

# Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting

Board of Trustees  
Fabens ISD



A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fabens ISD was held Wednesday, April 17, 2024 beginning at 6:30 PM in the Central Office, Board Room, 821 NE G Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838.

**Members Present:** Sylvia Gonzales  
Benjamin Morales  
Angel Ornelas Jr.  
Julieta S. Ramirez

**Members Absent:** Adan Escobar  
Luis "Charlie" Estrada  
Orlando Flores

**Administrators Present:** Mr. Martin Torres  
Mr. Jesus Barba  
Ms. Sofia Maciel  
Mr. Michael Perez  
Ms. Michele Gonzalez  
Dr. April Galaviz  
Mr. Richard Orozco  
  
Maria T. Rodriguez

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## 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Mission and Vision Statements

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Board President, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales. All members were in attendance except Mr. Adan Escobar, Mr. Luis "Charlie" Estrada, and Mr. Orlando Flores. The Pledge of Allegiance, Mission and Vision statements were recited by all present.

## 2. Superintendent Updates / Recognitions – 2:32 PM

Under this portion of the meeting, Ms. Sofia Maciel, District Media Specialist, presented the item.

### 2.A. Carrera's Produce and Grocery Inc.

### 2.B. 2024 UTEP College of Education Award Recipients

#### 2.B.1. Evelyn Schwartz Recipient - Ana Castillo - FES

#### 2.B.2. Lavis Excellence Recipient - Ms. Veronica Vidana - FES

Recognized for their award were both Ms. Ana Castillo and Ms. Veronica Vidana from Fabens Elementary School. Ms. Maciel did state that Fabens ISD was the only district

that had 2 staff that were recognized that night at UTEP. Both teachers were congratulated and presented with a certificate.

## **2.C. Fabens Elementary School Motivational Speakers**

### **2.C.1. Jorge Tovar and Moises Rodriguez**

Our next item were two wrestlers that were recognized for their contribution in preparing our elementary students for the STAAR test. Both were presented with small tokens of appreciation and thanked by the Board.

## **2.D. Fabens High School NJROTC Annual Inspection Update**

Ms. Maciel opened the item and introduced Captain Michael Hertel. He spoke about the program's successes and highlights during the year. He thanked the Board for their support and made them honorary members of the program and presented them with a cap and name tag. Captain Hertel received a certificate for their Outstanding 2024 Inspection.

## **3. Communication and Visitors**

Under this item, Jesse Montanez, FHS student, addressed the Board regarding the disappointment in the state of the Fabens High School. Lockers being removed even though students have requested the use of them. The improvements that have been made are appreciated but are aesthetic only. Water leaks are dangerous, school colors and logos have been painted over and removed or covered. Portables are not acceptable for use and efforts made for improvement have gone unheard. A grant writer is needed to tap available resources or seeking a bond. Quotes from past students were read regarding the state of the building.

## **4. Consent Agenda**

### **4.A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, March 25, 2024**

### **4.B. Fabens ISD Monthly and Quarterly / Federal Expenditure Reports**

### **4.C. TEKS Certification 2024 - 2025**

### **4.D. New Technical Network Agreement**

Mr. Torres, Interim Superintendent, opened the item. Mr. Angel Ornelas motioned to approve items B, C and D as presented and correct the last sentence in 7.I the word from Provisional to Probationary. Mr. Benjamin Morales seconded.

Motion Carried: 4 - 0

## **5. District Employees and Officers**

### **5.A. 2023 - 2024 New Hires**

Human Resource Director, Ms. Aide Polanco, addressed the Board and introduced our newest hires: Ms. April Arellano, FHS Special Education teacher and Mr. Fernando Ortiz, FHS Social Studies teacher. Both were welcomed by the Board and community.

## **5.B. Fabens ISD 2024 Recognition Announcements – 7:09 PM**

### **5.B.1. Teacher of the Year**

Ms. Aide Polanco introduced each of the Campus Teacher of the Year:

Fabens Elementary – Santiago Chavez

O'Donnell Intermediate – Rosalia Orozco

Fabens Middle School – Ana Luna and

Fabens High School – Miguel Soto

All were recognized and congratulated by the Board and community.

### **5.B.2. Employee of the Year**

Ms. Polanco introduced all Employees of the Year for 2024:

Fabens Elementary – Jessica Amaya

O'Donnell Intermediate – Anastacio Velasco

Fabens Middle School – Carmen Corral

Fabens High School – Ruben Triste

Administration – Martha Cavazos

Operations and Transportation – Olga Gonzalez

Security and Technology – George Gonzalez

## **6. Student Outcomes – 7:14 – 7:42 PM**

### **6.A. Resilient Schools Support Program (RSSP) Writing Initiative – 7:14 PM**

Ms. Edna Denise Pena, ELAR Coordinator, presented the item and provided a short history on RSSP. She reviewed the Power Point presentation sent to the board members in their packets and answered questions from the Board.

### **6.B. Teacher Pipeline Update – 7:27 PM**

Ms. Michele Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent, presented the item and reviewed the information sent to the Board prior to the meeting. She provided information on the “Grow Our Own”, UTEP Teacher Residency Program and Minor Mentor and TEA Mentor Programs.

## **7. Board of Trustees Business – 7:42 – 8:52 PM**

### **7.A. 3rd Grade Configuration Update – 7:42 PM**

Mr. Torres updated the Board with new information regarding the status of the move for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for 2024 – 2025. He answered questions from the Board regarding teachers moving from Fabens Elementary to O'Donnell Intermediate.

### **7.B. Strong Foundation Grant / Technical Assistance Selection Approval – 7:49**

Dr. April Galaviz and Ms. Michele Gonzalez addressed the Board and reviewed the information sent to the Board on the Strong Foundation Grant. She answered a few questions from the Board and Mr. Benjamin Morales motioned and Mr. Angel Ornelas seconded to approve the selection of Region 19 Education Service Center as the technical assistance provider for Fabens ISD to administer the Strong Foundation Grant as presented.

Motion Carried: 4 – 0

### **7.C. Discussion and Selection of New Fabens ISD June 2024 Regular Board Meeting Date – 7:59**

Mr. Torres opened the item and explained that in order to close out the budget year and prepare all the work needed, he was requesting that the June 2024 regular board meeting be moved to June 26, 2024. The motion was made by Mr. Benjamin Morales and seconded by Ms. Julieta Sepulveda Ramirez.

Motion Carried: 4 - 0

### **7.D. Closed Session per Texas Government Code 551.074 for Superintendent's Recommendations Regarding Non-Renewal / Termination of Employment and Contract Status of Administrators, Other Non-Administrative Personnel and Classroom Teachers – 8:01 PM**

The item was taken into Executive Session per Tx. Gov't. Code 551.074 at 8:01 PM.

### **7.E. Reconvene from Closed Session for Possible Action on Superintendent's Recommendations Regarding Employment and Contract Status of Administrators, Other Non-Administrative Personnel and Classroom Teachers – 8:50 PM**

The meeting was reconvened at 8:50 PM and Mr. Benjamin Morales motioned, and Mr. Angel Ornelas seconded to approve the contracts except for 2 locations: 105 and 101.

Motion Carried: 4 – 0

### **8. Adjourn – 8:52 PM**

There being no further business, Mr. Angel Ornelas motioned, and Mr. Benjamin Morales seconded to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Motion Carried: 4 - 0