



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
November 17, 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; Paul Guerra, Board Secretary; Gary Gandara; Paul Garcia; Eduardo Mena; and Jose Espinoza, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT

Angelica Rodriguez

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 HEARING – FINANCIAL INTEGRITY RATING SYSTEM OF TEXAS (FIRST)

Tony Reza, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the District attained a Superior Achievement performance for the 2019-2020 financial rating under the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). This report covers 2019 data. Also, in the Financial Services website, information relative to the Superintendent's contracts and Board of Trustees' reimbursements are posted for the public's review. No action was taken on this agenda item.

The public was invited to provide input regarding the FIRST Ratings. No one came forward. The Board proceeded to the next item.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Board Meeting Minutes of the October 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting and November 10, 2020 Board Workshop
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)

▪ Contracts

- Affiliation Agreement – City of El Paso Public Health Department (Clinical Program)
This is to provide to its students a clinical learning experience through the application of knowledge and skills in actual patient-centered situations. City of El Paso Public Health Department has agreed to undertake training activities and to make its facility available to identified students of Socorro ISD for such purposes. Socorro ISD shall be responsible for the implementation and operation of the clinical component of its program at City of El Paso Public Health Department. Such responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the orientation of students to the clinical experience, preparation of student/patient assignments and rotation plans for each student and coordination of same; continuing oral and written communication with City of El Paso Public Health Department regarding student performance and evaluation, absences and assignments of students, and other pertinent information.
- Agreement #3 – Letter of Agreement Workforce Solutions 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. This amendment is to add \$6,000 from the Youth Job Skills Grant and updating Section V, effective October 12, 2020. All other terms remain unchanged.
- Letter of Agreement for Licensure Programs – Walden University Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership
The purpose is to continue with the working relationship between the University and Socorro ISD in providing clinical practice experiences as required by the Minnesota Board of Teaching, Minnesota Board of School Administrators, or the Ohio Board of Regents and Ohio State Board of Education, and in accordance with the University’s state-approved licensure programs. The University requires Candidates to complete student teaching or field experiences.
- Memorandum/s of Understanding (MOU)
 - a. The University of Texas at El Paso-Sponsorship and Collaboration Program
This is to establish a program of student academic sponsorship and collaboration in areas of interest and benefit to both institutions. In accordance with SISD policies and procedures, shall select UTEP students who have met all prerequisites for admission into UTEP and their corresponding educational program to participate in the SISD tuition sponsorship program and receive a scholarship from SISD for their educational expenses at UTEP. All students selected by SISD must comply with the SISD selection criteria established by SISD. During the Term of this Agreement, SISD at their sole discretion shall award up to One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00 US Cy) subject to the SISD tuition sponsorship program. (Maximum \$100,000-General Funds)
 - b. U.S. Department of Education (ED)-Impact Aid Program
This is to set forth the terms and understanding for the school district to participate in the electronic data collection pilot program, in which Socorro ISD will collect Impact Aid data electronically in a manner consistent with the Impact Aid program statute and regulations and other relevant federal laws.
- UTEP Facilities Use Agreement – SISD Graduations
Socorro ISD desires to organize and provide for the presentation of SISD Graduation Ceremonies (“Event”) at the University’s Don Haskins Center (“Venue”) for a term commencing on May 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2025. The date for each

Ceremony and Rehearsal to be held on days and times that are mutually acceptable and agreed upon in writing by the designated representative of both parties. University owns and maintains the Don Haskins Center on its property that is suitable for the presentation of Socorro ISD Graduation event. The University is willing to permit Socorro ISD to use the Venue for the Event under the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. (Maximum between \$60,000-\$80,000 per year-General Funds)

o Walgreens Agreement – Experiential Learning Program

The purpose is to continue with a curriculum or program to train the students, trainees, or clients to be pharmacy technicians or workers in other trades, skills, or qualifications. Socorro Independent School District – Socorro High School Health Professions Academy and Walgreens agree that the development of the program whereby certain of the students, can obtain practical experience and learning in a retail, business, or pharmacy setting related to pharmacy and wellness services would benefit the Participant, the Organization, and the industry with Walgreens and similarly situated businesses, all of which will ultimately provide improved pharmacy and wellness related services to the community.

▪ New Job Description: Coordinator of Cultural Opportunity

The primary purpose is to ensure fidelity and robustness of the district’s and each school’s adherence to the five Opportunity Culture Principles, which are strongly correlated with student growth.

▪ Waiver for Modified Schedule/State Assessment Testing Days

This waiver allows students that are not testing to report and attend school after the state assessment testing period has ended, therefore reducing the interruptions during testing period. Students who are not being tested must still meet the maximum 2 through 4 hour requirement for funding.

FINAL CONTRACT SUM FOR CACTUS TRAILS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND KITCHEN IMPROVEMENTS AT MYRTLE COOPER AND ROBERT R. ROJAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the final contract sum in the amount of \$26,881,941.06 for Cactus Trails ES and \$642,370.36 for kitchen improvements at Myrtle Cooper and Robert R. Rojas ES as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PACKAGE THREE OF THE AUXILIARY GYMS FOR CAMPESTRE, ESCONTRIAS, HUECO, H.D. HILLEY, AND ROBERT R. ROJAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (RE-BID) – RFP NO. E2115

A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve Aztec Construction in the amount of \$6,610,000.00 for this project as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TEXAS FIXED INCOME TRUST (TX FIT) INVESTMENT POOL

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Paul Garcia, to add *Texas Fixed Income Trust (TX FIT)* Investment Pool to the District’s current portfolio as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TASB UPDATE 115

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve revisions to policies DED, DIA, EI, FB, FEB and FFG as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 6:35 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; to discuss pending and potential acquisition or real property for school needs; and to discuss personnel matters under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 6:54 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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