



**SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

1450 Gillette Boulevard · San Antonio, Texas 78224 · (210) 977-7000 · Fax (210) 977-7017

Minutes of Special Called

**The Board of Trustees
South San Antonio ISD**

A Special Called of the Board of Trustees of South San Antonio ISD was held Wednesday, April 5, 2023, beginning at 6:00 PM in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 1450 Gillette Blvd. San Antonio, Texas 78224.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Trustee	Present	Absent	Late Arrival/Departed Early
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Stacey Alderete	X (virtual)		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		

Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- TEXAS PLEDGE
- PRAYER

Led by Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications

Mr. Flores, Board President, read board meeting rules of decorum aloud.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Gilbert Rodriguez, Parent, addressed the Board regarding his disappointment on the closures of Kazen, Kindred, and Athens and his opposition of the closure of any school.

Angelita Olvera, community member, discussed being against school closures and her support to close West Campus.

TEA MONITOR REMARKS/REPORT

Dr. Abe Saavedra, TEA Monitor: Mr. Flores and members of the Board, good evening. You know this is a Board meeting probably the only Board meeting that I can recall since I've been assigned as Monitor with only one agenda item on it. But I also think it's gonna be one of your most important meetings. I think its gonna be a defining Board meeting. It's gonna be Board meeting that defines you as a Board and defines each of you as individual Board members. We don't need to rehash the numerous news coverage on South San, South San Board over the years in reference to being dysfunctional and things like that. How you vote tonight is gonna define this Board as to whether you continue like all other Board like many other Boards prior to you or maybe you'll become the Board that will right the ship and do right for kids. In 2008 or so when West Campus flooded and that particular Board made a decision to close that campus, and honestly I don't have an opinion on that, I don't know whether that was right or wrong, I just know that it happened and that this community, your community supported the passage of a bond issue to build a 51-million-dollar state of the art high school that opened around 2010-2011 or so. And the school was built with enough capacity to accommodate all high school students in this community, all. Matter of fact, the sacrifice that was made was that as a result of that bond the district reached its capacity, its Interest & Sinking capacity. You are at 49.9 cents as we have talked about before. But today that high school with that investment sits

at about 40% vacancy. And yet, we continue to invest in facilities. Back in 2008 or so about 51 million was put into that high school. In addition to that 15 million was put into converting the West Campus to the educational support building or the admin building. And the reopening of schools about 11 million dollars has been put out there in maintenance notes to reopen West Campus. That 11 million dollars as I pointed out last time will turn out to cost the district about 18 million by the time you pay off those maintenance notes and the improvements to West Campus are not completed. The students that attend there right now do not have a state of the art facility in order to receive the best educational programs that they can possibly receive. It's going to take another 18 million dollars to get there. That's 18 million that this district doesn't have, matter of fact you're 12 million 12 million in deficit. And then you invest another 2 million to convert this building from an old elementary to the educational center that it is today. If you were to add all of that its nearly 100 million dollars we are talking about in buildings over the last 12 14 years or so. In the same, during the same period of time, a lot of decisions have been made in reference to administrators. Just you know I left in October 2018, four and a half years ago, so in the last 5 years there has been 5 different leaders leading this district. Start with me, followed by Dr. Flores, followed by Dr. Sendejo as an Interim, Dr. Puig, and now Mr. Yzaguirre. Out of the 5, 3 of those individuals received some level of a payout in order to leave. These are the decisions that have been made, in some cases by you and in some cases by other Boards. But these are the kind of decisions that tends to define the school Boards here at South San. You know at some point its gonna have to end or this district will choke itself to death quite frankly. At some point you as a Board, and by the way I consider all of y'all to be good people. I'm not being critical of you as individuals. You're all good people that want to do the right thing. You frequently say you're in it for the children, but many times your actions speak something differently. Your actions satisfy adults. Not too often do we get up here and talk about student outcomes and how students are doing. Your students deserve a better investment in security in their safety. They deserve instructional specialists as Ms. Marcha pointed out a while back. They deserve better paid teachers. How you spend your money really defines you as a Board and defines to as whether or not you're really providing for children or you're providing for what many adults in the community have asked you to do. So with that, I leave it up to you as I stated, it will be a defining decision for y'all to make tonight. Thank you.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the community and alumni for attending the Centennial Festival. He stated that we are coming up to the Easter holiday so we will be closed Friday and Monday. He wished our families a happy and safe holiday. He defined the word collaboration as he stated it's been used a lot recently. Collaboration- the process of 2 or more people, entities or organizations working together to complete a task or achieve a goal. He stated that the interpretation here at South San ISD is exactly that. He said he is confident that as a district we are working collaboratively to achieve academic achievement of our students. He informed that for collaboration to truly work effectively, we must respect the input and opinions of everyone in the organization to be able to agree and disagree. He stated it is to be mindful of one another and to stay focused on what we are trying to accomplish. He stated that the path to success will take time or changing of a plan and may take recommendations or decisions that may not be most popular but the final decision must be respected. He said God bless each and every one of you and God bless South San ISD and have a happy Easter.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)

None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Discussion and possible action to permanently close West Campus and authorize the Superintendent to, at his discretion, to reassign personnel and students to South San Antonio High School and other campuses.

Mr. Arrellano made a motion: I move that we proceed as discussed on item #1, and Ms. Ibarra seconded Substitute motion by Mrs. Ramirez: My motion is the Board vote for the non-closure of West Campus High School, seconded by Mr. Martinez

Ms. Ibarra walked out of the meeting, Chief Eugene Tovar escorted Mr. Lopez out of the meeting, and Mr. Arrellano walked out of the meeting

Mr. Sanchez: Mr. Flores, if I can address the Board

Mr. Flores: Yeah there is no quorum

Mr. Sanchez: We don't have a quorum because you have to have 4 Board members physically present, we only have 3, Mrs. Alderete is virtual so you must terminate the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:35 PM, due to no quorum, Mr. Flores announced this meeting is adjourned.

ATTEST

Homer Flores Jr., Board President

Shirley Ibarra, Board Secretary

NOTICE: This meeting of the Board of Trustees is authorized in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.001 - 551.146. Verification of Notice of Meeting and Agenda are on file in the Office of the Superintendent. Closed meeting, if required and if authorized by the statute, will be conducted prior to the conclusion of the meeting for any item listed on this agenda.

NOTICE: The Board of Trustees may elect to go into Closed Meeting any time during the meeting to discuss matters listed on the Agenda when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Board of Trustees elects to go into Closed Meeting regarding an Agenda Item, the Board of Trustees will hold a Closed Meeting to discuss individual personnel matters including termination, litigation and other matters the Board deems necessary. Upon completion of Closed Meeting, the Board of Trustees may, in the open session, take such action as appropriate on items discussed in a Closed Meeting. If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item listed on the agenda should be held in Closed Meeting, the Board will convene in such Closed Meeting in accordance with Texas Government Code Sections 551.001 - 551.088. The Board members may take action in the open portion of the meeting on items discussed in the Closed Meeting but no action will be taken in closed session.