



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
October 20, 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

Cynthia A. Najera, Board President; David O. Morales, Board Vice President; Gary Gandara; Paul Garcia; Eduardo Mena; Angelica Rodriguez; and Jose Espinoza, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Guerra, Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tommy Hill expressed his appreciation to those involved in helping Transportation be able to get their hours.

GENERATION TEXAS MONTH PROCLAMATION, OCTOBER 2020

The higher education campaign, Generation TX, is a statewide movement focused on creating a culture of college and career readiness that leads to the most successful generation in Texas history. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the Proclamation as presented. The motion carried unanimously. David Morales was not available to vote due to technical difficulties.

RED RIBBON WEEK PROCLAMATION, OCTOBER 23-31, 2020

During Red Ribbon Week, Socorro ISD recognizes Kiki Camarena and assists students in taking a stand against drug abuse and instead living a healthy lifestyle. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the Proclamation as presented. The motion carried unanimously. David Morales was not available to vote due to technical difficulties.

HOUSE BILL 3 BOARD GOALS UPDATE

A presentation regarding the goals adopted in May 2020 under House Bill 3 in the areas of Early Childhood Literacy, Early Childhood Math and College, Career and Military Readiness was provided for the Board of Trustees. No action was taken on this agenda item.

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Safety and Security Committee provided an update on the completion of the District Safety and Security Audit, District Audit Report and District Emergency Operations Plan submission to the Texas School Safety Center. Discussion followed regarding rapid test accuracy, PPE and tracking contract. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Board Meeting Minutes of the September 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
- Awarding of Bids
 - Paper Supplies – RFP No. E2111
Solicitation to provide the Department of Maintenance and Operations the ability to purchase paper supplies as needed district wide. (Maximum \$300,000)
- Contracts
 - Affiliation Agreement - El Paso County Hospital District dba University Medical Center
The purpose is for both parties to continue with students enrolled at Socorro ISD be provided the benefits of educational facilities and resources at UMC for observational and/or practical experience in the program(s) listed and described in Addendum A. It is mutually beneficial that students are afforded opportunities for clinical education as outlined in this Agreement.
 - Agreement/s
 - a. Angelo State University Practicum/Clinical Placement
This is to advance field work experience and aid in meeting the ever-increasing demand in the State and Nation for trained educational professionals and deemed advisable and to the best interest of the parties to establish an affiliation for the purpose of carrying out the objectives listed on this agreement. SISD will allow ASU candidates and faculty to utilize campus facilities upon prior approval for practicum/clinical experience requirement.
 - b. NFHS Network School Broadcast Program powered by PlayOn! Sports
This is for the use of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) broadcasting system to be installed at the Socorro ISD high schools. The agreement will allow the campus to stream their games and events through the NFHS system. Mascot Media will still need to be made available for the school community. (\$3,000 per campus and/or Annual Subscription)
 - c. Texas College Bridge
This is for the participation, data sharing and requirements agreement entered in order to participate in the TEA's Texas College Bridge program to aid and assist institutions supporting 2021 high school graduates to demonstrate college readiness prior to enrolling in college for the fall of 2021.
 - Facilities Agreement - City of El Paso
To utilize the Student Activities Complex (SAC) as a major COVID-19 testing site to provide more safe and efficient access to people in the City and County of El Paso seeking health screenings to be provided by the State of Texas, which are services necessary to respond to the public health crisis.
 - Interlocal Agreement - El Paso Community College for the Socorro ISD Operation of Early College High Schools
This is to continue with operating and maintaining RAMS Early College High School (REC), Socorro Early College High School (SEC) and Trailblazers College High School (TEC). EPCC and SISD desire to continue three early college high schools with no more than 540 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.

- Memorandum/s of Understanding (MOU)
 - a. Project Vida Health Center (Teen Wellness Initiative)

This is to set forth the terms and conditions to continue agreement implementation of Project Vida School Based Services (Teen Wellness Initiative) to enhance optimal health for youth and teen pregnancy prevention in schools.
 - b. Sponsor El Paso Association of Contractors

The Career and Technical Education Department is requesting approval of MOU with El Paso Association of Contractors as national curriculum sponsor for our three (3) electrical technology programs. They will be our industry sponsor for the use of the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Curriculum. NCCER is a national curriculum used by high schools, colleges, and apprentice programs that maintain a registry of student progress. Student records of achievement are held in a national database which allows for them to receive credit for curriculum attainment wherever they choose to go and continue their education.
 - c. The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Advise TX Program)

The Advise TX program is housed at chapter public and private colleges and universities across the state, including at UT-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” advisors in targeted Texas high schools. Through grant funding provided by THECB, the University employs advisers and project staff to carry out the project. THECB has awarded funds to UT-Austin for the 2020-2021 academic year to implement the Advise TX program at high schools throughout the state, including at a high school in SISD (El Dorado High School).
- Cooperative Purchasing Organization Report

Section 44.0331 of the Education Code requires that a written report be presented to the Board of Trustees detailing cooperative purchasing organizations used by the Socorro ISD Purchasing Department.

FIRE MARSHAL FEES FOR THE NEW COMBO SCHOOL-EASTLAKE AREA

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the Fire Marshal fee of \$46,666 for the new combo school in the Eastlake area as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP) FOR PACKAGE TWO OF THE NEW COMBO SCHOOL EASTLAKE AREA

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by David Morales, to approve the GMP presented by Baner General Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$55,979,132 for Package Two of the New Combo School in the Eastlake area allowing the Department of Purchasing to accept proposals as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TESTING FOR THE NEW COMBO SCHOOL IN THE EASTLAKE AREA

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve estimated cost presented by Terracon for construction material and testing in the amount of \$173,797.00 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO LEASE WITH FREIGHT EXCHANGE OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC- SEVENTH AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by David Morales, to approve the new rent for the period of February 28, 2021 through August 31, 2023 in the amount of \$11,500 per month; rent for the period of

September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 and for any portion of the option period, shall be \$12,000 per month as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

HUITT-ZOLLARS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION BUS CANOPY STRUCTURE

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the project in the amount of \$65,465 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PURCHASING COOPERATIVE – CHOICE PARTNERS #19-033MJ-20 THE EDU-SOURCE CORPORATION

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the utilization of the purchasing cooperative for acquisition of cafeteria furniture/graphics for Montwood High School in the total amount of \$292,460.85 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT’S INTENT TO REQUEST WAIVER TO EXTEND THE SUBMISSION DUE DATE FOR THE FY2020 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

School districts with a fiscal year end of June 30th must submit their financial audit report by November 27, 2020. This summer the Texas Education Agency (TEA) informed these school districts that they would allow an extension of the submission due date from November 27, 2020 until January 28, 2021, given certain requirements. These requirements include receiving comments from a committee established pursuant to the TEC 11.251; this would be EPAC, as well as getting approval from the Board of Trustees. A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by David Morales, to approve the submission of a waiver requesting an extension of the submission due date for the FY2020 annual financial (audit) report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TASB UPDATE 114, 115 AND LOCAL POLICY

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by David Morales, to approve the revisions to policies under TASB Update 114: CH, GBAA; Update 115: BF, FD, FFH, FNG and GF; and local policy DEA as presented and policy DFFA from Update 114 with revisions discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

TEA TRANSITION WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

All required information was submitted along with an evidence-based transition plan which was developed in coordination with Dr. Hector I. Ocaranza, Local Health Authority and area school districts. This transition plan correlates the City/County of El Paso COVID19 data (i.e. parameters) to safely transition survey-identified groups in phases. It is vital that we plan with the end in mind and use evidence-based measures such as City/County of El Paso COVID19 data to guide our safe transitions throughout the 2020-2021 school year. TEA has granted a 2-week transition period.

Trustees thanked Administration for their hard work and dedication throughout this difficult time.

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve a second TEA Transition Waiver request for a 2-week period and any and all additional weeks granted by TEA as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT AND DISBURSEMENT EL PASO SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO SOCORRO ISD

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by David Morales, to approve the El Paso Independent School District to be the fiscal agent for the receipt of the settlement proceeds in the matter on behalf of the Rate 41 Group, including the Socorro Independent School District and I further move that the Board approve the division of the proceeds to the Socorro Independent School District according to the previously approved Rate 41 usage percentages used as the basis for the allocation of attorney fees for the

Rate 41 Group in the matter as presented. The motion carried with a 3-0-1 vote. Angelica Rodriguez abstained. Gary Gandara and Paul Garcia had to leave the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 8:04 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel to discuss pending purchase of real estate for school needs in Gateway Estates and Emerald Estates subdivisions; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; to consider rescinding resignation for Xochitl Lara; to hear results of the Safety and Security Audit; to consider Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument and Timeline; and to consider administrative recommendation for Assistant Director for Special Education under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 9:06 p.m. Gary Gandara and Paul Guerra joined the meeting.

REAL ESTATE CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN GFA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, GFALLC OR ASSIGNEE AND SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR GATEWAY ESTATES PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 33 GROSS ACRES WITHIN THE GATEWAY ESTATES DEVELOPMENT

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the purchase of land as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve platted real estate as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

RESCINDING RESIGNATION FOR XOCHITL LARA

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION INSTRUMENT AND TIMELINE

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

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Espinoza recommended Jorge Saenz to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Director for Special Education. A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON NOVEMBER 17, 2020.