



**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 Meeting

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

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of South San Antonio ISD was held Tuesday, August 31, 2021, 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
Stacey Alderete	X		
Gilbert Rodriguez	X		
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- TEXAS PLEDGE
- PRAYER

Led by Brad Domitrovich, Public Relations Consultant

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

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

Jose Pablo Arzola, Community member, stated that the Board is working outside of their lane. He urged for the sake of all children that the Board to step aside and let the Texas Education Agency come in.

Tom Cummins, AFT President, addressed the Board regarding the COVID leave day item on the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)

Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board and audience regarding the COVID response and an exciting new leadership program. He thanked Ms. Olivo and her staff as we collectively cope with COVID-19. He stated that last week we administered 3,100 tests, the positive test results were 1 staff member and 22 students. Dr. Puig informed that we are continuing to stand up on site vaccination clinics. He stated that we are the first district in the county to operationalize remote conferencing. Per Dr. Puig we have 425 requests for remote conferencing as of now. Dr. Puig thanked Ms. McGee for putting this together in 1 week. He stated that the #'s will increase; Senate Bill 15 will provide additional virtual instruction with some limitations. He talked about an exciting leadership opportunity for our youth, the Student Superintendent for the Day. A 2nd grader at our trilingual academy, Juliette Lozano, starts tomorrow. She is assertive and articulate. She will learn that great classrooms start with great board rooms. He stated that Juliette will learn that policy matters, BJA (Local), the Superintendent's job description which states that she must articulate and

support Board policy. She will also learn DH(Legal/Local/Exhibit), how the student is taken care of through the Educator Code of Ethics. He stated that she will also learn how the Superintendent would manage experts through policy. She will also learn how to hire or purchase professional services through CH(Local). He stated that Juliette will learn how a Superintendent prepares for a board meeting. He stated that she will learn about the Superintendent’s contract. Dr. Puig informed that his is written to allow him to exit himself from closed session to allow Board resolution to take place. Lastly, he said that she will learn that the Board and Superintendent team has the same job which is student achievement but the roles are distinctly different.

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

Ernesto Arrellano Jr., Board President, addressed audience stating that the Board was made aware that there is word going around that the Board is responsible for Coach Barron not being allowed on the field. He stated that is categorically not true. He stated that the Board doesn’t have authority to place anyone on suspension, only the Superintendent can do that. He stated that Mr. Barron filed a grievance, and it is going through the administrative process. He further stated that the Board will not get involved until it escalates to a Level III. He stated that he wanted to dispel dysfunction on the Board. He stated there is sometimes disagreements and they are not sheep that follow blindly. He stated that each board member has their own thoughts and ideas and all should be able to express them as long as it’s done with decency and decorum. He stated that they have consistently collaborated with the Superintendent and have passed all items brought to the Board. He challenged anybody to say that the Board has declined what Dr. Puig has brought. He stated that they hold Board members and administration accountable for student outcomes and policy issues, not because of a good ol’ boy system but because it is mandated by policy and the need to ensure that all leadership at the district is working for the best interest of the precious children and education that our families have entrusted in us.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Resolution of the Board Regarding Extension of Leave for Employee Quarantine

Israel Jimenez, Executive Director of Human Resources and Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent, were called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion: I move that the Board of Trustees accepts the Superintendent’s recommendation and approves the Resolution as presented, Mrs. Alderete seconded

Mr. Rodriguez amended the motion: I would like to amend the motion that we approve the Resolution as amended by the Superintendent, Mrs. Prado seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0 to approve. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete	X		
Gilbert Rodriguez	X		
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

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 so 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

Consultation with Legal Counsel to determine if any action is appropriate for the Superintendent's conduct during the Closed Session of the August 18, 2021 Board Meeting as it relates to Board Policy BJA.

Consultation with Legal Counsel relative to allegations of violations of Texas Penal Code 32.53 and Texas Penal Code 31.02 by Trustee Stacey Alderete upon an employee of the South San Antonio Independent School District.

Consultation with Legal Counsel to determine if any action is appropriate for the unprofessional, disruptive, and violent behavior by a Trustee during the Closed Session of the August 18, 2021 Board Meeting in violation of Board Operating Procedures.

Consultation with legal counsel regarding status of TEA SAI investigation.

Consultation with legal counsel regarding request by TEA Legal Counsel that Trustee Gilbert Rodriguez cease and desist from communicating directly with the Commissioner of Education, TEA agents and employees, and TEA Legal Counsel.

Discussion regarding the retention of the Law Firm J. Cruz & Associates, LLC by the Superintendent and any other matter related thereto.

Discussion concerning personnel matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074.

Start time: 6:39 PM.

End time: 12:01 AM.

OPEN SESSION

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

Consultation with Legal Counsel to determine if any action is appropriate for the Superintendent's conduct during the Closed Session of the August 18, 2021 Board Meeting as it relates to Board Policy BJA

Mr. Flores made a motion: I move that the South San Antonio Board of Trustees authorize the Board President to coordinate with legal counsel in the preparation and issuance of a written reprimand to Dr. Marc Puig for dereliction of his employment duties to the Board of Trustees, seconded by Mrs. Prado

Mr. Rodriguez made a substitute motion: My motion is that this Board does not take any adverse action for Dr. Puig as our Superintendent for SSAISD, seconded by Mrs. Alderete, and the Board of Trustees voted 2/5. Motion failed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete	X		
Gilbert Rodriguez	X		
Connie Prado		X	

Shirley Ibarra		X	
Homer Flores		X	
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.		X	
Gina Villagomez		X	

The Board of Trustees voted 5/2 to approve. Motion passed.

(Mr. Flores made a motion: I move that the South San Antonio Board of Trustees authorize the Board President to coordinate with legal counsel in the preparation and issuance of a written reprimand to Dr. Marc Puig for dereliction of his employment duties to the Board of Trustees, seconded by Mrs. Prado)

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete		X	
Gilbert Rodriguez		X	
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

Consultation with Legal Counsel relative to allegations of violations of Texas Penal Code 32.53 and Texas Penal Code 31.02 by Trustee Stacey Alderete upon an employee of the South San Antonio Independent School District.

Mr. Arellano said there are no actions

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion: I make a motion that this Board issue a public apology to Mrs. Alderete specifically from the Board President Mr. Arrellano for having this item on the agenda, it is inappropriate and not within our authority, Mrs. Alderete seconded

Mr. Flores made a substitute motion: I move that we take no action on this agenda item, seconded by Ms. Villagomez, and the Board of Trustees voted 5/2. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete		X	
Gilbert Rodriguez		X	
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

Consultation with Legal Counsel to determine if any action is appropriate for the unprofessional, disruptive, and violent behavior by a Trustee during the Closed Session of the August 18, 2021 Board Meeting in violation of Board Operating Procedures.

Closed session item 3 – Mr. Arrellano stated: I will provide a motion that the Board President re-read the Resolution of South San Antonio Independent School District Board of Trustees regarding Trustee Gilbert Rodriguez censure document, Mr. Flores seconded, Resolution read aloud by Mr. Arrellano, and the Board of Trustees voted 2/5 to approve. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete		X	

Gilbert Rodriguez		X	
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

Consultation with legal counsel regarding status of TEA SAI investigation

Mr. Flores made a motion: I move that the counsel proceed as directed in closed session, Ms.

Villagomez seconded

Mr. Rodriguez's made a substitute motion: I move that we do not direct legal counsel to proceed as directed in closed session, Mrs. Alderete seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 2/5. Motion failed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete	X		
Gilbert Rodriguez	X		
Connie Prado		X	
Shirley Ibarra		X	
Homer Flores		X	
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.		X	
Gina Villagomez		X	

The Board of Trustees voted 5/2 to approve. Motion passed.

(Mr. Flores made a motion: I move that the counsel proceed as directed in closed session, Ms. Villagomez seconded)

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete		X	
Gilbert Rodriguez		X	
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

Consultation with legal counsel regarding request by TEA Legal Counsel that Trustee Gilbert Rodriguez cease and desist from communicating directly with the Commissioner of Education, TEA agents and employees, and TEA Legal Counsel.

Mr. Arrellano stated: that was already addressed during the censure

No action taken

Discussion regarding the retention of the Law Firm J. Cruz & Associates, LLC by the Superintendent and any other matter related thereto.

Mr. Flores made a motion: I would like to make a motion on a reprimand for violating districts procurement policies, I move that the South San Antonio Board of Trustees authorize the Board President to coordinate with legal counsel in the preparation and issuance of a written reprimand to Dr. Marc Puig for violations of the districts school board procurement policies, seconded by Ms. Ibarra

Mr. Rodriguez made a substitute motion: I move that this Board of Trustees does not reprimand

Dr. Marc Puig Superintendent of South San Antonio ISD for exercising his legal right as a Superintendent, Mrs. Alderete seconded and the Board of Trustees voted 5/2. Motion failed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete	X		
Gilbert Rodriguez	X		
Connie Prado		X	
Shirley Ibarra		X	
Homer Flores		X	
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.		X	
Gina Villagomez		X	

The Board of Trustees voted 2/5 to approve. Motion passed.

(I would like to make a motion on a reprimand for violating districts procurement policies. I move that the South San Antonio Board of Trustees authorize the Board President to coordinate with legal counsel in the preparation and issuance of a written reprimand to Dr. Marc Puig for violations of the districts school board procurement policies, seconded by Ms. Ibarra)

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete		X	
Gilbert Rodriguez		X	
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

Discussion concerning personnel matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074.

No action taken

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Alderete moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Rodriguez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:52 AM.

ATTEST

Ernesto Arrellano 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.

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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.