

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MARCH 24, 2025

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

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

VISITORS:	Lillie Garza	Diana De Leon	Ludy Garcia
	Maribel Trevino	Rachel Medrano	Sandra Blanton
	Damaris Cantu	Holly Bockholt	Lorraine Morales
	Jacqueline Padilla	Norma Cornejo	Samantha Munoz
	Belinda Alaniz	Paula Wakefield	Anisa Chavera

**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, Erik Gallegos – Present, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Larry Cantu – Present, Mario Mesa – Present and Yvette Villalobos – Present

Present – 7

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**

Dr. Marc Puig 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 the Texas Flag Pledge.

**4.0 VISION – OUR VISION IS TO IGNITE BRILLIANCE AND IMPACT LIVES BY PROVIDING TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER STUDENTS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**

Trustee Mario Mesa 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 – 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**

Trustee Cezar Martinez 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**

Trustee Cezar Martinez informed the audience “that in accordance with board policy BED LOCAL, the Robstown ISD Board of Trustees welcome comments from citizens on any agenda item or non-agenda item at any regular scheduled board meeting. In the event of a special board meeting/board workshop, public comments will be limited to agenda items only. Those wishing to address the school board must provide their name for the record and observe a three-minute time limit. During this time, the Board of Trustees may not respond to the citizen's concerns as per the Texas Open Meetings Act.” Lillie Garza, parent of three children at Ortiz Intermediate Stem Academy, asked the Board for help with one of her sons. She reported that her son exhibits violent behavior and she was concerned for the safety of the other students and her son. She has asked for help and she was given paperwork to fill out to begin the process of determining if her son has an emotional disability and qualified for special education services. The timeline was ninety days and she has still not heard from the administration. Her son has been in ISS since Spring Break and she wanted to make them aware of her concern. Jorge Hernandez informed the Board that he was a Texas Education Agency-Certified Psychology Teacher, and he asked the Board for a teaching contract because he could help students learn to be civil, respectful, and follow the rules of America. Holly Bockholt, RISD Property Tax Payer, presented to the Board a letter for a request for reconsideration (Air Quality Permit No. 174951) in

reference to Avina. She invited everyone who missed the July deadline to submit their public comment to TCEQ to deny Avina's air permit. The letter will show their support for the students of Robstown ISD. The safety of the plant cannot be proven because they have never built one this size before. She asked the Board to please consider and support the safety and well-being of the students of Robstown ISD and the community by submitting the letter of request for reconsideration by April 11, 2025, to TECQ.

**6.0**

**AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS**

**6A**

**RECOGNITION OF THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Diana L. Silvas announced that she would be recognizing the teachers of the year for each of the individual campuses. These teachers ignite brilliance every single day and are exceptional teachers. She recognized the following teachers by campus: Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, Hannah Bailey Soliz; San Pedro Fine Arts Academy, Zelda Z. Martinez; Lotspeich Leadership Academy, Kayla Orona; Robstown Early College High School, Kaitlyn Ruiz; and Seale Jr. High School, Apolonio Paredez. The Elementary Teacher of the Year Award went to Zelda Z. Martinez, San Pedro Fine Arts Academy, and the Secondary Teacher of the Year Award went to Apolonio Paredez, Jr., Seale Jr. High School.

**6B**

**PROUD YOU'RE A PICKER AWARD**

Katrina Alejandro recognized Damaris Cantu, RECHS Ag Teacher/FFA, as the recipient of the Proud You're a Picker Award. She reported that Ms. Cantu had been nominated for her outstanding dedication and leadership during the Nueces County Junior Live Stock Show and beyond.

**6C**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Katrina Alejandro reported that this was a new committee that would be started up this school year. She recognized each of the following students and the campus that they will be representing: RECHS, Christian Moreno and Eunsil Eom; Seale Jr. High School, Axel Lopez and Clarrisa Salazar; Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, Ryleigh Chavera and Emily Padilla; San Pedro Fine Arts Academy, Ellie Gonzalez; and Lotspeich Leadership Academy, Anthony Martinez. The group of students will be meeting with Dr. Marc Puig and herself to continue to make RISD brilliant. Dr. Puig presented the students with a challenge coin for volunteering to serve on the Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council. The council will allow the students to have a voice.

**6D**

**RECOGNITION OF 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS AT ROBERT DRISCOLL STEM ACADEMY**

Katrina Alejandro recognized John Paul Cortez, a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, for scoring a perfect 100 on February 26, 2025, on his interim math exam.

6E RECOGNITION OF RECHS CTE/BIM CERTIFICATION STUDENT  
Katrina Alejandro recognized Andria Espinoza, RECHS student, who successfully passed seven Microsoft Office certification exams.

7.0 **MADAM PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

7A 2025 SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS –  
JUNE 11-14, 2025

President Lori Ann Garza announced that the 2025 Summer Leadership Conference was going to be held in San Antonio, Texas, on June 11-14, 2025. If they are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Padilla.

For the record, Trustee Bobby Marroquin joined the Board meeting at 6:22 p.m.

8.0 **SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

8A SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Marc Puig reported that the Lady Pickers have captured their fourth consecutive state championship at the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association State Meet in Edinburg. Two of the boys powerlifters placed in the top ten at the THSPA 4A D2 Boys Powerlifting State Meet in Abilene. The enrollment is growing and it stands at 2,539, reflecting an increase from 2,516 last school year. The attendance rate is at 90.6% compared to the last school at 89.5%. Senate Bill 26 will provide salary increases for teachers and will expand the Teacher Incentive Allotment, House Bill 3 will expand parental control over education by allowing taxpayers funds to be used for private school tuition, homeschooling resources, specialized educational services, Pre-K, and early childhood education expansion, House Bill 6 will strengthen teacher's authority to maintain discipline and uphold academic integrity, House Bill 1481 prohibits cell phone use in schools during instructional time, House Bill 124 will increase the school safety allotment. He has been helping Dr. Rumaldo Juarez and the Robstown Education Foundation with their strategic planning process. Also, he presented an update on the facilities and property updates and a Federal Policy Update from the Department of Education's Reduction in Force. The next town hall meeting will be held on April 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Nueces County Keach Family Library.

9.0 **PRESENTATION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

9A ACADEMIC UPDATE/TIA UPDATE

Adriana Tagle reported that her team would be presenting the district's progress and state assessment report. Belinda Alaniz reported that they are 98% complete on testing, except for around three to four students who have not finished their testing. They are working on the PEIMS verification to make sure that everything is included that is on the accountability system and that the students are all coded correctly. The EOC scores came in on Friday. The STAR window opens on April 8<sup>th</sup>, and the last tests will be Algebra and Math tests, which open on the 25<sup>th</sup>. She highlighted that they had done the benchmarks across the board, and they saw an increase in the passing percentages. She reviewed the increases at the different campuses. Adrian Tagle reported that TEA had shared the following feedback during their visit to the

junior high school and Lotspeich Leadership Academy: 1) At the Seale Junior High School, they saw the use of high-quality instructional material, positive school culture, the classrooms were safe, saw students teaching, academic monitoring, and high-order thinking, and 2) For the visit at Lotspeich Leadership Academy, TEA identified the following areas: Positive school culture, the use of high-quality instructional materials, student discourse, rigorous questioning, and rigorous monitoring. Overall, the campuses are moving in the right direction.

Rachel Medrano reported that when school districts collaborate the students win. Kingsville ISD has found out that the Seale Junior High School has over twenty different career paths that they can explore in one school year through the Picker Paths. Kingsville ISD visited the Picker Path classroom and is now collaborating with the school district. Adriana Tagle stated that Tuloso Midway is now wanting to partner with the school district. The school district bused the Tuloso Midway teachers to the elementary campuses and joined them on the walk-throughs.

Joshua Garcia reported that the Amplify representative wants to visit the school district because the program is very successful. The second grade had a 69% percent growth and they are outperforming the nation. They will be using some of the school district's testimonies on how Amplify is working and being successful in the school district. This weekend, they had forty-six students compete in San Antonio at the Regional Science Spelling B and twenty-two have qualified on the national level to compete in Orlando, Florida.

Diana Silvas reported that a TIA Spending Plan Survey was sent out to the district to get feedback on the plan that they prefer. On February 25, 2025, they attended a Rural Cohort webinar about NBCT, on February 26, 2025, RISD's TIA planning committee met to go through the Full TIA application, on February 28, 2025, district and campus administrators went through a T-TESS calibration training with Dr. Dalia Torres from the ESC2, on March 3, 2025, the team met with RECHS and SJH administrators to discuss PEIMS service IDs to ensure the correct teachers are eligible for TIA in Phase I. On March 4, 2025, the TIA Planning Committee attended a webinar about CTE and testing options, and on March 6, 2025, they submitted a draft TIA plan to the Rural Cohort for review. The plan is due on April 8, 2025.

Trustee Cezar Martinez asked the Board to move item 9D - RISD Donations up and the rest of the items to follow accordingly.

9D

#### RISD DONATIONS

On behalf of the Robstown Education Foundation, Victor Pinon presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the school district. The check is part of the second wave of the grant funding for the school district's dedicated teachers. These funds will support the teacher's innovative grant application that was submitted in the fall, ensuring that creative and impactful classroom projects come to life. In addition, the foundation has approved appropriating the remaining funds from the grant totaling \$4000 to further expand the program for a total of \$9000. The additional \$4000 will

be used for five additional teacher grants. Dr. Puig announced that Denise Villalobos had donated money to cover the pizza for the last town hall meeting, and RBFCU Credit Union donated \$400 for the town hall meetings also.

9B M & O UPDATE

Ron Lawver reported that the HVAC Project has been completed; however, they still needed to schedule a walkthrough with the engineer. The roofing project is coming along great. The Seale Jr. High School and Hattie Martin roofing are about 95% complete. They will move on to Ortiz the first week of April. The parking lot has been restriped at the high school, the gym floor at the high school has been repaired, and the electrical at the concession stand has been completed. A third round of pest control has been completed. He has one bus driver (Chico Molina) who will be retiring this school year. The gate behind the band hall was requested to be installed by the state for security. Once they get the funding, they can install another gate at the band hall.

9C SAFETY REPORT

Filiberto Tagle reported that they have ordered the metal detectors for Lotspeich Leadership Academy. They are working on sending out the safety climate survey, and they will have the results presented to the Board at the next board meeting. Also, they are working on the TxDOT Transportation Funding Grant for Lotspeich Leadership Academy School Sidewalk Project. Ramon Acosta reported that they have submitted an application to TxDOT for review and it is being considered for funding at this time. They will have a meeting with TxDOT to review the application, and it looks like they will be funded.

9E LIST OF BILLS

9F FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

President Lori Ann Garza informed the Board that the list of bills and the financial reports were included in their board packets for their review. There were no questions.

**10.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)**

10A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10B BUDGET AMENDMENT #5

10C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF THE TEKS AND APPROVAL OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ALLOTMENT FOR THE 2025-2206 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Motion #7592 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented.

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent 0  
7:58 p.m.

11A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TASB LOCAL POLICY MANUAL  
UPDATE 124, AFFECTING THE FOLLOWING LOCAL POLICIES: CAA, CDA,  
CY, DH, EHB, EHBB, FFG, AND GKA  
President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion to approve the TASB Local Policy  
Update 124, affecting the following local policies: CAA, CDA, CY, DH, EHB,  
EHBB, FFG, and GKA as presented.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent 0  
7:59 p.m.

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the purchase order exceeding \$50,000 for Amplify Texas K-8 ELAR Instructional Materials. The purchase of the instructional materials will be paid with instructional materials allotment funds. The purchase will have no impact on the local budget.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0  
8:00 p.m.

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the purchase order exceeding \$50,000 for Chromebooks. The Chromebooks will be purchased with LASO III Technology Lending Grant funds and will not have an impact on the local budget.

Motion #7595 A motion was made by Trustee M. Mesa and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0  
8:05 p.m.

11D DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRIP REQUEST FOR SEALE JR. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO WASHINGTON, D.C, DURING THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR  
Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the out-of-state trip request for Seale Jr. High School students to travel to Washington, D.C., during the 2025-2026 school year. Anisa Chavera reported that this trip would be very exciting and educational for the students by taking the classroom to Washington, D.C. The trip is at no cost to the school district and it will be during the summer of 2026. Some of the expenses will be paid by the student's parents and the difference will be paid by the school district.

Motion #7596 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee Y. Villalobos to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent 0  
8:11 p.m.

11E DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TASB ACTIVE MEMBER DIRECTOR NOMINATION – REGION II  
There were no nominations for the position of TASB Region II Director at this time.

**12.0 CLOSED SESSION – SECTION 551.074**

12A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion to go into the executive session under section 551.074.

Motion #7597 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to go into executive session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.074.

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

Motion carried	Yes – 7	No - 0	Absent – 0
8:15 p.m.			

Motion #7598 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to reconvene from the executive session.

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

Motion carried            Yes – 7                                  No - 0                                  Absent – 0  
9:24 p.m.

## 13.0 OPEN SESSION

13A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS, EMPLOYMENTS, EVALUATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES  
Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Personnel List as presented in the executive session.

Motion #7599 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0  
9:25 p.m.

## 14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion #7600 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried      Yes – 7      No - 0      Absent – 0  
9:25 p.m.

(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated 03/24/25, except for the executive session.).