Meeting Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 16, 2025 6:00 PM

Canutillo ISD Administration Office
7965 Artcraft
El Paso, TX 79932

1. **GENERAL FUNCTIONS-OTHER**

1.A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at **6:02 PM**

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

1.C. Texas Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were led by students and members of the audience.

1.D. Roll Call

Trustees Present: Barnes, Borrego, Maldonado, Martinez, Ortega, Rodriguez, Zuniga

Student Advisors Present: Moises Aguirre and Mason Gossette

1.E. CISD Vision and Mission Statements

Trustee Rodriguez recited the CISD Vision Statement, and Trustee Barnes recited the Mission Statement.

2. **BOARD HONORS**

2.A. Holiday musical performance by students at Canutillo Elementary School, Childress Elementary School, Davenport Elementary School, Damian Elementary School, Garcia Elementary School and Reyes Elementary School.

Elementary choirs from multiple schools performed several holiday songs led by their music teachers. The segment concluded with all choirs joining together to perform *"Feliz Navidad."*

2.B. Recognition of Annual Canutillo ISD Holiday Card Art Contest Winners.

Mr. Reveles introduced students: Melanie Martinez from CHS, Kiana Hillen from Alderete Middle School, Eduardo Perez from NW Early College High School, Monserrat Delgado from Davenport Elementary, Giana Gonzalez from Garcia Elementary,

3. **OPEN FORUM-OTHER**

Any person wishing to address the Board during the period reserved for public comment at a Board meeting must sign up to be heard, in accordance with District policy BED(LOCAL):

Each participant will be limited to THREE MINUTES to make comments to the Board.

The Board is NOT permitted to discuss or act upon any issues that are not posted on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

For further information on those policies, contact the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant.

Whitley Miles – Cimarron Canyons resident near the proposed Alderete Middle School site. She mentioned that she is approaching the board in representation of the hundreds of homes in her neighborhood. Ms. Miles mentioned that many of the residents in that neighborhood were not aware of the projects until late in the process. She also expressed concerns over how emergency services will move in the area during school traffic time and the accuracy of the traffic studies done in the area for the project.

Gustavo Mendoza - AMS Site Safety Concern
Mr. Mendoza expressed dissatisfaction over finding out that a new middle school was planned in their neighborhood only on the placement of a billboard on the property. He mentioned that traffic, safety, and property values in the neighborhood will be affected and yet the project was not communicated to their community. He also stated there were conflicting reports while attending a meeting with the City of El Paso regarding the daily traffic impact of the project.

Jesus Salgado Ramos – Alumni and Business owner, regarding the Superintendent Selection. Mr. Salgado Ramos stated that Dr. Arellano has served as Interim Superintendent and she is being overlooked. He also expressed dissatisfaction over the perceived practice of overlooking local talent while searching for talent elsewhere. He stressed out the strengths of Dr. Jesica Arellano as a strong candidate with knowledge of the community. He also states that the board has the responsibility not only to select the superintendent but also to create confidence in the process.

Cerrisa M Cuellar - Thanks to Dr. Rico on behalf of the Reyes Elementary PTO.
Ms. Cuellar mentioned that the Reyes PTO wanted to express gratitude for Dr. Ricos' guidance and support. She mentioned that his support has helped them succeed in their goals while feeling listened to and helping them collaborate.

4. BOARD OF TRUSTEE BUSINESS

4.A. Discussion and Possible Action for Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price #2 (GMP) for Construction Manager-At-Risk (CMAR) Services for Demolition of existing portable and the execution of Alternate No. 1 for the New Build at Northwest Early College High School (NWECHS), RFQ 2025-02B, from Jordan Foster Construction, LLC in the amount of $4,549,224.00

Mr. Ernesto Ortiz mentioned PROCEDEO wanted to bring this next phase of the Bond Project after ensuring that the project continued to be under budget.
Trustee Borrego thanked Mr. Ortiz for doing his due diligence regarding savings and helping with the process.
Trustee Bernes asked questions regarding the types of flooring being used.

The Representative from Jordan Foster mentioned that there are different types of flooring being used and that it might not be what was originally selected for the multi-purpose building. Trustee Barnes asked to receive clarification via email regarding the flooring being used for the site.
Trustee Maldonado expressed questions over the quality of the materials being used. Mr. Ortiz explained that even though quality is being reduced, the appropriate materials will be selected for the appropriate use it will be given.
Trustee Martinez requested a report on the savings made from moving from epoxy flooring to VCT.

Motion to approve item as presented by Trustee Borrego, seconded by Trustee Barnes.
Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Abstained, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

4.B. Discussion and Possible Action for Approval of Change Order #01 to authorize the use of Program Contingency funds for the construction of the new basketball court at Bill Childress Elementary School from Jordan Foster Construction, LLC in the amount of $417,792.00
Mr. Ortiz explained that change order #01 is one of the items pending on the schools Wish list of projects to be completed if possible. The school and PROCEDEO feel that approving the item to be replaced with post-tension concrete for safety issues would be the best recommendation. A change order was needed since other projects encumbered funds available for the BCE projects.
Trustee Borrego mentioned that she is excited to see this project being recommended for student safety.
Trustee Borrego motioned to approve the item as presented. Trustee Maldonado seconded the motion.
Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Abstain, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes
Motion Passes.

4.C. Report From Board Member Sergio Martinez From His Attendance to the TxEdCON Conference in Houston on September 11–14.
Trustee Martinez thanked the board of trustees for allowing him to attend the conference representing the district. He shared a presentation with the board regarding how board members are visionary leaders alongside the district superintendent. He also expressed the importance of Trustee's accountability for the school district. He mentioned that he believes that he would like to attend the conference again and he would like more board members to be allowed to attend as well.

No Action Taken

5. **CONSENT AGENDA-VOTING**

5.A. *BUSINESS SERVICES*

5.A.1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

5.A.1.a. Approval of the September 29, 2025 RBM Minutes

5.A.2. Approval of the Monthly Donations

5.A.3. Approval of the Budget Amendments

5.A.4. Approval of District Quarterly Investment Reports

Trustee Barnes raised questions regarding what happens to revenue being reported.

Ms. Pulley explained that revenue goes back to the originating fund. For example, revenues from the general fund go back to general fund. Revenues originating from bond money go back into bond interest funds.

Trustee Ortega asked why are revenues lower than anticipated.

Mrs. Pulley explained that there had been adjustments made based on PIMS reporting during the year compared to before when they used to be made at the end of the year.

Trustee Barnes moved to approve with a second from trustee Zuniga

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes

All in Favor, Motion Passes.

5.A.5. Recommendation to approve award for Request for Proposal (RFP) #260002424 for E-Rate Services for Wide Area Network (WAN) Project for FY 2026-2027 to include Network Equipment, Internet Access, Lease Dark Fiber-WAN, and Leased Lit Fiber-WAN.

5.A.6. Request for Approval to Renew Interlocal Agreement with West Texas Cooperative

Region 17 to support day-to-day purchases for the Child Nutrition Program and ensure cost savings for FY 2026-2027

Mrs. Barnes requested to pull item 5.A.4. as she had questions for Mrs. Cambell based on a previous meeting.

Dr. Arellano mentioned that there was a correction on the E-rate and that the trustees were given updated information.

Trustee Rodriguez motioned to approve consent agenda as presented with exception of item 5.A.4. Trustee Borrego seconded the motion.

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes

All in Favor, Motion Passes.

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** **Closed at: 7:23 PM**

To Consult with Attorney Under Sections 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code:

(A certified agenda or recording of a closed meeting is confidential and is not available to the public except by court order. A person who knowingly and without lawful authority makes a certified agenda or recording public commits a Class B misdemeanor. Any exceptions will be communicated in accordance with applicable policies and regulations.

6.A. Discussion Regarding Threat of Potential Litigation From J. Stewart.
Mr. Steve Blanco explained that the wording on the agenda item should have read C. Steward and it will be postponed until the January regular board meeting.

6.B. Discussion Regarding Administration's Recommendation for Canutillo Middle School Principal; Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074

6.C. Discussion Regarding the Recommendation of Administration to Terminate the Probationary Contract of Omar Gonzalez, Teacher at Canutillo High School for Job Abandonment Without Good Cause and Issue Appropriate Notice to SBEC.

6.D. Discussion with legal counsel regarding compliance with Senate Bill 10

6.E. To discuss selection of lone finalist for position of superintendent of schools to include employment terms and conditions and potential contract of employment.

7. **NEW BUSINESS (continued); OTHER** **Open at: 9:47 PM**

7.A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Threat of Potential Litigation From J. Stewart.
Item not addressed. No action taken

7.B. Discussion and possible action regarding Administration's recommendation for Canutillo Middle School Principal
Mrs. Carrasco explained that Mrs. Andrea Esparza is being nominated as Principal for Canutillo Middle School.
Motion to approve item as presented by trustee Rodriguez, Second by Trustee Ortega.
Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

7.C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Recommendation of Administration to Terminate the Probationary Contract of Omar Gonzalez, Teacher at Canutillo High School for Job Abandonment Without Good Cause and Issue Appropriate Notice to SBEC.
Mr. Blanco addressed the board regarding the update on Mr. Gonzalez during executive session. He explained that administration is recommending that board

approve the recommendation to terminate the probationary contract of Mr. Gonzalez for good cause and to issue appropriate notice to SBEC. Mr. Gonzalez will also receive notice from the district depending on what the board vote is.
It's our recommendation that you move forward with this and terminating for good cause.

Trustee Borrego moved to approve administration's recommendation. Seconded by Trustee Barnes

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

7.D. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding District Compliance With Senate Bill 10.

Mr. Blanco explained that the board consulted with him during executive session regarding compliance with SB10. He explained that the district did receive properly framed and donated copies of the Ten Commandments. And that the question now is, whether the board wants to revisit their prior decision? Mr. Blanco also esplained "At a previous board meeting, the board determined that while the donation was received and the district is holding the Ten Commandments that you were going to wait on the outcome of the litigation in Texas that involves other school districts um to determine whether or not the posting would be required um there's been some discussion by the board as to whether or not that decision would be revisited and
so it's up to you all to decide tonight if you're going to continue with the current action which is to wait um or if you're going to move forward and post the ten commandments that have been donated to the district."

Trustee Barnes motioned to change the previous board decision by stating "I am motioning um that we change our original decision and that we align with the we comply with the law that is stated for us to hang the donated posters or framed posters um in order to be in compliance with the state. I want to be clear that the reason I am saying that is because it has been stated that if we are not in compliance, there are other districts that are being sued by the state for not being in compliance.
And that would put it put us at a legal risk in the middle of a deficit. Um, and if we continue down the road of our original vote that if we were to be sued by parents, um, the I'm sorry, if we were to change our vote and, um, hang them up and be sued by parents that the attorney general of Texas would represent us and we would not be on the line for that financial litigation. So, that is the reason for my motion."

Trustee Ortega seconded the motion.
Barnes-Yes, Borrego-No, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-No, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-No, Zuniga-No
Motion Fails.

7.E. Discussion and possible action regarding selection of lone finalist for position of superintendent of schools to include employment terms and conditions and potential contract of employment.
Trustee Rodriguez motioned to rescind the original sole finalist and to announce Dr. Rico as a sole finalist. Trustee Zuniga seconded the motion
Barnes-No, Borrego-No, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-No, Ortega-No, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes
Motion Fails.

Mr. Blanco clarified that the following trustees voted no: Barnes, Borrego, Martinez and Ortega

Trustee Borrego motioned to continue with the board's original recommendation of Mr. Jose Borego as loan finalist.

Trustee Barnes asked if the following could be added to the motion: "can we add to that motion to enter into negotiations?

Trustee Borrego amended her motion to include Mrs. Barnes Statement Motioning to continue with the board's original recommendation of Mr. Jose Borego as loan finalist and to enter into negotiations. Trustee Barnes Seconded the motion.

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes
All in favor, Motion passes.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at **9:56 PM** under unanimous consent.

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Presented to the Board of Trustees for approval on **3-24-2026**. The minutes reflect all agenda items in the order as originally posted and do not necessarily reflect the order in which they were discussed.