



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
January 19, 2021 – 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 6:10 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, 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.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S WEEK PROCLAMATION**

The American School Counselor Association honors school counselors every year, this year National School Counselor's Week will be held February 1-5, 2021. A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Texas Education Code Chapter 39.306 requires each District's Board of Trustees to hold a public hearing to discuss the District's Annual Report.

At this time, the public was invited to provide input relative to the District's Annual Report. No input was provided. The Board proceeded to the next agenda item.

**CURRENT FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Administration provided updates on current federal and state legislative actions that will have a fiscal impact on funding for the District. No action was taken on this agenda item.

## **FACILITIES REPORT**

This item was pulled from the agenda by Administration.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Board Meeting Minutes of the December 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- Budget Amendments (EXHIBIT A)
- Awarding of Bids
  - Request for Increase – District Instructional Curriculum, RFP No. 199-0331-E1753  
Increase the total annual awarded amount by \$2,000,000.00 for a new amount of \$7,200,000 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. (Maximum \$2,000,000.00-General and Federal Funds)
- Contracts
  - Articulation Agreements/s – Western Technical College (Western Tech)
    - a. Computer Maintenance and Repair Course – participating students from SISD Community Education Department may receive course credit toward the completion of the Associate in Applied Science in Information Systems
    - b. Office and Administration Program – participating students from SISD Community Education Department may receive course credit toward the completion of the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration Program at Western Tech.
  - Amendment/s
    - a. Department of the Army – Army Youth Programs in Your Neighborhood – ongoing agreement to provide support for the AYPYN after school program operated by IMCOM G-9, Family and MWR Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS). Amendment is due to the change to the National Defense Authorization Act. The Army is being required to implement Section 889-Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications Equipment. This contract modification implements this for our AYPYN grant. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
    - b. Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP – Property Value Appeal Services Agreement Renewal – for the administrative appeal and any judicial appeal of the property value study finding as conducted by the Comptroller’s Office. The district agrees to pay as compensation for services a contingent fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the additional State aid that the District qualifies for in the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year in the original contract which was Board approved on January 21, 2020.
  - Memorandum of Understanding – Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso-Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing  
The purpose is to provide the following changes: Board approved Term from August 2019 ending May 2021 to New Term: October 1, 2020 ending June 30, 2024.
  - Purchasing Cooperative/s
    - a. ESC Region 19 Allied State Cooperative, Temporary Services #17-7266 - for the purpose of providing Medical Assistant-Certified individuals who will be assigned to assist all campuses through the remainder of the 20-21 school year. (Maximum \$646,000.00-General Fund)
    - b. Furniture and Equipment for Remodeling Construction Projects - to utilize all available vendors for the purchase of furniture and equipment for all remodeling construction projects in the areas of classrooms, science labs, administrative, counselor, nurse, library, cafeteria, all-purpose rooms, fine arts, CTE labs, gymnasium and all other areas using

- multiple vendor(s) via SISD approved purchasing co-operatives contracts. (Maximum \$950,000.00-General and Bond Fund)
- Request for Increase – Purchasing Cooperative, Texas DIR Contracts  
To increase the total annual awarded amount by \$6,000,000.00 to utilize the State of Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) for a new total amount of \$29,400,000.00 for this current term and any remaining extended terms. This is to purchase technology equipment and accessories related to desktop computers, laptops, tablets, servers, software, and network appliances through June 30, 2021. (Maximum \$6,000,000.00-General and Federal Funds)
- Auction of surplus property to dispose of unusable property  
The Department of Maintenance & Operations and Technology Services have identified the surplus property items. Attached is a list of the items being submitted for the Board of Trustees to declare as surplus property. Upon approval, the Department of Facilities & Planning will proceed with selecting a date to conduct the sale.

#### **AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020**

Sandra DiFrancesco submitted comments regarding the 2020 tax rate.

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **FY2021-22 BUDGET PRIORITIES AND CALENDAR**

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

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING ITS LOCAL EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY PAID SICK LEAVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **REQUEST FOR TEA WAIVER FOR THE 2020-2021 EDUCATOR APPRAISALS**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, administration requested approval to submit a Waiver to TEA for the 2020-2021 Educator Appraisals. According to TEA, Waivers will be reviewed and approved, pursuant to the Commissioner's general waiver authority under Texas Education Code (TEC), §7.056, for school districts and charter schools that are unable to meet the requirements of TEC, §21.351 and §21.352, §21.354 or TEC, §21.3541, and the applicable rules in Title 19, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 150, for teacher appraisal, principal appraisal, and campus administrator appraisal due to circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, a motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **LOCAL POLICY**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the revisions to EHDC as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **ORDER CALLING FOR GENERAL TRUSTEE ELECTION ON MAY 1, 2021, AND OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO.**

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Paul Garcia, to approve Order for the purpose of

electing four (4) positions on the Board of Trustees: Trustee District Numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5 for full four-year terms ending in May 2025 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES WITH EL PASO COUNTY FOR THE MAY 1, 2021 TRUSTEE ELECTION**

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

**RESOLUTION REALTED TO PETITION FOR EXCLUSION OF LAND FROM HORIZON REGIONAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**

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

**DISCUSSION REGARDING POSTPONING FACE TO FACE INSTRUCTION UNTIL THE VACCINATION OF SISD STAFF IS COMPLETE**

Gratitude letters submitted by MHS student Melanie Gonzalez and parent David Ayala were read addressing a pleasant back to school return to a safe and sanitized campus.

Discussion followed regarding face to face instruction, vaccines for district employees and PPE equipment. No action was taken on this agenda item.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 8:56 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel regarding pending real estate transaction between SISD and FGA Limited Partnership regarding Gateway Estate and SISD and Northtowne Village regarding Emerald Estates developments; to discuss personnel and real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendations for Assistant Principal positions at various campuses; and to hear Superintendent mid-cycle formal evaluation update under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 10:09 p.m. (Trustee Angelica Rodriguez left the meeting)

**RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS FOR REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS**

For the intent to purchase approximately 25 to 27 gross acres within the Emerald Estates Development located in El Paso County, Texas, a motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

For the intent to purchase ± 36.977 gross acres within the Gateway Estates Development located in El Paso County, Texas, a motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Espinoza recommended Angelina Escobar, to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at James P. Butler School. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Luz Palma, to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Montwood Middle School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON FEBRUARY 16, 2021.**