

**Region One Education Service Center
Board of Directors Meeting**

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF HIDALGO § **August 24, 2017**

Minutes

The Board of Directors met on **Thursday, August 24, 2017** at Region One Education Service Center. **Mrs. Alicia E. Requenez, Chairperson, established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.** Mrs. Requenez asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Abel Cavazos, former Region One ESC Board of Director who recently passed away. The invocation was given by Executive Director, Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge were led by Board Secretary, Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez.

Members Present Mrs. Alicia E. Requenez, Chairperson; Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Pete Garcia, Secretary (arrived at 11:14 a.m.); Mr. Raul R. Chapa, Mr. Ruben Cortez, Jr., Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr., Mrs. Laura A. McCoy (via videoconference), Mr. Rey Hernandez, Board Members.

Member Absent None

Others Present Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez, Executive Director; Dr. Eduardo Cancino, Deputy Director; Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Deputy Director; Ms. Frances Guzman, Deputy Director; Ms. Connie Lopez, Deputy Director; Ms. Amanda Galvan, Ms. Annette S. Garcia, Ms. Melissa Aguero Ramirez, Ms. Lori Ramos, Ms. Angela I. Rocha, staff; Mr. Jose Guerrero, ESC attorney.

Public Hearing Mrs. Alicia E. Requenez, Board Chairperson, welcomed the Region One Superintendents and Charter School Directors on behalf of the Board of Directors and ESC staff.

A Public Hearing was held to announce the Region One ESC 2016-2017 Student Performance Results, F.I.R.S.T. Performance Ratings (Preliminary) for 2016-2017 based on the 2015-2016 school year, Survey of Region One ESC Services, and District/Charter School Recognition Awards.

Dr. Eduardo Cancino, Deputy Director for Instructional Support Services provided an overview of the state performance system and explained that the state accountability system is based on a Performance Index Framework Design consisted of 1) Student Achievement, 2) Student Progress, 3) Closing Performance Gaps, and 4) Postsecondary Readiness.

Dr. Cancino explained that districts, campuses and charters are labeled either a Met Standard or Needs Improvement in the current rating system.

In a comparison of the percent of campuses throughout the state that reached the Met Standard level, schools in the Region One area reached a 99% achievement level. Region One schools have demonstrated improvements dropping to only 1% of campuses in the Needs Improvement category.

School districts and campuses that receive a Met Standard rating are also eligible to receive Distinction Designations for Outstanding Achievement for Academic Achievement in ELA/Reading, Mathematics, Science, Top 25% Student Progress, Top 5% Closing Achievement Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness. Dr. Cancino reported that the Region One area bested the student performance of other education service center regions topping the percentage of eligible campuses earning one or more distinctions.

ESC Board of Directors awarded a plaque to each of the districts and charter schools for achieving recognition status.

Frances Guzman, Deputy Director for Business, Operations & Finance Support, presented districts' preliminary Financial Integrity Ratings System (FIRST) ratings (based on the 2015-2016 school year), the state's financial accountability system. Mrs. Guzman noted that districts were rated on 15 indicators which address timely filing of the district's audit, debt and debt ratio, solvency, staffing, and financial competency, among other issues. This year, the scoring system was adjusted and districts received an A-F rating. An "A", or Superior scoring, received 90-100 points, "B", or Above Standard, received 80-89 points, a "C", or Meets Standard received 70-79 points, and an "F", or Substandard Achievement received 0-59 points or fail one of the five designated Critical Indicators. As on the instructional side, Region One school districts continued to perform well in comparison with other school districts across the state.

Dr. Tony Lara, Jr., Deputy Director for Administrative Leadership, School, and Community Support, briefed the audience on the Survey of Region One Services. Initiated by the Texas Education Agency, the survey was conducted from November 15, 2016-December 31, 2016. It was administered by the University of Texas Organizational Excellence Group to superintendents and administrators at the districts and charter schools.

Ms. Sara Alvarado, Superintendent of Lasara ISD and Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Advisory Council of Superintendents, stated that school districts in the Region One area were pleased with the services provided by the Region One Education Service Center and that the success of students in our Region is due in part to the collaboration between districts and the Service Center working together.

Recess

Mrs. Alicia E. Requenez, Chairperson, recessed the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Reconvene

Mrs. Alicia E. Requenez, Chairperson, reconvened the meeting at 12:52 p.m. Mr. Pete Garcia, Board Secretary was not present for the remainder of the meeting.

Public Comment

No groups or individuals were present to address the board.

Executive Director's Report

TASB Salary Study Report

Dr. Gonzalez provided the Board a report on a TASB Salary Survey commissioned by Region One to review the current compensation plan of the ESC to ensure salaries are competitive with the market (comparable sized school districts). Following an evaluation of both exempt and non-exempt salary structures, it was determined that the current pay structure of exempt staff is 1% over the market rate and pay structure of the non-exempt staff is 2% over the current market. However, the TASB report did indicate that the mid-point of the Region One pay scale structure is slightly below market rates. In the final report, TASB recommended an adjustment to the ESC salary structure, across all pay grades, by increasing the maximum of every pay grade allowing for greater salary growth.

Personnel Matters

**Additions/New:
Assignments**

Graciela Avalos
Office of Special Education
Special Education Specialist
Effective – June 6, 2017

Alexandria Lupercio
Office of College, Career & Life Readiness
EOC Transition Facilitator
Effective – June 1, 2017

Connie Lopez
Office of Business, Operations, and Finance
Support
Deputy Director
Effective – August 1, 2017

Gabriel Villalobos
Office of Information Technology
Software Engineer
Effective – August 14, 2017

Resignations:

Tina Atkins
Office of College, Career, & Life Readines
Administrator
Reason: Personal
Effective – August 31, 2017

Margie Barrera
School Improvement/Accountability &
Compliance
Director – Instructional Support
Reason: Personal
Effective – August 11, 2017

Maria Del Carmen Garcia
Brownsville Satellite Office
Director – Brownsville
Reason: Personal
Effective – July 31, 2017

Gaudy Montemayor
Adult Education
Instructor
Reason: Personal
Effective – August 14, 2017

Nancy Sanchez
Office of Information Technology
Specialist – Business Analyst
Reason: Personal
Effective – July 31, 2017

Check Register – Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez, Executive Director, informed the Board that the Center’s check registers for the months of June and July, 2017 were included for their review.

On a motion made by Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the following items (Items 7-25):

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| Minutes of June 20, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting | Approval of the minutes of the June 20, 2017 Board of Directors meeting as presented. |
| Budget Amendments for June, July and August, 2017 | Approval of the Budget Amendments for June, July and August, 2017 as presented. |
| Expenditure Reports as of July 31, 2017 | Approval of the Expenditure Reports as of July 31, 2017 as presented. |
| Quarterly Investment Reports | Approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017 as presented. |
| Resolution for Review of Public Funds Investment Policy and Strategies | Approval of the resolution for the review of Public Funds Investment Policy and Strategies. |

Resolution to Update Individuals Authorized to Initiate Banking Transactions at Lone Star National Bank	Approval of the Resolution to Update Individuals Authorized to sign the name of the Center to all checks on all Region One Education Service Center bank funds.
Resolution to Commit Fund Balance for Program Services	Approval of the Resolution to commit no more than \$1,544,000 to fund balance for program services.
Resolution to Commit Fund Balance for Construction	Approval of the Resolution to commit \$1,000,000 to fund balance for construction, as proposed.
Region One Education Service Center E-Rate Consultant Services RFQ 16-AGENCY-000026	Approval of the e-Rate Consultant RFQ 16-AGENCY-000026 rankings based on the published evaluation criteria and interview scores, allowing administration to negotiate with the first ranked proposer, and if negotiations fail, negotiate with the second ranked proposer.
Child Nutrition Program-South Texas Cooperative Frozen Dessert Products, RFP 16-AGENCY-000029	Approval of the Child Nutrition Program-South Texas Cooperative Frozen Dessert Products RFP 16-AGENCY-000029 to the following vendors: <i>Facundo Salinas Jr. dba La Brisa South Texas Distribution</i> - Mission, TX; <i>Hill Country Dairies</i> – Austin, TX; <i>JP Ice Cream Distributors</i> – Pharr, TX; <i>Labatt Food Service</i> – San Antonio, TX; <i>Ormic Concessions Inc.</i> – Brownsville, TX.
Region One Purchasing Cooperative Integrated Pest Management Services, RFP 16-AGENCY-000030	Approval of the Region One Purchasing Cooperative Integrated Pest Management Services, RFP 16-AGENCY-000030 to the following vendors: <i>Kill-A-Bug</i> - McAllen, TX; <i>Little Joe's Insect and Pest Control Co.</i> – Donna, TX.
Texas Energy Center Energy Aggregation and Consultant Services, RFP 16-AGENCY-000031	Approval of rejecting all responses to the Texas Energy Center Energy Aggregation and Consultant Services RFP 16-AGENCY-000031 due to the limited response.
Region One Purchasing Cooperative Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)/State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Aligned Assessment Item Bank RFP 16-AGENCY-000032	Approval of the Region One Purchasing Cooperative Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)/State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Aligned Assessment Item Bank RFP 16-AGENCY-000032 to the following vendors: <i>Illuminate Education</i> , Irvine, CA; <i>Region One Education Service Center</i> , Edinburg, TX; <i>SchoolCity, Inc.</i> , Santa Clara, CA.
Texas Energy Center Energy Supply and Related Services RFP 16-03-12-E1, Extension 1 of 4	Approval of the Texas Energy Center Energy Supply and Related Services Proposal 16-03-12, Extension 1 of 4, to the following vendors: <i>Constellation NewEnergy</i> – Houston TX; <i>Hudson Energy</i> – Houston TX; <i>Reliant Energy</i> – Houston, TX; <i>Source Power & Gas LLC</i> – Beasley, TX.

Independent Auditor Services, RFQ 13-03-10, Extension 3 of 4

Approval of the Independent Auditor Services RFQ 13-03-10, Extension 3 of 4 to **Patillo, Brown and Hill, Brownsville, TX.**

Region One Purchasing Cooperative Efficiency Services, RFP 15-04-09, Extension 1 of 1

Approval of the Region One Purchasing Cooperative Efficiency Services RFP 15-04-09, Extension 1 of 1, to the following vendors: **E3 Entegral Solutions, Inc.** – Highland Village, TX; **Gibson Consulting Group** - Austin, TX; **Moak, Casey and Associates, Inc.** – Austin, TX; **Prismatic Services** – Huntersville, NC.

Region One Purchasing Cooperative Promotional Merchandise and Services RFP 15-04-10, Extension 1 of 1

Approval of the Region One Purchasing Cooperative Promotional Merchandise and Services, Proposal 15-04-10, Extension 1 of 1 to the following vendors: **ABC Custom Advertising** – McAllen, TX; **ASAP Printing Solutions** – McAllen, TX; **Authentic Promotions.com** – Carmichael, CA; **Blue Moose Tees** – Arlington, TX; **Cielo Office Products** – McAllen, TX; **Corporate Incentives** – The Woodlands, TX; **Curtis 1000** – Duluth, GA; **Custom Sportswear** – Sewell, NJ; **Dance Time** – Weslaco, TX; **Elite Promotions** – Brownsville, TX; **The Grafik Spot** – Brownsville, TX; **House of Ribbons** – Lago Vista, TX; **I Love Bling Apparel and Promotional Products** – McAllen, TX; **Imprint Resources** – Richardson, TX; **IPromoteU** – Dallas, TX; **K.C. Ad Specialties** – McAllen, TX; **Lamac** – McAllen, TX; **Lee's School Supplies** – Midlothian, TX; **Little Green Apples** – McAllen, TX; **Paddle Tramps / Awardplace.com** – Lubbock, TX; **PepWear** – Cedar Hills, TX; **Positive Promotions** – Hauppauge, NY; **Proud Printing** – La Feria, TX; **Raymond Geddes and Co.** – Baltimore, MD; **Sala Printing Service** – Dallas, TX; **School Life** – Spring, TX; **Specialty Advertisers** – Brownsville, TX; **World of Promotions** – Elk Grove Village, IL.

Region One ESC Creative Services Department

Approval of the creation of the Region One ESC Creative Services Department to provide public relations and marketing support to districts and charter schools.

Region One ESC Regional Fiber Network Consortium

Approval of the Region One ESC Regional Fiber Network Consortium.

Region One ESC Delegate And Alternate Appointments To TASB 2017 Delegate Assembly

Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr. moved and Mr. Raul R. Chapa seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez as the Region One ESC Delegate and Mr. Ruben Cortez as Alternate to the TASB 2017 Delegate Assembly. The motion carried unanimously.

Salary Schedules for 2017-2018

Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved and Mr. Ruben Cortez seconded the motion to approve the proposed salary schedules for Administrative / Professionals, Support Personnel & Part-time Positions for 2017-2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Region One ESC Employer Contribution to TRS Active Care for 2017-2018

Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez moved and Mr. Raul R. Chapa seconded the motion to approve the Region One Education Service Center employer contribution to TRS Active Care for 2017-2018, as presented. Based upon current rate increases, the ESC would need to increase the current contribution of \$607.58 for health and other fringe benefits by \$10 for the 2017-2018 school year in order to cover the standard premium increase for its full time employees (SubHub/Temporary Teacher-\$251.00 and Adult Ed. Part Time Instructors-\$225.00). The motion carried unanimously.

2017-2018 Official Budget-General Fund Only

Mr. Ruben Cortez moved and Mr. Raul R. Chapa seconded the motion to approve the 2017-2018 Official Budget General Fund only. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment to Closed or Executive Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072 of the Open Meeting Act

Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr. moved and Mr. Ruben Cortez seconded the motion to convene the meeting into Executive Session at 1:10 p.m. pursuant to the Texas Government Code Section 551.071 of the Open Meetings Act for the following purposes:

- A. Consultation with legal counsel on pending litigation: Case 7:16-cv-00544; Springboards To Education, Inc. v. Region One Education Service Center, Nora Galvan, Brenda Huston, J. Ann Vega and Laura Sheneman

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Alicia E. Requenez, Board Chairperson, reconvened the meeting into Open Session at 1:47 p.m.

Reconvene into Open Session for Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session

The Board announced in open session the following action on items discussed in Executive Session:

- A. Pending litigation: Case 7:16-cv-00544; Springboards To Education, Inc. v. Region One Education Service Center, Nora Galvan, Brenda Huston, J. Ann Vega and Laura Sheneman

No action was taken on item A as discussed in Executive Session.

Suggestions for Future

No suggestions were made for future meetings.

Announcements

The following announcements were shared with the Board:

- A. Upcoming Events (Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez)

September, 2017

- Region One ESC Board of Directors Meeting–September 19, 2017 – Region One ESC, Edinburg, Texas

October, 2017

- TASA/TASB Annual Convention – October 6-8, 2017 – Dallas, Texas
- Region One ESC Board of Directors Meeting – October 17, 2017 – Region One ESC, Edinburg, Texas

November, 2017

- Region One ESC Board of Directors Meeting – November 28, 2017 –
Region One ESC, Laredo, Texas

Adjournment

Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr. moved and Mr. Ruben Cortez seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Alicia E. Requenez
Board Chairperson

ATTEST:

Pete Garcia
Board Secretary