



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
August 18, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Cynthia A. Najera, Board President

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Secretary Paul Guerra. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

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

PUBLIC HEARING – ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) 2020-2021 FEDERAL GRANT

The District is required to hold a public hearing on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) federal grant entitlement and planned expenditures for the upcoming year. This public hearing is to be completed prior to the District committing any funds to this grant and prior to submitting the ESSER Federal Grant Application to the Texas Education Agency. The deadline to submit the application to TEA is August 24, 2020.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 2020-2021 TAX RATE

Following a presentation by Tony Reza, Chief Financial Officer, regarding the proposed 2020-2021 Tax Rate of \$1.343354 per \$100 valuation, Administration explained that this is a 2.56 cent tax rate decrease.

The public was invited to comment on the adoption of the tax rate. There being no public input, the Board of Trustees proceeded to the next agenda item. No action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of the July 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting and July 29, 2020 Special Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)

- Awarding of Bids
 - Automotive Parts – RFP No. E2103
Solicitation to purchase automotive parts as needed district wide. (Maximum \$800,000)
 - Radio Communication Equipment, Installation and Support – RFP No. E2105
Solicitation to purchase radio communication equipment, installation, and support as needed district wide. (Maximum \$300,000-General Fund Budget and Grant)
- Contracts
 - Agreement - Education Service Center Region 19 TEKS Resource System
This is for the continuation of commitment for the TEKS Resource System, a curriculum support system for K-12 to provide a common language, process and structure for curriculum development for the 2020-2021 school year. The administrative fee is \$6.50 per student with a PEIMS enrollment of 42,393; the base fee equals \$280,554.50 plus the annual Technology fee of \$10,440; the total cost for Basic TRS Service would be \$290,994.50 as presented.
 - Agreement/s - 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 Eastlake High School, Americas High School and Pebble Hills High School. El Dorado High School is currently enrolled.
 - Agreement - YWCA El Paso del Norte Region, Inc. After School Learning Centers and 21st Century Grant Coordination
YWCA desires to continue providing appropriate staffing for specific after school learning centers to be administered by SISD campus locations for students enrolled and participating in specific 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant funded programs and to make available better educational opportunities for SISD students. SISD shall provide a Project Director and Management point of contact for the program and provide teachers, as it deems appropriate for tutoring after school during the duration of the program. (Maximum \$867,000-21st Century Grant Funds)
 - Amendment #2 - Letter of Agreement Workforce Solution Borderplex (Youth Job Skills Grant)
The purpose is to continue with establishing a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the parties and to set forth the relative responsibilities of the parties insofar as they relate to providing recruitment, educational mentoring and career navigation services for youth. Modifications to be made pertain to the duration of the agreement and district's responsibilities.
 - 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. SISD's annual program fees for each student enrolled in an OnRamps course for the 2020-2021 academic year will be \$249 per student, per course. The cost for teacher training for the summer institute will be \$850 for new teachers and \$550 for returning teachers. (Maximum \$60,000-General and Federal Funds)
 - Memorandum of Agreement - Emergency Medical Technician Program (EMT) El Paso Community College
This program will continue to provide entry level courses and the opportunity to participate as dual credit or articulated credit student. This is for the Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) instructional services at the High School level at the SISD Center for Health

- Occupation. (Maximum \$58,187-Carl Perkins Funds)
- Memorandum of Understanding - The Texas Juvenile Justice Department - Schaeffer House
The purpose is to continue to provide educational services for the residents of the Schaeffer Halfway House (Texas Juvenile Justice Department) to comply with federal guidelines. The Schaeffer House is a residential facility for delinquent youth located within SISD and operated by TJJD, an agency of the State of Texas, that provides 24 hour care, control, and custody for individuals between the ages of 10 and 19 years; and the Texas Education code requires SISD to provide admission to its schools for students that are over five years of age and younger than 21 years of age and who reside in a residential facility located in SISD.
 - Purchasing Cooperative - Region 19 #20-7375 Maintenance, Repair and Operation (MRO) Equipment, Supplies and Materials
This is for the acquisition of irrigation supplies, material, services and related products for the Department of Maintenance and Operations in the amount of up to \$200,000 as needed district wide through June 30, 2021.
 - Texas Workforce Commission Adult Education and Literacy Grant - Fiscal Agent (Ysleta ISD), Third Year (Final)
Through the TWC guidance, the Far West Adult Education Consortium (FWAEC) has determined that collaborative efforts of all adult education providers in the region will result in optimum deliverables. This contract allocates funds to reimburse Socorro ISD's Adult Education Department for AEL services for a total of \$815,808.
 - Western Governors University (WGU) Student Teaching Letter of Agreement
The purpose is to establish the terms and conditions under which students of Western Governors University may participate in Student Teaching Internships, Practicum and Observations at the schools located in the Socorro ISD. Socorro ISD shall provide qualified Cooperating Teachers to provide oversight, feedback and mentoring to WGU's participating students.

2020-2021 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAX RATE

In order to support the 2020-21 fiscal year budget, the administration recommends that the board adopt the 2020-21 Maintenance and Operations tax rate of **\$0.944400** per \$100 of valuation. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2020-2021 INTEREST AND SINKING FUND TAX RATE

In order to support the 2020-21 fiscal year budget, the administration recommends that the board adopt the 2020-21 Interest and Sinking fund tax rate of **\$0.398954** per \$100 of valuation. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION WHICH OFFICIALLY LEVIES THE TAX RATE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

This Resolution officially levies the tax rate for the Socorro Independent School District for the 2020-21 school year. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF OPTION LEASE AGREEMENT WITH BRANCH TOWERS III, LLC FOR CELL TOWER SITE LOCATED AT MONTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

The Second Amendment to Option Site Ground Lease will allow additional time due to recent changes and T-Mobile halted all new site build activities for the remainder of 2020. Branch needs the extension

on their option timeframe and will continue to work with the city regarding the building permit, a motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THIRD PARTY INSPECTION, RFP NO. E2107

This is to establish a pool of pre-qualification firms for Miscellaneous Professional Services for Third Party Inspection to be used as needed for district-wide projects, a motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TASB UPDATE 114 AND LOCAL POLICY

Discussion followed regarding the revisions to language on local policy BBG. A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve revisions to BE, BED, CKC, CKE, FDE, FFB, FFBA, FL and GKA from TASB Update 114, BBG with discussed language and EIF local policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MASCOT MEDIA AGREEMENT

Digital media service and broadcast agreement with Mascot Media for the broadcast of District events to include licensing and use of SISD intellectual property. A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with a 5-1 vote. Paul Garcia voted no.

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD REGARDING STATE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

A the resolution calling for the suspension of State accountability for the 2020-2021 school year to allow districts to focus on interventions necessary to recover instructional gaps resulting from school closures caused by COVID-19, a motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 7:51 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendation for Principal position at John Drugan School under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 8:11 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Espinoza recommended Jenifer Avila to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal at John Drugan School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Gary Gandara was not present to vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2020.