



**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 AMENDED Special Called

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

A AMENDED Special Called of the Board of Trustees of South San Antonio ISD was held Monday, December 11, 2023, beginning at 5:30 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		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Shirley Ibarra		X	
Joe Araiza	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		Late arrival 5:31 PM
Homer Flores Jr.		X	
Manuel Lopez	X		

•PLEDGE

OF ALLEGIANCE

•TEXAS PLEDGE

•PRAYER

Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Gilbert Rodriguez, Parent, addressed the Board regarding previous approved budgets and previous budget committees.

Angelica Farias, Parent, addressed the Board regarding the possible closure of West Campus High School.

Ruth Rodriguez, Parent, addressed the Board regarding the current Senior class at West Campus High School being allowed to graduate this year if the school closes.

Maria Rosas, Parent, addressed the Board regarding the support for keeping West Campus High School open.

TEA REMARKS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)

None

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

None

CLOSED / EXECUTIVE SESSION

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. The Board will return to open session and take appropriate action, if any, on items discussed in closed session. No Action will be taken in closed session. Further, Board Members are reminded that all items discussed in closed session must remain confidential as to avoid liability to the district. The Board will consider and discuss, the following items: Closed Meeting pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code §§ 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, and 551.0821

1. Consultation with attorney 551.071: Discussion regarding subpoena deuces tecum and disqualification of counsel related to Cause No. NM736551; Cause No. 720549; State of Texas v. Abel Martinez; Bexar County, Texas; 144th Judicial District Court; County Court at Law No. 15.

Start time: 5:46 PM.

End time: 6:17 PM.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Reconvene from Executive Session for action relative to items considered during Executive Session

Mr. Arellano made a motion: I make a motion that the Board to approve that the Board approve the Resolution related to Cause#: NM736551 and Cause#:720549 State of Texas vs Abel Martinez, Bexar County Texas, 144th Judicial District Court, County Court at Law #15 as presented, and Mrs. Ramirez seconded

Legal Counsel Woody Wilson stated for the record: Resolution# 2023-1211-01

Mr. Lopez read the Resolution into the record:

A RESOLUTION REGARDING A MOTION TO DISQUALIFY FILED BY ABEL MARTINEZ

WHEREAS, Abel Martinez was arrested and charged with interfering with a Public Meeting on October 18, 2023, and evading arrest.

WHEREAS, Abel Martinez filed a Motion in County Court at Law #15 and the 144th District Court to disqualify Mark Anthony Sanchez and the Law Firm of Sanchez & Wilson, PLLC from representing the South San Antonio Independent School District ("District") alleging that Mark Anthony Sanchez is a material and indispensable witness in Abel Martinez's criminal case thereby creating a conflict of interest and because Sanchez & Wilson, PLLC represents the Board of Trustees, of which the Defendant is a member

WHEREAS, the record demonstrates numerous witnesses personally observed the misconduct of Abel Martinez at the October 18, 2023 Board meeting including but not limited to Board President, Manuel Lopez, Vice-President, Cynthia Ann Ramirez, Chief of Police Eugene Tovar, Board Member, Jose Araiza, Board Member, Ernesto Arellano, and Superintendent, Henry Yzaguirre, with each providing a statement to the investigator regarding Abel Martinez's misconduct. Also, Conservator Abelardo Saavedra was present and a witness to this incident involving Abel Martinez.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees retained Sanchez & Wilson, PLLC to provide legal representation to the District, by and through the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent. The Board of Trustees acknowledged that the legal services agreement with Sanchez & Wilson did not establish an attorney-client relationship between Sanchez & Wilson, PLLC and any individual Trustee or individual Employee of the District;

WHEREAS, Sanchez & Wilson, PLLC (the "Firm") was retained by the District on February 25, 2021, after a very rigorous selection process. The Firm has represented the District in several matters including issues related to the Texas Education Agency, selection of Superintendent's; selections of Trustees for vacant positions; numerous requests for opinions from the Texas Attorney General pertaining to open requests made by members of public; and discipline of administrators and other employees within the District. The District has great confidence in the Firm. If the Firm is disqualified it would lead to a hardship for the District in having to retain another Firm on short notice and retaining a Firm that has not represented the District in these certain matters over the last several years which would be detrimental to the interests of the District;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE DISTRICT;

Section 1. The District finds that Mark Anthony Sanchez is not a necessary or indispensable witness in the criminal matter of Abel Martinez due to the existence of numerous other witnesses that were present and personally observed the misconduct of Abel Martinez on October 18, 2023, at the administration building for the District. But if the Court find that Mark Anthony Sanchez is a necessary witness to establish an essential fact for the case involving Abel Martinez, the District hereby consents to the continued representation by the Firm and any other counsel that is employed or retained by the Firm.

Section 2. The District finds that the Firm was retained to represent the organization of the District and not individual trustees or employees of the District.

Section 3. The District finds that one trustee is not able to dictate the retention of a Law Firm as the current Law Firm represents the entirety of the Board and not a single individual Trustee.

Section 4. The District finds that if Sanchez & Wilson, PLLC is disqualified in this matter it would lead to hardship for the District and would be detrimental to the interests of the District.

Section 5. The District finds that Abel Martinez caused a disruption of the meeting of the Trustees on October 18, 2023 that prevented them conducting business of the District.

Section 6. The District finds that the charges filed against Abel Martinez by the Board President were warranted due to his misconduct and supports the statements/complaints submitted by the Board President and any other Trustee or Employee.

The Board of Trustees voted 4/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ramirez moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Arrellano seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 PM.

ATTEST

Manuel Lopez, 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.

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