

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AUGUST 12, 2024

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

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

VISITORS: Sandra Blanton Holly Bockholt Leroy Espinoza
Bertha Zurick Myra Alaniz Al Morin
Yolanda Morin Janie Velasco Anisa Chavera
Richard Gonzalez

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 6:03 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, Larry Cantu – Present, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Erik Gallegos – Present, and Mario Mesa – Present

Present – 6

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/PRAAYER

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 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 “the Robstown ISD Board of Trustees welcomes comments from citizens on any agenda items or non-agenda items. 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.” Maria Lucio expressed her concerns about the Avina Ammonia Plant and TCEQ. Holly Bockholt implored the Board to deny Avina’s request for a property tax abatement. She also expressed her concerns about building the Avina plant in Robstown.

6.0 **AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS:**

6A **ROBSTOWN ISD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Mike Tamez reported that the Robstown Police Department had lost three police officers to the school district. The police department has never had a badge identification number that officers could take with them when they leave. He ordered badges for all of his Sergeants and he presented the retired badges to the following RISD Police Officers: Leo Champion and Patrick Gonzalez. Ramon Acosta was not present. He wanted to give the school district’s police officers a badge that they could be proud of. Mr. Tamez read a citation for the many years that the three Robstown Police Officers had served with the Robstown Police Department. The badges were well deserved. Also, Mr. Tamez presented the Purple Heart Award to Officer Leo Champion for intervening during a fight between a couple. After the fight was broken up, a male returned and started to struggle with Officer Champion, and during the struggle, Officer Champion got stabbed in the lower abdomen. Regardless of the threat Officer Champion never wavered.

7.0

PRESIDENT REMARKS:

7A

TASA/TASB CONVENTION ON SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2024, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

President Lori Ann Garza reminded the board members about the upcoming TASA/TASB Convention in San Antonio, Texas on September 27-29, 2024, and the board members will be presenting at the conference.

7B

TASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY – SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

President Lori Ann Garza announced that Trustee Cezar Martinez will be the Delegate and Trustee Erik Gallegos will be the alternate at the TASB Delegate Assembly during the TASA/TASB Convention in September.

7C

ROBSTOWN EDUCATION FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT – SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

President Lori Ann Garza reported that the Robstown Education Foundation Golf Tournament would be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, and several board members would be participating.

7D

SCHOOL BOARD CONTINUING EDUCATION RECORD – NOVEMBER 1, 2023, THROUGH NOVEMBER 1, 2024

President Lori Ann Garza announced that everyone should have in front of them a copy of the board training hours and what they are still lacking. Ms. Padilla will forward the training that you are still lacking.

Trustee Cezar Martinez asked for a moment of silence for Katie Saenz, one of the founding board members of the RISD Education Foundation, who recently passed away.

8.0

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS:

8A

TASB INVESTMENT POOL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Marc Puig congratulated President Lori Ann Garza for being selected as the Chairperson of the TASB Lone Star Investment Pool.

8B

TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION – AUGUST 15, 2024 – VIRTUAL
6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

Dr. Marc Puig announced that they would be hosting a virtual trustee candidate session on August 15, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The session would be beneficial to anyone interested in running for the school board.

8C

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Marc Puig reported that the first day of school was this Wednesday and the administration will be out and about greeting students and parents. He congratulated the Business Office and Board for receiving a “Superior” rating on the FIRST Rating Report. He was very proud that the school district received the “Superior” rating for its financial stewardship. On August 13, they are hosting a virtual meeting at 2:00 p.m. for all staff members to go over the

salaries that the Board has approved. He reviewed the teacher salaries for the past three years and the raises that were given. The school district is healthy financially and they will be able to do major repairs and renovations. One of the big repairs is the field house, and they are working on making the building safe and looking at other options.

9.0
9A

PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

CITY OF ROBSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT'S UTILIZATION OF SERVICES REPORT

Chief Mike Tamez presented the Robstown Police Department's Utilization of Services Report to the Board. He reported that a question had been raised on what services the police department was going to provide to the school district. During the 2023-2024 school year, they have received 2096 calls for service. The school district is not registered, and the city's ordinance states that all school districts should be registered with the Robstown Police Department so that every time the alarm goes off they can show up. A total of \$19,100 has been spent on false alarms and the school district has never been charged. He presented a breakdown of calls for service per hour, fuel analysis, and dispatcher costs. Chief Kevin Behr from Beeville, Texas shared some of the bumps that they have had at Beeville ISD when they first started setting up the police department. Chief Behr recommended that the school district and the police department get together and meet to iron out what services are needed. After discussion, Mr. Tamez requested an amount of \$60,000 for all of their services.

9B

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Adriana Tagle presented the board members with QR codes for the professional development that was held on August 5th, 6th, and 9th. She reported that workshops were held on content and curriculum support, new assistant principal PLC meetings, new teacher support, principal PLCs, and they participated in a learning walk by watching a video of a teacher teaching. She shared pictures of the Tech Net conference that was put together by Rachel Medrano, and they had an elementary conference called "Bright Beginnings." Dr. Marc Puig led a session on customer service, police officers led several sessions, and Cage Perry and Amanda Perry presented. In addition to the professional development, social workers also presented several sessions. They have received the curriculum for the different vocational courses and the interactive TVs. The teaching and learning team will continue to support campus leaders on the four pillars, and continue supporting teachers by mentoring them. The projected enrollment was at 2568 and last year they were at 2508 on snapshot.

9C

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Dr. Marc Puig reported that there was no athletic department update at this time.

9D

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Tito Tagle presented pictures of what the police vehicles would look like once

they have finished putting on the school district's logo, etc. They are having one vehicle painted per week. The officers started on July 15, 2024, and they have been busy taking the training that is required of them. A meeting was held with the social workers for three days covering all the different aspects of the social worker's side as far as children were concerned. They have taken their psychological and threat assessment training and completed their weapon certification last week. They have made contact with the court system because some of the laws have changed. He has met with the alarm company to find out what alarms are going off and most of them are the same ones that keep going off.

9E

M & O UPDATE

Ron Lawver reported that they are working on wrapping up the summer. Phase 1 and Phase II of Ortiz Intermediate School has been completed, the Seale Jr. High School painting project is 100% complete, and the gym floor has been repaired. At the parking lot, the company has been pouring concrete every Wednesday and Friday, and next week they will bring in a sweeper and start striping it. Every campus has air-conditioning at this time. The electrical issue at Hattie Martin has been fixed, they need to finish the second chiller at Seale Jr. High School and the elementary campuses, they have installed new swings and power-washed all of the playground equipment, and they have sprayed pest control inside and outside at every campus. At this time, they have only received two of the buses because one of them was damaged and they needed to fix it. They will be able to pick it up after it has been fixed. The old buses have been inspected and are ready to go. He has completed walk-throughs of all of the campuses to make sure that they are ready to go on the first day of school.

9F

RISD DONATIONS

Dr. Marc Puig reported that the following companies had submitted donations to the school district: 1) Hair by Lauren Beauty Salon, 2) Hermanos Soliz #4, 3) Genesis Trucking, and 4) Vitality Nutrition. Some of these companies have committed to giving donations every month.

9G

LIST OF BILLS

President Lori Ann Garza asked if anyone had any questions about the list of bills. There were no questions.

9H

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Dr. Marc Puig pointed out that the revenues have exceeded expenditures at this point. The revenues over expenditures at the end of the month will change because of budget amendments that were approved.

10.0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

10A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10B

APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT #12

10C

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REGARDING EXTRACURRICULAR STATUS OF 4-H ORGANIZATION FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

- 10D APPROVAL OF ADJUNCT FACULTY AGREEMENT BETWEEN NUECES COUNTY AND RISD FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR
 - 10E DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT AND ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM
- Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving items number 10A-10D. He asked to table taking any action on item number 10E until the next board meeting because some changes still needed to be made to the MOU.

Motion #7462 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:21 p.m.

11.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 11A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MAJESTY OUTDOORS

Nataline Hall reported that the Majesty Outdoor Program meets every Tuesday starting at 6:00 p.m. at Ortiz Intermediate School. The program empowers students at no cost to the school district. Pastor Dave Cotham reported that Majesty Outdoors is in the business of shadowing fatherless students. The program helps build relationships and they also have a program for single moms. Both programs help students who don’t have a father. Leeroy Espinoza reported that the program was launched back in January of 2024 and it has already made an impact on the families in the community. In January a few families showed up with limited support from positive male roles. After their launch, the first lesson was on fishing. After the lesson, they take them fishing and some students have never fished before. He had a student who was getting impatient because he had not caught any fish. A mentor asked him to follow directions and once he followed the directions he caught a fish. The excitement on his face was just phenomenal once he caught a fish. The mother told him that she found out that her son could sit still for over an hour, be patient, and he could follow directions. He thanked the Board for their support. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion #7463 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Majesty Outdoors as presented.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:37 p.m.

11B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE INNOVATIVE COURSES FOR THE 2024-2025 COURSE CATALOG
Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Innovative Courses for the 2024-2025 Course Catalog as presented.

Motion #7464 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:39 p.m.

11C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TASB LOCAL POLICY MANUAL UPDATE 123, AFFECTING THE FOLLOWING LOCAL POLICIES: BBD, BBFA, CCGB, CKC, CQC DCE, DGBA, EEH, EF, EFA, EFB, FNG, AND GF
Dr. Marc Puig stated that the local policies were recommended by TASB. He pointed out that local policy, BBFA – Ethics Conflict of Interest Disclosure had been updated as follows: “A board member shall disclose to the board any personal financial interest, business interest, or obligation or relationship that in any way creates a potential conflict of interest with a vote on a pending matter.” After discussion, Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving TASB Local Policy Manual Update 123, affecting the following local policies: BBD, BBFA, CCGB, CKC, CQC, DCE, DGBA, EEH, EF, EFA, EFB, FNG, and GF as presented.

Motion #7465 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:42 p.m.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION - SECTIONS 551.074

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

Motion #7466 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to go into executive session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.074.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:43 p.m.

Motion #7467 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to reconvene from the executive session.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:47 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 discussed in executive session.

Motion #7468 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee L. Cantu to reconvene from the executive session.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:48 p.m.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion #7469 A motion was made by Trustee L. Cantu and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:49 p.m.

(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated 08/12/24, except for the executive session.)