

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER 9, 2023

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Cantu, Vice-President

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent
Diana L. Silvas, Deputy Superintendent
Adriana Tagle, Assistant Superintendent

VISITORS:	Adan Botello	Sandra Blanton	Carol Palacios
	Lisa Persyn	Zelda Martinez	Anisa Chavera
	Maribel Trevino	Norma Cornejo	Veronica Sanchez
	Zelda Martinez		

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 6:00 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 – Absent, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Erik Gallegos – Present, and Mario Mesa – Present

Present – 5

Absent – 1

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 – INSPIRING LIFE-LONG LEARNING BY PROVIDING LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS

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 – EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TODAY TO PREPARE FOR TOMORROW

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

There was no public participation.

6.0

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

6A

PROUD YOU’RE A PICKER AWARD

Veronica Sanchez recognized Melinda Cortinas, Prekinder Teacher at Lotspiech Leadership Academy, as the “Proud You’re a Picker Award” recipient for the month of October 2023.

6B

PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION MONTH

President Lori Ann Garza read the following proclamation that was put out by Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, in honor of Principal Appreciation Month. “Educators equip our next generation of leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. The Texas Education system depends upon the leadership of dedicated principals, who guide their schools in excellence. The commitment, discipline, and support that principals provide ensure student success. Principals must fulfill many needs to make schools effective and to promote student accomplishment. In collaboration with teachers and staff, principals set high academic standards, adopt best practices, and assure compliance with state and federal requirements. Effective principals also function as communicators, policy makers, disciplinarians, and budget analysis. Principals’ devotion to their schools make me proud to call them fellow Texans. Each year, the month of October is set aside to honor principals and to recognize the indispensable role they play in our educational system. The Lone Star State is indebted to principals, who represent the best of Texas values. At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the many contributions and accomplishments of elementary, middle, and high school principals across our state. Principals’ drive for excellence will ensure that Texas’ future will be better and brighter for all. Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 2023 to be Principal Appreciation Month.” On behalf the administration and school board, Adriana Tagle recognized each of the school

district's principals and presented them with a goody basket in appreciation for everything that they day.

7.0

7A

PRESIDENT REMARKS

BOARD PRESIDENT ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON CONTINUING EDUCATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Cezar Martinez announced that the “Board President or presiding officer of the Board must announce the name of each board who has completed the required continuing education, has exceeded the required continuing education; and is deficient in meeting the required continuing education. Whether a board member has completed, exceeded, or is deficient is measured from the anniversary of the date of each board member’s election or appointment to the board or two-year anniversary of his or her previous training, as applicable. TASB interprets deficient to mean that the board member has failed to complete the required continuing education in the time-period provided for by law. Board members must receive education training in the following eight areas: 1) Local District Orientation, 2) Orientation to the Texas Education Code, 3) Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code, 4) Team Building, 5) Additional continuing education based on the framework for governance leadership, 6) Evaluating Student Academic Performance and Setting Goals, 7) Identifying and Reporting Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children, and 8) School Safety. The board meeting minutes must reflect the announcement and whether each trustee has met or is deficient in meeting the required training as of the first anniversary of the date of the trustee’s election or appointment. If the minutes reflect that a trustee is deficient in training, the district must post the minutes on the district’s website within 10 (ten) business days of the meeting and maintain the posting until the trustee meets the requirements (Texas Education Code 11.159; 19 Tex. Admin. Code 61.1). Under the State Board of Education Rule, completing required continuing education each year of service is a basic obligation and expectation of any sitting board member. As the presiding officer of the Board, he is required to announce the name of each member who has completed the required continuing education; has exceeded the required continuing education; and is deficient in meeting the required continuing education. The requirements for training are measured as of the first anniversary of the date of the trustee’s election or appointment or two-year anniversary of his or her previous training, as applicable. Under the Local District Orientation, the following first year board members have completed the Local District Orientation Training: Erik Gallegos and Mario Mesa. Under the Orientation to the Texas Education Code, Erik Gallegos and Mario Mesa have completed it. Under the Post-Legislative Update, the following board members have completed it: Lori Ann Garza, Larry Cantu, Cezar Martinez, Bobby Marroquin, Mario Mesa, and Erik Gallegos, Under the Team Building, the following board members have completed it: Lori Ann Garza, Larry Cantu, Cezar Martinez, Bobby Marroquin, Mario Mesa, and Erik Gallegos. The following board members have completed the ten hours of additional training: Lori Ann Garza, Larry Cantu, Cezar Martinez, Bobby Marroquin, Mario Mesa and Erik Gallegos. The following board members have completed the Evaluating Student Academic Performance and Setting Goals: Lori Ann Garza, Larry Cantu, Cezar

Martinez, Bobby Marroquin, Mario Mesa and Erik Gallegos. The following board members have completed the Identifying and Reporting Abuse, Trafficking, and other Maltreatment of Children: Lori Ann Garza, Larry Cantu, Cezar Martinez, Bobby Marroquin, Erik Gallegos, and Mario Mesa. The following board members have completed the Biennial Training on School Safety: Lori Ann Garza, Larry Cantu, Cezar Martinez, Bobby Marroquin, Erik Gallegos, and Mario Mesa. Board member Lori Ann Garza exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 27.75 additional hours, board member Larry Cantu exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 19.75 additional hours, Board member Cezar Martinez exceeded the required amount of training by 24.75 additional hours, Board member Erik Gallegos exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 12 additional hours, and Board member Mario Mesa exceeded the required amount of training by 23.75 additional hours.”

7B LEADERSHIP TASB UPDATE

President Lori Ann Garza announced that she was selected to serve on the TASB Leadership; however, she had to decide whether to serve on the TASB Leadership or present with the school board at TASB. She chose Robstown ISD because that was her priority.

7C TASA/TASB CONFERENCE

President Lori Ann Garza thanked everyone for being present at the TASA/TASB Conference. She felt that the session went extremely well, and she was very proud of the Board. The Board came together to bring a lot of love from Robstown ISD. Dr. Puig stated that he was honored to have presented with the Board.

7D SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS

President Lori Ann Garza informed the Board that there are several trainings out there that they could attend in reference to the superintendent’s evaluating process. She will be looking into several dates for the training and as soon as gets them, she will let them know. She realized that several board members might have gone through this training, but there was always room for improvement.

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

8A ENROLLMENT REPORT

8B SUPERINTENDENT GOALS

Dr. Marc Puig reported that since they have adopted the Superintendent Goals, he just wanted to start presenting the progress on the goals. Priority 1 is about ensuring a strong educational foundation, and the foundation started with the Board and administration. If students are going to achieve at a high level, then the Board and the administration needed to work together. The school district is moving and trending in the right direction. Priority 2 is about creating the best working place on the planet. A poll survey was conducted, and they will use the results to help create the greatest work place on the planet. The next goal is to strive to get 100% in attendance. At this time last year, the school district had 86.7% attendance, and this year the attendance was at 91.3%. Under the School

Safety Goal, the estimated time for the police force will take around three months. He hoped to launch the police chief search by December and swear them in sometime in January or February. Under the Parent Engagement Goal, he has scheduled some “Platicas” at the campuses for parents and community members to attend. Also, he has met with a landscaping company to discuss beautifying the high school and campuses.

9.0

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9A

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Adriana Tagle reported that they are focusing on the following four pillars: 1) Pillar 1 - Tier I Instruction – Making sure that every student is receiving high quality instruction, 2) Pillar 2 – Purposeful PLCS – She was very proud of the work and conversations that are happening in the PLCS, 3) Pillar 3 – Learning Walks – The learning walks have been rolled out, and they are non-evaluative and non-judgemental. As of today, they have conducted seventy-five (75) learning walks in three weeks. The learning walks consist of administration, campus leaders, teachers, and directors. During the learning walks, they can see what students and teachers need. Zelda Martinez, a teacher at San Pedro, and Mark Peppard, RECH Choir Director, shared their experience of the learning walks with the Board in reference to how they saw the learning walks benefitting the teachers.

9B

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Dr. Marc Puig reported that the Texas Association of School Business Officials did a report for the school district, and basically what the report stated was that there are opportunities to continue on improving the process and procedures in the Business Office. Also, the report stated that the bills were being listed on the agenda for approval when the bills have already been paid. However, the Board still needed to be informed so that the bills will be included under the information items on the agenda.

9C

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Filiberto Tagle reported that the safety film was currently being installed, at this time at all of the campuses. The film is reflective - you can't see in, but you can see out. The metal detectors were delivered a couple of weeks ago, the training started today, and a live demonstration at one of the campuses was held. They had the first intruder audit a couple of weeks ago and the district passed. He also submitted their Emergency Operations Plan already. The lock campaign signs have been put up at all of the campuses, and they are continuing the Raptor Drills at all of the campuses.

9D

ATHLETIC UPDATE

Gage Perry reported that they are continuing the partnership with the Robstown Youth Football League. The boys practice a couple of nights during the week at the football stadium, and the numbers are looking good. The middle school sports are in full swing, and the transportation to and from the high school has not changed at this time. They have increased the number of coaches that they provide for practice and away games; however, for home games all coaches are present.

The progress has been slow but everyone attending the games have seen the progress and success on the middle school front. The girls cross country won the District Championship for the first time since 2017. The reason that they are being successful is that they did not lose any athletes to eligibility when the grades came up. The intervention that they are using at the high school is working.

9E

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Ronald Robles reported that last week, they discussed the roof and the minor issues were taken care of right of way. They also discussed the roof at Robert Driscoll, and the issues covered under warranty were fixed. Robert Garcia, the vendor who installed the roof, presented several options to the Board to remedy some of the issues with drains at Robert Driscoll. The HVAC projects has not changed since the last update report. The items are order, and the timelines are still the same as last reported. They have met with a landscaping company architect to update the landscaping at the RECHS and some of the campuses. They are still working on the band hall plumbing because it is still backing up but not as frequently as before. At this time, they have not been able to find what is causing it but they are still working on it.

10.0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

10A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10B

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

10C

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Motion #7300 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:40 p.m.

11.0

ACTION ITEM(S)

11A

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Marc Puig stated that they have discussed combining the facilities and finance committees to start a long-range vision committee to get the citizens and community members involved. Board members, Bobby Martinez, Cezar Martinez, and Mario Mesa will be serving on the Long-Range Planning Committee. After discussion, Dr. Puig recommended creating a Long-Range Planning Committee.

Motion #7301 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes. L. Cantu – Absent, C. Martinez – Not present during the motion, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 0 Absent – 2
7:44 p.m.

11B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE EXCEPTION WAIVER

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Maximum Class Size Exception Waiver. Diana Silvas reported that at this time, they are not able to submit the waivers to TEA; however, the board can go ahead and approve the waivers. Once, the school district receives the ratings, they can submit the waivers. All waivers are pending and they cannot be submitted until the district receives their scores. The waivers will be submitted once TEA opens the window for them to be approved. Currently, they have thirteen waivers pending.

Motion #7302 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:48 p.m.

11C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2023-2024

Dr. Marc Puig presented the annual Professional Development Plan for the 2023-2024 School years, and it falls in line with SBEC clearinghouse. The plan includes a schedule of the required professional development for district employees. Diana Silvas mentioned that the plan was a compliance requirement to offer the training, and a listing of all the training is included along with the professional development plan. After discussion, Dr. Puig recommended approving the Professional Development Plan for 2023-2024 as presented.

Motion #7303 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:52 p.m.

11D DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MODIFIED SCHEDULE/STATE ASSESSMENT TESTING DAY WAIVER

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Modified Schedule/State Assessment

Testing Day Waiver. Diana Silvas reported that the waiver was in preparation for the state assessment. It allows school districts to modify the schedule of classes for students who are not being tested. This waiver is mostly used at the secondary campuses.

Motion #7304 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:53 p.m.

11E DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL ROBSTOWN ISD APPRAISERS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR
Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving three additional appraisers for the 2023-2024 school year. Diana Silvas reported that the three individuals had already completed their training.

Motion #7305 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:55 p.m.

11F DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Inter-Local Agreement with Harris County Department of Education. He would like to add this cooperative purchasing program to the other ones that the school district presently has.

Motion #7306 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:56 p.m.

11F DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TEXAS EDUCATION HUMAN RESOURCES DAY RESOLUTION

President Lori Ann Garza read the following resolution “Whereas, the Human resources division is instrumental in recruiting, selecting, resourcing, and retaining quality staff in support of providing an excellent education for all students, and whereas, Human Resources plays a key role in fostering satisfaction and loyalty among employees by allowing for professional growth and development and keeping employees informed about policies, working conditions, compensation, and benefits; and whereas, Human Resources monitors and manages current and future workforce trends, organizational culture, legal and legislative trends, and ethical and social responsibility; and whereas Human Resources is an important part of district leadership and is vital to the overall productivity and efficiency of the district’s workforce; and whereas, Human Resources is a valued and respected department that sustains the district’s most important asset – its people; therefore, the Board of Trustees of the Robstown Independent School District does hereby resolve that October 11, 2023, will be observed as Texas Education Human Resources Day throughout the district. The Board also encourages students, staff, and parents to express their appreciation to our human resources team members for their dedication and commitment to Robstown ISD employees and students.” After discussion, Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Texas Education Human Resources Day Resolution as read by President Lori Ann Garza.

Motion #7307 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:57 p.m.

- 12.0** **CLOSED SESSION - SECTIONS 551.074, and 551.087**
- 12A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES
- 12B DISCUSSION WITH MOAK CASEY REGARDING GOOD GOVERNANCE INVENTORY

Motion #7308 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, and 551.083.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:58 p.m.

Motion #7309 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to reconvene from the executive session.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
9:37 p.m.

13.0 **OPEN SESSION**

13A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS, EMPLOYMENTS, EVALUATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES
President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion on this item.

Motion #7310 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the Personnel List as presented in executive session.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
9:38 p.m.

14.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion #7311 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
9:38 p.m.

(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated 10/09/2023, except for the executive session.)