

No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Region One Education Service Center Election of Board of Directors

SUBMITTED BY: Juan J. Cruz **OF:** School Attorney

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: March 22, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve the Region One Education Service Center Election of Board of Directors.

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

Doyle Clark was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. Doyle Clark is a life-long learner, always striving for excellence. He earned bachelor degrees in Business Marketing, Business Management, Accounting, and has a Master's degree in Business Administration. Doyle has wide-ranging and comprehensive work experience, ranging from Labor Relations, Field Appraiser, and Licensed Real Estate Broker, Managing Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Cases, and working for an Investment Company. Doyle has a passion for growth and development, and sharing his knowledge with others. He has taught online and classroom courses as an adjunct instructor at Park University in Kansas City, Missouri. In 2009, Mr. Clark moved to Harlingen, Texas to serve as an In- Home Caregiver to his mother who was fighting cancer. Since living in the Rio Grande Valley, Mr. Clark has diligently served in the church, the community, and his mother. Mr. Clark served as an Usher, Junior Warden and on the Vestry Committee of St. Andrews by the Sea Episcopal Church. Mr. Clark believes that community involvement is critical for any community to grow and prosper. He was the Director for the Winter Outdoor Wildlife Expo held annually for the preservation of the Laguna Madre area, protecting the environment, and God's creatures. He has been a member of the Port Isabel Rotary Club and is now a current member of the Harlingen Rotary Club. He is presently the Project Director for the Rotary End Polio Night with the Vipers, which raises funds and awareness to eradicate Polio globally. At present, Mr. Clark is serving on the Vestry Committee and Ushering at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, and is working on his CPA license. He looks forward to continuing service above self, also being an active and a contributing member of the Rio Grande Valley as it expands and grows.

Ruben Cortez

Biography

The foremost educational official and leader in South Texas, Mr. Ruben Cortez, Jr., member of the Texas State Board of Education, has a long standing and solid record of leadership and policymaking in public education. In 2012, he was elected to the State Board of Education, District 2, representing approximately 1.7 million Texans in 17 counties, which include the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend area. Throughout his professional career and his numerous years in public service at different levels, Ruben Cortez has displayed his dedication to the strengthening of public education and the educational attainment of all Texas students.

Prior to the State Board of Education, Ruben was inspired by his four children and public school district administrator wife to serve on the Brownsville Independent School District School Board working to address the various issues that face border communities and educational systems. It was during that experience that he answered the call to serve on the Texas State Board of Education. Fueled by his passion for advocacy, belief in education as the key to the success of our communities and goal to bring the South Texas perspective and voice to the State level, he fervently serves his district. He is driven to not only address the issues that face South Texas communities but all communities across the state.

Despite a difficult political environment during his time as a State Board of Education Member, Ruben has transcended partisan gridlock and spearheaded the effort to establish a Mexican American Studies course resulting in Texas's first ever call for Mexican American Studies textbooks – an effort that has been highly lauded across the nation, in the K-12 system and higher education. As a member of the School Initiatives Committee, he was also at the forefront of launching a long-range education plan in order to ensure that students, parents and educators alike are provided the support, tools and roadmap needed for success.

Now in this second term, Ruben serves as the Board Secretary, and has increased the amount of appointees from South Texas that review curriculum, textbooks and serve in advisory capacities – thus, fulfilling his mission and promise to solidify South Texas's presence at the educational table.

Outside the Board Room, Ruben has demonstrated a strong commitment to his community, fully immersing himself in the educational arena and tackling education from various angles – locally and nationally. He has served and been a member of the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the National Pre-K legislative committee for the National School Board Association, committee chair and member on several Texas Association of School Board committees and a member on the Region One Education Service Center Board of Directors.

Witnessing and understanding the unique challenges of border communities firsthand, Ruben wants to help build and continually increase the amount of on-ramps to the educational highway and ensure they lead toward success. The educational system that Ruben works toward daily will be the foundational building block needed to achieve the hopes and dreams of Texas children and families.

As a State Board of Education Member, Ruben continues to be a tireless advocate for all Texans – from the Rio Grande Valley to the High Plains – from the Coastal Bend to the Hill Country. He will continue to bring the educational reality to Austin and continue to lead – not from Austin to the classroom but from the classroom to Austin.