



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Socorro Independent School District  
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928  
February 16, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

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**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 6:01 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.

**OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC INPUT**

The following individuals addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent via open forum or public input:

1. Tommy Hill regarding a payroll situation and expressed his appreciation to Board Members for their support to his department.
2. Gabriela Sanders regarding an ADA accommodation request related to Covid-19 and its negative repercussion on her health. (the comment was submitted in 2 parts and both were read)
3. Pablo Barrera regarding the ongoing issue of students that did not graduate in May.

**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 Gary Gandara, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of D2-Pump and Motor Services and Repair, RFP No. E2117; D3-Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Maintenance and Repair, RFP No. E2118; and G-Resolution for Body Worn Cameras and Police Bike Patrol Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- Employment of Personnel
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
  - Landscaping, Xeriscaping and Masonry Services – RFP No. E2117  
Solicitation to provide Operation Services Department with landscaping, xeriscaping, and

- masonry services as needed district wide. (Maximum \$200,000)
- **Contracts**
  - **Affiliation Agreement – El Paso Healthcare System, Ltd. d/b/a Las Palmas Del Sol Healthcare**

To continue offering enrolled students in the Health Professions Academy (HPA) Program at Socorro HS, a degree in the field of Healthcare training and a clinical learning experience through the application of knowledge and skills in actual patient-centered situations in a health care facility. Las Palmas Del Sol Hospital operates an acute care medical-surgical hospital and has agreed to make the Facility available to Socorro ISD for such clinical learning experience, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
  - **Affiliation Agreement – Web-Centric Alternative Certification Program (ACP) Clinical Teaching**

To establish a collaboration for the completion of clinical teaching experience required by the State of Texas, the state approved program and the State Board for Educator Certification. As part of this collaborative effort for the certification of teachers, Web-Centric ACP agrees to recommend for placement in the clinical teaching program only those students who earned a satisfactory record and have met the requirements established by Web-Centric ACP. Socorro ISD agrees to provide an appropriate and meaningful clinical teacher placement that allows the student to meet all certification requirements outlined by Web-Centric ACP.
  - **Contract – Educational Broadband Frequency**
  - **Purchasing Cooperative – Texas DIR Contract TSO-3763**

For the lease of 4,200 laptops in the total amount of \$2,591,615.36 to include principal and interest. The lease agreement will be through Dell Financial Services for 4 (four) years with an annual payment of \$647,903.84, for the DNA 1:1 High School Program. (Maximum \$2,591,615.36)
- **New Job Description – Loss of Credit (LOC) Specialist, High School**

The primary purpose of this position is to assist, maintain and file accurate Attendance and LOC records in the system as well as accurate file documentation.

#### **PUMP AND MOTOR SERVICES AND REPAIR – RFP NO. E2117**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by David Morales for discussion. Administration reported that more than 100 vendors were invited for this solicitation and Administration is recommending Technical Building Services with an annual contract allocation of \$150,000 if needed. A motion as made by David Morales, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR – RFP NO. E2118**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by David Morales for discussion. Administration reported that this is a 3-year contract with two possible 1-year extensions, Administration is recommending Technical Building Services with an annual contract allocation of \$400,000 if needed. A motion was made by David Morales, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR BODY WORN CAMERAS AND POLICE BIKE PATROL GRANT**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Garcia for discussion. The SISD Police Department wants to enhance the safety of its officers and District by purchasing Body Worn Cameras

(BWC's) and the technology for download. In order to better serve the District, employees, and students, that BWC's are a necessity to deter the use of force and adhere to the concept of transparency regarding officers' conduct. The Department is currently exploring an opportunity for obtaining funding through a grant for the acquisition of the technology. If funded the Department will move forward with the project. The Department is also exploring a grant to introduce a bike patrol. With the construction of a second Student Activities Complex (SAC) there will be a larger area to cover for police personnel. The program is another opportunity to expand on services currently being provided to our community. Officers will need to complete a certification program for being part of the bike patrol unit. A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by David Morales, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **NOTICE OF SEPARATION INCENTIVE**

The Department of Human Resources will offer a separation incentive in the amount of \$500.00 to the first seventy-five (75) classroom teachers, administrators, or other professional exempt staff assigned to a school site, who submit a Notice of Voluntary Separation effective at the end of the 2020-2021 contract year to the Department of Human Resources on or before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **MAINTENANCE FACILITY – MNK ARCHITECTS, INC.**

A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Paul Guerra, to authorize Administration to negotiate a fee for the Maintenance Facility with MNK Architects, Inc. as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **LOCAL POLICY**

A motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the revisions to TASB Update 116 and local policy CQB, DCD, DCE, FFAC GKA, CR and CRF as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was closed at 7:04 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel; for discussion regarding personnel matters and update; to discuss real estate matters; and to consider administrative recommendation for Principal position at Robert R. Rojas Elementary School and Assistant Principal positions at various campuses under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

#### **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 Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Espinoza recommended Nelda Hurtado, to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Dr. Sue A. Shook Elementary School. A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote. David Morales abstained.

Regular Meeting – Board of Trustees  
District Service Center  
February 16, 2021  
Page 4

Dr. Espinoza recommended Sandra Aguirre, to assume all roles and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Mission Ridge Elementary School. A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Gary Gandara, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON MARCH 23, 2021.**