

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EAGLE PASS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees of the Eagle Pass Independent School District held a Regular Meeting on March 08, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. at the District Service Center Boardroom, located on 1420 Eidson Road, Eagle Pass, TX 78852.

### Board Members Present:

Ms. Lupita Fuentes, President  
Dr. Hector Alvarez, Secretary  
Ms. Glenna Purcell, Trustee  
Mr. Ignacio J. Saucedo, Trustee  
Mr. Humberto Torralba Jr., Trustee  
Mr. Rudy Bowles, Trustee

### Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Hilda P. Martinez, Vice President

**Superintendent of Schools:** Mr. Gilberto Gonzalez.

**Attorney:** Mr. Richard Strieber, Law Firm Escamilla & Poneck.

**Staff Members and Visitors Present:** The sign-in sheet hereby becomes a part of these minutes.

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Board President, Lupita Fuentes called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Superintendent Gilberto Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### III. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION/ RECOGNITIONS:

Eagle Pass High School student, and parents addressed the Board of Trustees and Superintendent in reference to the transfer of Principal Mr. Vale Moreno, from Eagle Pass High to Darr Elementary. Parents and students requested Mr. Moreno's reinstatement to high school and politics put aside. Eagle Pass High was **Recognized** and ranked as one of the best high schools Nationally under Mr. Moreno. EPH students are extremely honored to attend a school with such recognition as demonstrated by a walkout of 800 students on January 21, 2016. Parents requested transparency, the reason for Mr. Moreno's transfer if he was doing an excellent job at high school. Parents are extremely disappointed how the district treated the situation of the student protesters. At minimum students should have been acknowledged for exercising the right to protest peacefully in this country. We do understand that students were considered truant and put themselves in danger, but students chose that time as the board decided to hold meeting at a time where students and parents would not be able to attend. It was the district's/board's decision and lack of thinking to have meeting at that time that put our children in jeopardy and the consequences it would create. We feel that the district or someone in the district is responsible for putting our children at risk. We the parents feel the district was wrong for not letting the parents know if Mr. Moreno was not doing his job to standards, therefore he was transferred. We ask for transparency, for respect for the students, taxpayers, and the parents. **Board President Fuentes explained to those not familiar with the Citizen's Communication... how the Board can only listen to the comments made.**

1. **Recognition of Armando Cerna's Elementary Stallion Varsity Cheerleaders for their 1<sup>st</sup> Place win at the Southern National Competition.** Melissa Gratkowski, Public Relations Officer made the introduction and recognition of Cerna Elementary Stallion Varsity Cheerleaders for their 1<sup>st</sup> place win. A group picture was taken.

2. **Recognition of Mrs. Jessica Ramon, Teacher for the heroic act at Armando Cerna Elementary.** Ms. Melissa Gratkowski, Public Relations Officer made the introduction of Mrs. Jessica Ramon for her heroic action in aiding a student who was gasping for air as the student was choking on a piece of food. Mrs. Ramon is a retired Veteran and is CPR trained. She called 911 and had students get the nurse as she performed the Heimlich maneuver and was able to dislodge the food that was blocking the student's airway. The Student Council addressed the Board and Superintendent on Mrs. Ramon's behalf. A group picture was taken.

#### IV. DISTRICT REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Financial Report.** How is the 162-fund budget Transportation? 162 funds for transportation are good for this time of year, should not have problems in this account.
2. **Utility Report.** Are utilities lower since the savings we've been...? There is a savings in our utilities.
3. **Tax Collection Report.** No questions from the Board of Trustees.

#### V. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve the Diesel Technology Affiliation Agreement between Eagle Pass ISD and the Southwest Texas Junior College. **Motion by Trustee Bowles, second by Trustee Torralba. Granted 6/0.**
2. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to accept donation of copies of the book "Warriors of the Rio Grande" for the Junior High Schools Libraries. **Motion by Trustee Bowles second by Trustee Alvarez to accept donation. Granted 6/0.**
3. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve proposed Policy DED (Local) as received from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). **Motion by Trustee Bowles second by Trustee Purcell. Granted 6/0.**
4. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve proposed Policy DEC (Local) as received from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). **Motion by Trustee Bowles second by Trustee Purcell. Granted 6/0.**
5. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to authorize the Superintendent or Designee to enter into a contract and make related budgeted purchases as per Board Policy CH for Pest Abatement District-Wide pursuant to the Texas Education Code Section 44.031 (H) in order to avoid imminent disruption of classes and other essential school activities. **Motion by Trustee Bowles second by Trustee Purcell. Granted 6/0.**

#### VI. CONSENT ITEMS:

It was the Consensus of the Board to consider items 1 - 3 in one motion. **Motion by Trustee Purcell, second by Trustee Bowles. Granted 6/0.**

1. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve the minutes of the February 09, 2016, (Regular) Board Meeting. **Item previously considered.**
2. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar. **Item previously considered.** (Option B- Labor Day is included, classes end June 1<sup>st</sup> and Staff Development June 2<sup>nd</sup>.)
3. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve the revised list of 2015-2016 Teacher Appraisers. **Item previously considered.**

**VII. CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, 551.083 and 551.084 Texas Government Code: PERSONNEL MATTERS: Under Section 551.074 Texas Government Code, to deliberate the appointments, employment, evaluations, reassignments, duties, discipline, or dismissal of public officers or employee; or to hear complaints or charges against an officer or employee:

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:55 P.M. Pursuant to Section §551.071, §551.072, §551.074, §551.082, §551.083 and §551.084 of the Texas Government Code. **Motion by Trustee Torralba second by Trustee Alvarez, to convene into Closed Session. Granted 6/0.**

1. The Board will discuss the request to hire personnel to fill vacancies pursuant to TGC 551.074.
2. The Board will discuss the request to hire a professional employee to serve as PEIMS Coordinator subject to possible future reassignment by the Superintendent. TGC 551.074.
3. The Board will discuss the request to approve Term Contracts as presented.
4. The Board will hear the Level III Grievance of Vale Moreno.

**VIII. OPEN SESSION:**

The Meeting Reconvened at 9:03 P.M.

1. **Consider and take appropriate action on the request to hire personnel to fill vacancies pursuant to TGC 551.074.** Motion by Trustee Saucedo second by Trustee Torralba to approve the request to hire personnel to fill vacancies as discussed in Closed Session. **Granted 6/0.**
2. **Consider and take appropriate action on the request to hire a professional employee to serve as PEIMS Coordinator subject to possible future reassignment by the Superintendent.** Motion by Trustee Purcell second by Trustee Saucedo to approve the request to hire Jose Munoz Jr., to serve as PEIMS Coordinator subject to possible future reassignment by the Superintendent. Motion Carries 5/1-Torralba.
3. **Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve Term Contracts as presented.** Motion by Trustee Purcell second by Trustee Torralba to approve Term Contracts as discussed in Closed Session. **Granted 6/0.**
4. **The Board will take action on the Level III Grievance of Vale Moreno.** No Motion taken. For lack of Motion, item dies.

Board President Fuentes requested legal council, Richard Strieber to give an explanation as to what the limitations of the Board are at this moment.

Attorney Strieber addressed the request and stated that Section 11.201 of the Texas Education Code reserves certain duties and responsibilities to district superintendents throughout the state, and some of those reserve duties includes assuming administrative authority and responsibility for the assignment, supervision and evaluation of all personnel of the district. The district's contracts do have a provision providing for assignment and reassignment as does district policy as well. Under the Education Code, this is the authority of the Superintendent to make these reassignments and assignments.

Board Trustee Saucedo- I respect the authority granted to the superintendent by the Texas Education Code. I respectfully disagree with the decision.

Board Trustee Alvarez- I echo the sentiments upon hearing the recommendations.

Board President Fuentes- I know this is something, and I can understand the comments that are being made, that is the reason I asked Mr. Strieber to give an explanation because we want to make sure that our employees understand the limitations that we as the Board have, and that the community as a whole to understand also... we understand it is a very difficult decision having to support the decision that is being made by the Superintendent, but we are limited as far as what we can do, that is why I asked on behalf of the Board that Mr. Strieber give an explanation.

Attorney Strieber- I want to add in response, also the School Board is not allowed to micro manage the district, there's certain authority reserved to the Superintendent, certain authority reserved to the Board. Again just to reiterate, this is a responsibility duty that is reserved to the Superintendent, it is in the contracts and local policy that the Superintendent can assign and reassign employees.

Board Trustee Torralba- I would like to reflect on Mr. Hector's comment. We looked into the matter carefully, and I could only say it will reflect on the Superintendent's Evaluation on the final outcome of the decision.

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:**

Community Breakfast Wednesday, March 9, 2016

SBM for Friday, 11, 2016

Spring Break starts on Monday March 14-18, 2016

Easter Break will start Friday March 25 – Monday March 28, 2016

Information will be provided to the Board on the passing of Hilda Martinez' grandfather.

- X. ADJOURNMENT:** There, being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M. **Motion by Trustee Saucedo second by Trustee Torralba to adjourn meeting. Granted 6/0.**

**WE AFFIRM THAT THESE MINUTES ARE OFFICIAL, COMPLETE, AND CORRECT.**

**PRESIDENT** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECRETARY** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE MINUTES APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE MINUTES SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EAGLE PASS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees of the Eagle Pass Independent School District held a Special Meeting on March 11, 2016, at 5:00 P.M. at District Service Center Board Meeting Room, 1420 Eidson Road, Eagle Pass, TX 78852

### **Board Members Present:**

Ms. Lupita Fuentes, President  
Mrs. Hilda P. Martinez, Vice President  
Dr. Hector Alvarez, Secretary  
Ms. Glenna Purcell, Trustee  
Mr. Humberto Torralba, Jr., Trustee

### **Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Ignacio J. Saucedo, Trustee  
Mr. Rudy Bowles, Trustee

**Superintendent of Schools:** Mr. Gilberto Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools.

**Attorney:** Absent.

**Staff Members and Visitors Present:** The sign-in sheet hereby becomes a part of these minutes.

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Board President Lupita Fuentes called the meeting to order at 5:08 P.M.

### **II. ACTION ITEM:**

1. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve the Procurement Method of Competitive Sealed Proposal and the Ranking Criteria for High School Field Houses in accordance with Board Policy CV, CVB, and State Guidelines. **Motion by Trustee Martinez, second by Trustee Alvarez to approve Sealed Proposal and the Ranking Criteria for High School Field Houses in accordance to Board Policy CV, CVB, and State Guidelines. Motion Granted 5/0.**

Superintendent: It is brought tonight to commence the competitive procurement process of competitive sealed proposal for contracting the services for the high schools field houses, and is also part of the 5-year plan. The ranking criteria and information corresponding to this proposal is included. It will be for a total of \$2.9 million. In addition the funds from the Special Projects will be used for a total cost of \$4 million.

Board Members questions and concerns were addressed: How are we with the completion of all projects within the 5-year plan, could other projects be added to the budget, would like for coaches to be involved in the design, need to make sure the design is for the sport(s) boys/girls, and not so much or excess space for coaches offices, when will this project be completed, and how will the funds be used. **Most of the completion of the 5-year plan is in the Priorities (1-3), it is not designed yet, will have coaches involved, the cost will include furniture, equipment, and architect fees. The schedule is suggested as having the contract signed for design on March 17, 2016, completion of bid documents, May 26, 2016, bid date of June 30, 2016, Board approval of recommended bid on July 12, 2016, and construction start date of August 01, 2016, completing by June 01, 2017, for a total of a 300 day schedule.**

**III. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Motion by Trustee Purcell, second by Trustee Torralba Jr. **Granted 5/0.**

**WE AFFIRM THAT THESE MINUTES ARE OFFICIAL, COMPLETE, AND CORRECT.**

PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE MINUTES APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE MINUTES SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_