

ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
801 NORTH FIRST STREET  
ROBSTOWN, TEXAS 78380

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Ann Garza, President  
Larry Cantu, Vice-President  
Cezar Martinez, Secretary (Video Conference)  
Bobby Marroquin, Assistant Secretary  
Erik Gallegos, Trustee (Video Conference)  
Mario Mesa, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: All board members were present.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent (Video Conference)  
Adriana Tagle, Assistant Superintendent  
Diana L. Silvas, Deputy Superintendent  
Eva Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer

|           |                  |               |                 |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| VISITORS: | Adan Botello     | Anisa Chavera | Lisa Persyn     |
|           | Sandra Blanton   | Laura Cueva   | Rita Cisneros   |
|           | C. Barrera       | Josie Perez   | Maribel Trevino |
|           | Veronica Sanchez |               |                 |

**1.0** GENERAL FUNCTIONS

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM**

At 6:00 p.m., President Lori Ann Garza called this meeting of the Robstown Independent School District Board of Trustees to order.

ROLL CALL: Lori Ann Garza – Present, Larry Cantu – Present, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Erik Gallegos – Present, and Mario Mesa – Present

Present – 6

Absent – 0

Let the record show that a quorum of Board Members are present, that this meeting has been called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

**2.0** MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAYER

President Lori Ann Garza led the audience and the Board in prayer.

3.0

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/TEXAS FLAG PLEDGE**

President Lori Ann Garza led the board members and the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag Pledge.

4.0

**VISION – INSPIRING LIFE-LONG LEARNING BY PROVIDING LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS**

Trustee Larry Cantu read the following vision statement: “Our vision is to ignite brilliance and impact lives by providing transformative learning opportunities that empower students for generations to come.”

**MISSION – EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TODAY TO PREPARE FOR TOMORROW**

Trustee Mario Mesa read the following mission statement: “To empower, inspire, and invest in our students and staff, igniting the best version of themselves. Together, we positively impact our community and the world.”

5.0

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

6.0

**PRESIDENT REMARKS**

6A

**TASA/TASB CONVENTION ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2023**

President Lori Ann Garza reminded the board members about the upcoming TASA/TASB Convention on September 29, 2023, through October 1, 2023. Also, they will be meeting this Wednesday to review their presentation.

6B

**SCHOOL BOARD CONTINUING EDUCATION RECORD – NOVEMBER 1, 2022, THROUGH NOVEMBER 1, 2023**

President Lori Ann Garza reminded the Board members about completing their board training for the period of November 1, 2022, through November 1, 2023. The information was included in their board packet.

7.0

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

7A

**PROUD YOU'RE A PICKER AWARD**

Veronica Sanchez read the nominations that were submitted for the Proud You're a Picker Award. She announced that the following two persons were nominated for the Proud You're a Picker Award: 1) Rosie Perez, San Pedro Fine Arts Academy and 2) Corie Jones, Lotspeich Leadership Academy.

7B

**ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Adriana Tagle reported that on Friday, September 8, 2023, they had a total of 2501 students enrolled. The percentage of attendance on Monday was 92%. Dr. Marc Puig would be sending them a breakdown of the enrollment.

7C

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Adriana Tagle reported that Dr. Marc Puig was working on providing them

with a digital calendar. He has asked Richard Gonzalez to look into a calendar of events that would be comfortable for the Board.

**8.0**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**8A**

**ACADEMIC UPDATE**

Joshua Garcia presented the school district's academic update to the Board. He reviewed the projects that they are working on, projects that they have completed, and the projects that are being developed. He reported that on-going monthly support has started on high quality instructional materials, the ESC2 has been scheduled to support the teachers in certain areas, the critical writing process has been phased in districtwide, and a PLC site has been created for teachers to find any resources that they might need or ask any questions that they might have. Under the Family Engagement and Dropout Prevention Department, Ruben Sanchez has partnered with the school district's social workers to help the grandparents and other relatives raising children, they helped with the grandparent breakfast, and they are planning on having talks at each of the campuses on the correlation between attendance and student performance. Under the Special Education Department, the enrollment was at three hundred and twelve students. Twenty-six out of the twenty-nine special education paraprofessionals have applied to the Autism Academy. The Technology Department has closed the E-Rate for 2021-2022, and the E-Rate for 2023-2024 will be for indoor and outdoor wireless. Also, he reviewed how they have been focusing on the following four pillars: 1) Alignment and Design, 2) Purposeful PLCs, 3) Learning Walks, and 4) Coaching. They have started the PLC walks, and a lot of good things are happening in the classroom. The principals reported to the Board on what they have planned for the school year at their campuses.

**8B**

**SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE**

Filiberto Tagle reported that they have been working on the first draft of the safety climate survey to see how effective the safety procedures in the school district are. House Bill 3 went into effect and police officers are now on every campus districtwide. The principals are very excited that they have armed security officers because most schools in the state are not able to hire police officers at all.

**8C**

**ATHLETIC UPDATE**

Gage Perry reported that the Robstown Youth Football League had a great turnout, with sixteen teams participating in the league. The community was very supportive of the event and radio stations were also present. A total of two hundred junior high school students are being bused to the high school every day for athletics. The volleyball team has already started their first district game. The football team is currently 0-3; however, they are progressing. He was very proud of the students for all their efforts. Also, they will be hosting a parent/football meeting to address practice times, etc.

For the record, Trustee Cezar Martinez logged on for the Board meeting at 6:57 p.m.

8D

**MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Ron Wheaton presented a preliminary schedule based on contractor dates for the upcoming HVAC upgrade projects. The schedule included the names of the campuses and sites that will be upgraded with HVAC, the chiller delivery date, and the starting date for each site. In August and September, they will have a lot going on and some of the campuses will need to have two chillers replaced but they will not shut down both at the same time. Ronald Robles reported that with the recent rains, the school district’s facilities had quite a few leaks; however, it was the drains not the roof that was an issue at Robert Driscoll. There was one area that was covered under warranty. Throughout the school district, the schools that had the most leaks were at RECHS and Robert Driscoll. San Pedro and Lotspeich also had some leaks. Currently, out of the seven buses there are three being repaired at this time. Also, discussion was held on getting landscaping at the different campuses.

8E

**RISD DONATIONS**

Dr. Marc Puig announced that the Robstown Housing Authority had donated around \$16,000 to the school district.

**9.0**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

9A

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

9B

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT(S)**

9C

**APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS**

9D

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT**

President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Motion #7289 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0  
7:33 p.m.

**10.0**

**GOVERNANCE**

10A

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REGARDING FAMILIES FIRST CORONA VIRUS RESPONSE ACT (FFCRA)**

Adriana Tagle informed the Board that a resolution had been included in their board packet for their consideration. The Board would be approving five COVID days, and it would start on July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. After discussion, Mrs. Tagle recommended approving Dr. Puig’s recommendation to approve the resolution regarding families first Corona Virus response act (FFCRA) as presented.

Motion #7290 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the assistant superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0  
7:35 p.m.

10B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NUECES COUNTY MEMORIAL AGRICULTURAL CENTER – THE OLD SHOW BARN

Adriana Tagle asked for the Board's approval to authorize the superintendent to negotiate a lease agreement with Nueces County Memorial Agricultural Center – the Old Show Barn. The current lease expired on August 7, 2023. Dr. Marc Puig will be visiting with Commissioner Marez and once Nueces County approves the lease agreement, he will need to negotiate the agreement. After discussion, Mrs. Tagle recommended approving to authorize the superintendent to negotiate a lease agreement with Nueces County Memorial Agricultural Center - the Old Show Barn.

Motion #7291 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the assistant superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0  
7:41 p.m.

10C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF "CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK"

Trustee Cezar Martinez stated that he had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda to approve a resolution in support of "Celebrate Freedom Week" in regards to the United States Constitution. The resolution was to show acknowledgement and gratitude for the United States Constitution during the week of September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Trustee Martinez read the following resolution: "A resolution in support of "Celebrate Freedom Week. On September 17, 1787, the Constitution was adopted. Whereas, on December 8, 2004, the United States Congress enacted a law (Federal Mandate 108-447) requiring all educational institutions to hold educational programs for their students pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17<sup>th</sup> pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17<sup>th</sup> of each year. Whereas this resolution affirms our support for the Congressional Act on December 8, 2004, by the passage of this resolution supporting "Celebrate Freedom Week." Whereas, elected and appointed officials in the United States of America are required to take an oath of office supporting the United States

Constitution as well as their State Constitution. Now, therefore be it resolved, that as an elected School Board in the United States of America, we acknowledge the week of September 17<sup>th</sup> -September 23<sup>rd</sup> as "Celebrate Freedom Week" which includes the teaching of the Constitution of the United States. Be it further resolved, that September 17, 2023, is dedicated as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in America. Be it further resolved that as a School Board in the United States of America we affirm our support for the Constitution of the United States of America. Be it further resolved, that in solidarity with the students in the United States of America we commit to reciting the "Preamble" of the United States Constitution to express our support for "Celebrate Freedom Week." Be it further resolved, that "Celebrate Freedom Week" will be honored throughout the schools within our school district during the week of September 17<sup>th</sup> through September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Since September 17<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday our schools will celebrate and study the Constitution and Citizenship in Social Studies classes September 18<sup>th</sup> through September 22<sup>nd</sup>. After discussion, Mrs. Adr

Motion #7292 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the Resolution in Support of "Celebrate Freedom Week as read.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0  
7:50 p.m.

**11.00 BUSINESS AND SUPPORT**

**11A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF UPDATE TO THE COMPENSATION PLAN**

Adriana Tagle presented the following updates to the Compensation Plan:

- 1) The elementary cheerleader sponsor was a \$500 stipend not \$500 per hour,
  - 2) The Class Sponsor stipend would be \$750.00, and
  - 3) They added a position for an Aide for In-School Suspension.
- After discussion, Mrs. Tagle recommended approving the update to the Compensation Plan as recommended by Dr. Marc Puig.

Motion #7293 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to approve the assistant superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0  
7:52 p.m.

**12.0 INSTRUCTION**

**12A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LOW ATTENDANCE WAIVER FOR AUGUST 22, 2023**

Adriana Tagle recommended approving the Low Attendance Waiver as

recommended by Dr. Marc Puig for August 22, 2023. Mrs. Tagle reported that on the day of August 22, 2023, the percent of attendance was low with a 67.73% compared to the previous year of 87%. After discussion, the following motion was made:

**Motion #7294** A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the assistant superintendent's recommendation.

**Roll Call** L. Garza – Yes. L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

**Motion carried** Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0  
7:54 p.m.

**12B** **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REMOTE HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION WAIVER**  
Adriana Tagle recommended approving the Remote Homebound Instruction Waiver as recommended by Dr. Marc Puig. This waiver is for school districts that promote homebound instruction to special education students. The school district may count the student(s) in attendance for FSP funding purposes, if certain requirements are met. After discussion, the following motion was made:

**Motion #7295** A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the assistant superintendent's recommendation.

**Roll Call** L. Garza – Yes. L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

**Motion carried** Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0  
7:55 p.m.

**12C** **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF INNOVATIVE COURSE: ETHNIC STUDIES/AMERICAN INDIAN/NATIVE STUDIES – TEA APPROVED**  
Adriana Tagle reported that the school district would like to offer the Innovative Course: Ethnic Studies/American Indian/Native Studies-TEA Approved. The course would be provided as an elective and if approved by the Board it would be the second school in the State of Texas to offer this course. After discussion, Mrs. Tagle recommended approving the course so that when they are ready to offer it, it has already been approved.

**Motion #7296** A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the assistant superintendent's recommendation.

**Roll Call** L. Garza – Yes. L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes





(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated 09/11/2023, except for the executive session.)