



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1450 Gillette Boulevard · San Antonio, Texas 78224 · (210) 977-7000 · Fax (210) 977-7017

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees  
South San Antonio ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of South San Antonio ISD was held Wednesday, February 15, 2023, beginning at 6:00 PM in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 1450 Gillette Blvd. San Antonio, Texas 78224.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Trustee	Present	Absent	Late Arrival
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		6:23 PM
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		

Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- TEXAS PLEDGE
- PRAYER
- CALL TO ACTION

Led by Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications

Mr. Flores, Board President, read board meeting rules of decorum aloud.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tom Cummins, AFT Representative, addressed the Board regarding the bad weather day agenda item and the academic calendar agenda item.

TEA MONITOR REMARKS/REPORT

Dr. Abe Saavedra, TEA Monitor: Good evening members of the Board. I got a handout being passed around, in the meantime as that goes around I want to thank Mr. Flores for trying to set up this governance training. I believe we've been working on that for several months now, hopefully we can get that out of the way. I know it's one of the requirements that TEA has really been pushing and I hope that gets done sometime soon. Another requirement that TEA is insisting on is the modification or amendment of Board policies, specific Board policies that deal with the authority of the Board vs authority of the Superintendent. It's something that I would suggest the Board and the Administration in the next month or two start working on because all of those are requirements in order for this Monitor to be pulled out and the TEA will not consider that until those requirements are completed. I would encourage you to do that. My remarks today really is in reference to a study that came out last week. It is actually in the Express News. It was a study conducted by city education partners. It's a long study about 37 pages but I only gave you 2 pages because those 2 pages are the ones that deal with South San. If you are interested in seeing the whole study you can go to [educationspartners.org](http://educationspartners.org) and you can download the complete study. On the first page that you have, what I want to point out to you is South San falls in council seat number 4. So council seat #4 is pink I guess is the bar graph color. The top part is reading proficiency. This is young people so students that are reading at grade level or not reading at grade level. So in this case 41% of your students are reading at grade level meaning that 59% are not. This is out of the 10 council seats or areas this is third from the bottom. Then you go to math and it's also third from the bottom that 26% of the students are proficient. Now keep in mind that this is not just South San these are all districts in council seat #4 so this is not just South San. If you go to the second page now you'll be able to see specifically how South San is doing. The top part would be reading proficiency and actually as you can tell the very first school that's listed in green on the left is Global Leadership Academy at 81% it tops all those school I believe there's 36-40 schools listed here so one of the South San academies ended up at the very top of this particular group. The next the third one would be the Talented & Gifted and I believe like the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> would be Exploratory Arts. So your academies did well last year but look at the rest of the schools on the right hand side, the green. And you see something very similar at the bottom half which

would be the math proficiency. Some of your academies are doing well, they would be towards your left or middle but many of your other schools are to the right. And so, the reason I point this out is that I think it's important for the Board to consider the return on investment, in education it's called ROI acronym. Where do you put your money, where do you invest money? One of the things that occurred in this year's budget because of budgetary reasons, those 3 academies that did so well last year, no longer exist this year because of budget reasons. Because you see you only had 98 students in those 3 academies requiring a lot of teachers to operate. A well balanced budget that provides the resources to the Superintendent to invest properly would have those type of programs in all your schools, not just in these 3 academies but in all your schools. I've studied your budget very carefully, I know last month several people stated, do we really have a deficit, yes you really have a deficit, and yes it's somewhere between 8-10 million dollars that needs to be reduced before you adopt next year's budget. It's gonna require some tough decisions. I know that the Board will be meeting in the next week or two to listen to some of the options that the administration has but one thing I would strongly suggest to you is, quit investing in buildings and invest in children. The children need the investment, not the buildings. South San has the highest, not one of the highest, but the highest interest and sinking tax rates in Bexar County, no other district in Bexar County has a higher interest and sinking tax rate at 49.9 cents, nobody else out of 14 districts. That 49.5 generates about 8 million dollars a year from your tax payers. Your taxpayers pay 11 million dollars to invest on buildings on facilities to pay off debt that you have, bonds that have been approved and so forth. And that investment alone was not enough because the Board has also passed maintenance notes for the last couple years, last few years, to keep improving buildings. And that generates 800, right now you're paying 800,000 a year, almost a million dollars, 800,000 a year, in maintenance notes so that renovations can continue to occur in schools that you reopened and that's just currently. If you were to continue to pass maintenance notes to complete the renovations or the improvements, it probably will go up to 1.5 million. If you go all the way to phase 3 at West Campus, it's going to be over 2 million dollars in the maintenance and operations budget. That part of the budget is where you hire teachers where you give teachers pay raises, where you have reading programs, where you invest in students, where you invest in instructional programs. At some point the Board's gonna have to make some really tough decisions and none of the decisions will be easy. 800,000 is what you invest right now in M&O for maintenance notes. Let me give you some other figures real quick and then I'll sit down. In staff development you only spent 628,000 a year right now. In retraining your teachers and providing staff development for your teachers so they become better teachers, you invest less in them than you do in the maintenance notes to renovate buildings. In guidance and counseling, these are all your counselors in your district, you invest 1.7 million so that's about twice as much as you put into the maintenance notes. Meaning that if you didn't have this maintenance note, you could actually increase your counselors the number of counselors in your schools by 50%. Social Services you invest 425,000, about half of what you put into maintenance notes. Health Services, your nurses and so forth, health service, you spend a little over 200,000; ¼ of what you put into maintenance notes. At some point you need to look at where you want to invest the resources this district has. It's either to buildings or students and I would suggest you look at it seriously and start investing in your students. Thank you.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)**

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board and audience providing updates; registration is underway at all campuses including our head start program. He stated that we have had continuous audits from the state regarding the safety program at our schools. He informed that we have had 3 discrepancies out of all of our visits and he will be sharing them with the Board in closed session. Mr. Yzaguirre stated that we are doing a pretty good job with safety. He thanked the parents and students for the recent increase in attendance. He thanked the counselors in observance of Counselors Week and the bus drivers in observance of Bus Driver Appreciation Day. He informed that the boys and girls basketball teams from SSSH made the playoffs. He informed that next Monday, Presidents day, the district is closed. He stated that on Tuesday we have a tribute to legendary coach Cliff Gustafson at the SSSH baseball game next Tuesday. Mr. Yzaguirre said that we have a 100-year Centennial Festival coming up on March 25th.

#### **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)**

Homer Flores Jr., Board President, addressed the Board and audience recognizing the SSSH girls' basketball team for having an outstanding season. He recognized that the SSSH boys made the playoffs and encouraged all to go out and support them. He also recognized a good friend of his and her team the Dancing Cats. He stated that they won 3rd in Contemporary in Seguin, 1st in Pom, 4th highest in small team, 6th overall, performance quality and Jazz, and choreography for Contemporary Jazz and Pom. He also recognized the Dazzlers who won 1st place in prop, second in Jazz, and 3rd in Pom. He recognized Ms. Alvarado and her dedication to being an outstanding role model and all that she does for that sport/extracurricular activity.

#### **RECOGNITIONS**

1. South San and West Campus High School Mariachi Group Advance to UIL State Mariachi Competition  
Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications, was called to recognize students for their achievements.
2. South San High School CTE program voted Fan Favorite at Western Heritage Parade & Cattle Drive  
Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications, was called to recognize students for their achievements.
3. Spanish Spelling Bee  
Ileana Moreno, Coordinator of Bilingual, and Adriana Farias, Bilingual Facilitator, Director of Communications, were called to recognize students for their achievements.

**PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**

1. January 2023 Financials

Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

**CONSENT**

*Policy BE (Local) states that the consent agenda shall include items of a routine and/or recurring nature grouped together under one action item. All such items shall be acted upon by one vote without separate discussion, unless a Board Member requests that an item be withdrawn for individual consideration. The remaining items shall be adopted under a single motion and vote.*

1. Board Meeting Minutes

A. January 18, 2023 Regular Called

2. Resolution authorizing the National Incident Management System(NIMS) as the basis for all incident management in South San Antonio ISD

3. Budget Amendment

4. Approval of RFQ 2022-08 Professional Services

5. MOU between South Antonio ISD and Family Service of San Antonio, Inc.

6. Service agreement with Communities in Schools (CIS) of San Antonio

Mrs. Alderete moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 – 6 as presented, Mr. Arrellano seconded and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. South San Antonio ISD 2023-2024 Academic School Calendar

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mrs. Alderete moved to approve the item as presented, Mrs. Ramirez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		

2. Resolution regarding bad weather makeup days

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mrs. Alderete moved to approve the item as presented, Ms. Ibarra seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		

3. Approval of Alamo Classroom Solutions | RFQ 2023-02 Furniture Consulting and Installation Services

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item. Mr. Arrellano moved to approve the item as presented, Ms. Ibarra seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		

**CLOSED / EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*NOTICE: The Board of Trustees may elect to go into Closed Meeting any time during the meeting to discuss matters listed on the Agenda when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Board of Trustees elects to go into Closed Meeting regarding an Agenda Item, the Board of Trustees will hold a Closed Meeting to discuss individual personnel matters including termination, litigation and other matters the Board deems necessary. Upon completion of Closed Meeting, the Board of Trustees may, in the open session, take such action as appropriate on items discussed in a Closed Meeting. If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item listed on the agenda should be held in Closed Meeting, the Board will convene in such Closed Meeting in accordance with Texas Government Code Sections 551.001 - 551.088. The Board members may take action in the open portion of the meeting on items discussed in the Closed Meeting but no action will be taken in closed session.*

*The Board will return to open session and take appropriate action, if any, on items discussed in closed session. No Action will be taken in closed session. Further, Board Members are reminded that all items discussed in closed session must remain confidential also as to avoid liability to the district. The Board will consider and discuss, the following items:*

**Closed Meeting pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code §§ 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, and 551.0821**

1. Discussion concerning personnel matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074.
2. Discussion concerning personnel matters pursuant to Texas Government Code regarding evaluation instrument for Superintendent
3. Discussion concerning Intruder Detection Audit Findings
4. Consultation with attorney: status of pending TEA investigations

Start time: 7:23 PM.  
End time: 8:28 PM.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. Reconvene from Executive Session for action relative to items considered during Executive Session  
None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Alderete moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Arrellano seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM.

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Homer Flores Jr., Board President

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Shirley Ibarra, Board Secretary

*NOTICE: This meeting of the Board of Trustees is authorized in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.001 - 551.146. Verification of Notice of Meeting and Agenda are on file in the Office of the Superintendent. Closed meeting, if required and if authorized by the statute, will be conducted prior to the conclusion of the meeting for any item listed on this agenda.*

*NOTICE: The Board of Trustees may elect to go into Closed Meeting any time during the meeting to discuss matters listed on the Agenda when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Board of Trustees elects to go into Closed Meeting regarding an Agenda Item, the Board of Trustees will hold a Closed Meeting to discuss individual personnel matters including termination, litigation and other matters the Board deems necessary. Upon completion of Closed Meeting, the Board of Trustees may, in the open session, take such action as appropriate on items discussed in a Closed Meeting. If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of*

*any item listed on the agenda should be held in Closed Meeting, the Board will convene in such Closed Meeting in accordance with Texas Government Code Sections 551.001 - 551.088. The Board members may take action in the open portion of the meeting on items discussed in the Closed Meeting but no action will be taken in closed session.*