



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
March 23, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

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 6:00 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 comment:

1. Rodrigo Martinez regarding Covid vaccinations, board ethical practices and campaign techniques.
2. Tommy Hill regarding holiday pay for hourly employees, part-time classification, and pandemic bonus.
3. Katherine Ames from Horizon Fire Department regarding virtual community meetings on a proposition for sales and used tax that will be on the May 1st ballot. The virtual community meetings are scheduled for March 30th at 7pm and April 10th at 10am.
4. Gary Gandara regarding his campaign techniques and his tenure with Team SISD Board of Trustees.
5. Lilian Terrazas and Gema Camacho De Barba submitted a written statement regarding their tenure in the District as substitute monitors and requested consideration increasing their wages as well as making them permanent District employees.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD PROCLAMATION

The proclamation recognizes the month of April as “Month of the Military Child” and April 15, 2021 as “Purple-Up-Day” recognizing all sacrifices our military-connected parents and their children have made, a motion was made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH PROCLAMATION

This April, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will observe the 36th Anniversary of School Library Month (SLM). School Library Month is celebrated in conjunction with National Library

Week, April 4-10, 2021. The theme for National Library Week in 2021 is “Welcome to Your Library.” It was chosen to promote the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building and during the pandemic, libraries have been going above and beyond to adapt to our changing world by expanding resources and continuing to meet the needs of their students. A motion as made by Angelica Rodriguez, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by Angelica Rodriguez, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of E3-Memorandum of Understanding-Digital Promise Global, Inclusive Innovation for Adolescent Writing Project. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes of the February 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, February 23, 2021, and March 9, 2021 Special Board Meetings
- Employment of Personnel
- Budget Amendments
- Awarding of Bids
 - Annual Financial Audit – RFQ No. E2116
Solicitation to provide the Financial Services Department the ability to procure a public accounting firm to perform the annual audit for the school district. (cost to be negotiated once awarded)
 - Identification System Equipment & Supplies – RFP No. E2123
Solicitation to purchase identification system equipment and supplies as needed district wide. (Maximum \$650,000-General Fund Budget and Special Revenue)
 - Paper Supplies – RFP No. E2128
Solicitation to provide the Maintenance and Operations Department with the ability to purchase paper supplies as needed district wide. (Maximum \$300,000)
 - Request for Increase – Instructional Materials, Supplies, and Services RFP No. E1915
An increase in the total annual awarded amount by \$1,500,000 for a new total annual amount for this current term and any remaining extended terms would be \$4,000,000. (Maximum \$1,500,000-General Fund and Special Revenue)
- Contracts
 - Addendum #3 – Texas Workforce Commission Adult Education and Literacy Grant, Ysleta ISD Fiscal Agent
The purpose of Addendum #3 is to increase the amount of the SISD Adult Education and literacy contact by \$13,419 in federal funds from the original amount award of \$815,808 for a new total of \$829,227.
 - Affiliation Agreement – University of St. Thomas-Houston, School Counseling Program
The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the terms and conditions under which students at University of St. Thomas-Houston may participate in School Counseling Student Internships, Practicum and Observations at the schools located in the Socorro ISD. Socorro ISD School authorizes University to assign Students to Field Experience work assignments at School’s facility to obtain learning experiences in School Counseling practice under the Program.
 - Memorandum of Understanding and Collaboration – Grand Canyon University, Tuition Sponsorship Program
The purpose of this agreement is to define the relationship as it relates to the SISD Tuition Sponsorship Program. In accordance with SISD policies and procedures, SISD shall select GCU students who have met all prerequisites for admission into GCU and their corresponding educational program to participate in the SISD Tuition Sponsorship Program

- and receive a scholarship from SISD for their educational expenses at GCU.
- Purchasing Cooperative – Track Resurfacing Projects
For the acquisition of services for the track resurfacing projects as needed district wide in the amount up to \$350,000 through June 2021. (Maximum \$350,000)
 - TEA “Other” Waiver: Switch to Remote Learning 2.15.21
Submission of a TEA “Other” Waiver: Switch to Remote Learning on February 15, 2021 due to Inclement Weather as presented.
 - Campus Attendance Committees Update
In accordance with TEC25.092, the Board shall appoint one or more attendance committee(s) to hear petitions for class credit by students who have not met the 90 percent rule and have not earned class credit by completing a principal’s plan. Classroom teachers shall comprise a majority of the attendance committee(s).

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – DIGITAL PROMISE GLOBAL, INCLUSIVE INNOVATION FOR ADOLESCENT WRITING PROJECT

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Garcia for discussion. Administration reported that this MOU provides an outline of how both parties will work together to implement Inclusive Innovation for Adolescent Writing, The Project. Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Digital Promise will be working with three League of Innovative School Districts and their communities on a national initiative to tackle pressing challenges in adolescent writing for priority students through an equity-centered R&D process-Digital Promise’s Inclusive Innovation framework. A motion as made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFIED AND NON-CERTIFIED CONTRACT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FEES FOR THE NEW SISD MAINTENANCE FACILITY

A motion was made by Paul Garcia, seconded by Eduardo Mena, to approve MNK Architects in the amount of \$666,700 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SISD SUPPORT AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING FOR RETRACTABLE SEATING RFP NO. E2127

A motion was made by Eduardo Mena, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve Irwin Seating Company in the amount of \$132,086.51 as presented. The motion carried with a 6-1 vote. Angelica Rodriguez voted nay.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH 528TH HOSPITAL CENTER, FORT BLISS, TX (PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION PROGRAM, PIE)

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

LOCAL POLICY

A motion was made by Gary Gandara, seconded by David Morales, to approve the revisions to local policy BQ, BQA, BQB, CHG, DBA, EHAC, EHDE and FMH as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting closed at 7:05 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel to receive and discuss the recommendation of administration to propose termination of the term contract of A.L.M. teacher at Ernesto Serna K8 Campus, for good cause; to receive and consider level III grievance appealed filed by A.D.; to discuss personnel and real estate matters under *Texas Government Code* Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION TO PROPOSE TERMINATION OF THE TERM CONTRACT OF A.L.M. TEACHER AT ERNESTO SERNA K8 CAMPUS, FOR GOOD CAUSE

No action was taken on this agenda item.

LEVEL III GRIEVANCE APPEAL FILED BY A.D.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON APRIL 20, 2021.