



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
December 15, 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 (joined meeting late due to technical issues); Paul Guerra, Board Secretary; Gary Gandara (joined meeting late due to technical issues); 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. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Espinoza reported on personnel and district initiatives/events, honored students, staff, and teachers for their achievements.

RECOGNITION

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent took a moment to remember members of Team SISD who we have recently lost to Covid-19. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families and colleagues of those members. They will be missed greatly.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of items 6E2 - Agreement-City of El Paso Mass Prophylaxis Dispensing-Closed Point of Dispensing and 6E3 - Agreement-City of El Paso Open Point of Dispensing Immunizations or Treatment in Public Health Emergency as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of the November 17, 2020 Regular Board Meeting and December 8, 2020 Board Workshop
- Employment of Personnel (EXHIBIT A)
New employment contracts require Board of Trustees approval.

- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT B)
 1. December 15, 2020
 2. November 17, 2020
- Awarding of Bids
 - WAN Services, RFP No. E2114
Favorable prices and terms secured to procure WAN Services district-wide. (E-Rate funding application to be sent to Schools and Library Division This award is subject to the availability of funding from the Schools and Libraries Division and General Fund Budget. The Board of Trustees authorizes Administration to secure access to the necessary District funds for these “E-Rate” projects. (Maximum \$676,236 per year plus, any other costs for new site-General Fund Budget/E-Rate Schools and Libraries Division Reimbursement)
- Contracts
 - Affiliation Agreement – Walden University U.S. Field Site Placement
The purpose is to establish a working relationship with University in providing field practice experiences for Walden students. Walden University offers undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate programs in the fields of nursing, social work, counseling, psychology, health sciences, and interdisciplinary studies and seeks to partner with field sites for educational field experiences. Socorro ISD is willing to make available its educational and professional resources to such students.
 - Agreement – Liberty University Student Teaching
The purpose is to establish a clinical/occupational experience with Liberty University. Liberty's Student Teacher Program is approved by the Virginia Department of Education, and as part of Liberty's formal, educational course of studies require clinical/occupational experiences of students, and desires to assign certain of its students to Socorro ISD’s facilities to obtain such experience. Socorro ISD desires to promote high standards of preparation and training for students and is willing to provide the necessary facilities for the Student Teaching Program.
 - Interlocal Agreement – Region 17 West Texas Food Service Cooperative
Region 17 ESC is the coordinating center for the West Texas Food Service Cooperative. The district utilizes the cooperative for commodity entitlement, food expenditure, and paper goods; has participated in the cooperative for the past several years; and would like to continue the relationship. The goal of the cooperative is to obtain substantial savings on specific food service items for member districts through volume purchasing and obtain the most advantageous and best value to the District. The district should benefit through cost savings, meeting bid law requirements, and receiving items meeting Child Nutrition program requirements. (Maximum \$15,000,000-Federal and USDA donated commodity and commercial dollars)
- Options High School, TEA Targeted Improvement Plan for Comprehensive Support Campus Label
This Targeted Improvement Plan is a requirement of the TEA Comprehensive Support label as identified by Options High School 2019 Accountability Data results. School Improvement Grant funds have been awarded to Option High School to assist in their efforts to improve Accountability Data.

AGREEMENT – CITY OF EL PASO PROPHYLAXIS DISPENSING-CLOSED POINT OF DISPENSING

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Garcia for discussion. Trustee Garcia asked Administration to provide a brief synopsis. The purpose is to assist in effectively responding to

declarations by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or the local health authority that large scale immunization or treatment is necessary as a control measure for an outbreak of communicable disease. SISD agrees to provide assistance to the City by making personnel and facilities available for the immunization or treatment of their staff and families. A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT – CITY OF EL PASO OPEN POINT OF DISPENSING IMMUNIZATIONS OR TREATMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Garcia for discussion. Trustee Garcia asked Administration to provide a brief synopsis. The purpose is to assist in effectively responding to declarations by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or the local health authority that large scale immunization or treatment is necessary as a control measure for an outbreak of communicable disease. SISD agrees to provide staffing (if available) and access to its facilities to the City as necessary to immunize or treat members of the public in response to a public health emergency. A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SISD FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve Raymundo Gomez Jr. to fill the vacancy on the SISD Foundation Board of Directors as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SOCORRO ISD HEALTH PLAN DESIGN CHANGES FOR 2021-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to move \$4,000,000.00 from General Fund to the benefit plan and keep current contributions for premier and basic plans the same; not to increase any premiums or deductibles for the premier and basic plans. Discussion followed regarding the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

For the record, Trustee Morales stated the following: *“Due to Covid-19, this would be an exception we make to help our employees, our teachers and our staff across the district. For that reason and that reason alone, I’ll support this. However, in the future I would really like for us to be consistent in what we discuss and how we approach our decision making.”*

EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY FROM THE HORIZON REGIONAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 49, TEXAS WATER CODE, PARTICULARLY SECTION 49.3076-49.3078

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 7:10 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; to discuss possible acquisition and sale or exchange of real property; to discuss personnel matters; and to consider administrative recommendations for Principal at Robert R. Rojas Elementary School, Assistant Principal position at Hurshel Antwine Middle School and Coordinator for culture Opportunity under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 7:57 p.m. (Trustee Gandara had to leave the meeting)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Espinoza recommended Jennifer Marquez, to assume all roles and responsibilities as Principal at Robert R. Rojas Elementary School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion failed with a 3-3 tied vote.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Monica Chavez, to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Hurshel Antwine Middle School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Yvonne Romero, to assume all roles and responsibilities as Coordinator of Culture Opportunity. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON JANUARY 19, 2021.