



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

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This meeting was held by teleconference. The teleconference was accessed via audio and through an audio feed. Any member of the public wishing to comment on an agenda item was able to send an email; these comments were read accordingly.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cynthia A. Najera, Board President; David O. Morales, Board Vice President; Paul Guerra, Board Secretary; Gary Gandara; Paul Garcia; Eduardo Mena; Angelica Rodriguez; 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.

The Board President and Superintendent reported that a Resolution to suspend STAAR testing and A-F State Accountability Rating for the 2020-2021 school year would be submitted to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Team SISD is going to focus on the emotional and well being of students, teachers, staff, and community without the stress of a state exam.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

A Pebble Hills High School student was recognized for his heroic actions in saving a girl's life at a Galveston Beach.

**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**

The Safety and Security Committee provided an update to the Socorro ISD School Board regarding the reopening of schools. The information included COVID-19 signage implementation/health services information and adopting Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS).

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of E4-Request for Increase: Purchasing Cooperative, Texas DIR Contracts and G: 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2020 Special Board Meeting and June 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)  
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Awarding of Bids
  - Request for Increase - Custodial Chemical Management Systems, RFP No. E2005  
To increase the total annual awarded amount by \$100,000.00 for a new total annual amount of \$350,000.00 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. Administration is including several items to accommodate the Child Nutrition Services Department.
  - Request for Increase - District Instructional Curriculum, RFP No. 199-0331-E1753  
To increase the total annual awarded amount by \$2,000,000.00 for a new total amount of \$5,200,000.00 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. Administration is pleased with the service awarded to multiple vendors and to accommodate the ordering of approved textbooks.
  - Request for Increase - Personal Protective Equipment and Accessories, RFP No. E2060  
To increase the total annual awarded amount by \$800,000.00 for a new total annual amount of \$1,700,000.00 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. Administration is increasing the contract amount to accommodate for consumable items.
- Contracts
  - Agreement – YWCA El Paso Del Norte Region Proposal (After School Program Partnership)  
This is to renew the agreement for the existing partnership with YWCA El Paso del Norte Region currently serving 700 children at campuses throughout the District.
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Public Impact Opportunity Culture Residency Design Cohort  
This MOU outlines services to be provided by Public Impact and commitments by Socorro ISD to extend the reach of excellent teachers to all students, build an Opportunity Culture, and create paid, yearlong teacher candidate residencies. Throughout this process, Public Impact will use its Opportunity Culture School Excellence Portal to provide a virtual planning and communications platform for schools, districts, states, and supporting organizations. Socorro ISD will select eight (8) schools to undertake design work in 2020-21 and eight (8) schools to undertake design in 2021-22. Public Impact is securing funds to provide the districts support in seven key areas to successfully implement teacher residency within Opportunity Culture school models. This MOU is for a two-year period 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. (Grant Funded)
  - Purchasing Cooperative – Personal Protective Supplies, Materials and Equipment  
This is to utilize co-operative contracts for the purchase of personal protective supplies, materials and equipment as needed district wide in the amount of up to \$800,000 through June 2021.
- 2020-2021 TEA Early Childhood New Kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Instrument Requirements Waiver  
On June 4th, 2020, TEA released Reading Instrument Guidance that allowed for districts to apply for a waiver for the new kindergarten and 7th grade reading instrument requirements. Due to our current situation with COVID-19, SISD felt it be in the best interest of the district to apply for the

waiver for the 2020-2021 school year. The item was discussed and approved at Cabinet on July 7th, 2020.

#### **2020-2021 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Eduardo Mena for discussion. Administration reported that recommended revisions to the 2020-21 Student Code of Conduct consist of modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic to address discipline during remote learning in compliance with State, City, and the Department of Health (DPH) Local Health Authority. In addition, Administration reported the omission of sections 2A and B located on page 179 regarding dress code during remote learning. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. Gary Gandara left the meeting and was not present to vote. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **CONTRACT: REQUEST FOR INCREASE - PURCHASING COOPERATIVE, TEXAS DIR CONTRACTS**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Guerra for clarification. Trustee Guerra requested that large amount purchases be listed under New Business for separate consideration. This increase is in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 for a new total amount of \$17,400,000.00 is to utilize the State of Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR), to purchase technology equipment and accessories related to desktop computers, laptops, tablets, servers, software and network appliances through June 30, 2021. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **2020-2021 DISTRICT AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

Dr. Adam Starke, Director of State and Federal Programs, reported that pursuant to Texas Education Code 11.251, the Board of Trustees of each independent school district shall ensure that a district improvement plan and improvement plans for each campus are developed, reviewed, and revised annually for the purpose of improving the performance of all students. The Board shall annually approve district and campus performance objectives. A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **REVISIONS TO LOCAL POLICY EIA**

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

#### **REQUEST FOR MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION OF FOREING TRADE ZONE NO. 68 WITHIN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

A motion as made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Guerra, to table this matter for further review. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION (Gary Gandara joined the meeting)**

The meeting was closed at 8:11 pm for discussion with legal counsel regarding opioid litigation and possible claims; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to consider administrative recommendations for Assistant Principal position at Socorro High School, and School Improvement Officer under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 8:38 pm.

**OPIOID LITIGATION AND POSSIBLE RETENTION OF LEGAL COUNSEL TO PURSUE CLAIMS**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Espinoza recommended Javier Aguilera to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Socorro High School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Al Garcia to assume all roles and responsibilities as School Improvement Officer. A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

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