer as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved under the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Contracts
  - Affiliation Agreement – Iowa State University of Science and Technology-Dietetic Internship Program  
To train personnel to meet future area employment needs and the educational goals of the ISU Dietetic Internship Program by providing supervised practice facilities for the teaching and skills development of its Interns. This will establish a cooperative relationship with ISU and outline the responsibilities of the cooperating Parties as they contribute to the learning experience of Interns who benefit from, and participate in, the ISU Dietetic Internship Program in a safe and responsible manner.
  - Cooperative Program and Data Sharing Agreement – The University of Texas at Austin (OnRamps)  
The University of Texas at Austin, on behalf of the Office of Strategy and Policy, would like to continue the implementation of the OnRamps program to continue offering dual enrollment. OnRamps offers the opportunity for high school students to earn high school credit from their district and the opportunity to earn college credits from The University of Texas at Austin through a distance education course.
  - Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP – Property Value Appeal Services Agreement Renewal  
The purpose is for the administrative appeal and any judicial appeal of the property value study finding as conducted by the Comptroller's Office. The district agrees to pay as compensation for services a contingent fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the additional State aid that the District qualifies for in the years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 as a result of the administrative or judicial appeal.

- Purchasing Cooperative – Region 19 #15-7147 Maintenance, Repair and Operation (MRO) Equipment, Supplies and Materials  
The Department of Maintenance and Operations will utilize the purchasing cooperative contract to purchase irrigation supplies from the Region 19 Contract #15-7147, in the amount up to \$130,000 as needed district wide.

**CONTRACT: GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT-DICK’S SPORTING GOODS FOUNDATION**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Guerra. Following a discussion regarding the purpose of the grant, a motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the grant award agreement to be used solely to support the Grantee’s athletic programming for SISDs Middle Schools as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW JOB DESCRIPTION – DISTRICT ATHLETIC TRAINER**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Angelica Rodriguez. Following a discussion regarding the responsibilities and duties of the District Athletic Trainer, a motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**2020-2021 AND 2021-2022 STUDENT CALENDARS**

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

**2020-2021 STAFF DEVELOPMENT WAIVER**

This waiver allows the District to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of student instruction on dates identified on the 2020-2021 Student Academic Calendar. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**FY2020-2021 BUDGET PRIORITIES AND CALENDAR**

The Administration’s intent is to ensure inclusion of the listed priorities in the FY2020-2021 General Fund Budget. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF “SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT UNLIMITED TAX SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS, SERIES 2020”; LEVYING A CONTINUING DIRECT ANNUAL AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS, AND RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE, SALE, PAYMENT, AND DELIVERY OF SUCH BONDS, INCLUDING DELEGATING MATTERS TO AN AUTHORIZED DISTRICT OFFICIAL**

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

**LOCAL POLICY – AE AND CE**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve revisions to local policy AE and CE as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 8:07 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel regarding possible settlement between Socorro ISD, as a member of the Rate 41 Group, and PUCT applicants El Paso Electric Company and Sun Jupiter Holdings of the matter PUCT Docket No. 49849 in Public Utility Commission

of Texas proceeding related to the Sale, Transfer, or Merger of El Paso Electric Company to J.P. Morgan's Infrastructure Investments Fund; to discuss acquisition of real property for school purposes; to receive update from legal counsel on pending litigation; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to consider administrative recommendations for Assistant Director of Fine Arts, Assistant Principal position at El Dorado High School and Hurshel Antwine Middle School; and to hear Superintendent mid-cycle formal evaluation update under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

**SETTLEMENT BETWEEN SOCORRO ISD, AS A MEMBER OF THE RATE 41 GROUP, AND PUCT APPLICANTS EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SUN JUPITER HOLDINGS OF THE MATTER PUCT DOCKET NO. 49849 IN PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS PROCEEDING RELATED TO THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR MERGER OF EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY TO J.P. MORGAN'S INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS FUND**

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Guerra, to authorize Socorro ISD and its Administration to enter into the settlement agreement with El Paso Electric Company and Sun Jupiter Holdings of the matter PUCT Docket No. 49849 according to the terms as discussed in closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

**REAL PROPERTY FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES**

No action was taken on this agenda item.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Espinoza recommended Candace Printz to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Director of Fine Arts. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Eddie Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Tuntanetia Sallis to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at El Dorado High 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 Ryan Marquez to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Hurshel Antwine Middle School. A motion was made by Eddie Mena, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON FEBRUARY 18, 2020.**