



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

5622 Ray Ellison Blvd. • San Antonio, Texas 78242 • (210) 977-7000 • Fax (210) 334-6704

Minutes of Regular Meeting The Board of Managers South San Antonio ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers of South San Antonio ISD was held Monday, June 16, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 5622 Ray Ellison Blvd. San Antonio, Texas 78242.

CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARE QUORUM

Managers	Present	Absent	Late Arrival/Departed Early
Raymond Tijerina	X		
Karla Gomez Sanchez	X		
Darrell Balderrama	X		
Aurelina Prado	X		
Jesus Rendon III	X		
Adrian Guerra	X		
Dr. Kelly Murguia	X		

Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG
- PRAYER

Led by Alexis LaFosse, Director of Communications

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tom Cummins, AFT Representative, addressed the Board regarding Legislature's HB 2 and how it affects everybody differently.

TEA REMARKS

Dr. Abe Saavedra, TEA: Thank you Mr. Tijerina. Good evening Members of the Board. I want to talk a little bit about a need's assessment. Y'all received a copy at your place. I realize you just received it, you haven't read it and I totally understand that. I have shared that with Mr. Tijerina as President as well as the Superintendent for the last few weeks. The main thing about this need's assessment is that its fluid in dynamic meaning its subject to change as we move along. Either I will discover some additional needs or the Superintendent might bring to my attention certain challenges that they might be having. So, the need's assessment will change as we move forward. I'm not gonna read this to you, but I am gonna hit some highlights. In the introduction it just presents the history of this particular placement. My initial placement as a Monitor occurred in the Fall 2021, that went on for 2 years and then it was changed to a Conservator status. The Board at that time got into a 1-year agreement with the TEA for improvement. As we all know, things did not improve to the level that it needed to improve. This past February, February 19th to be exact, the Commissioner officially removed the Board and appointed the Board of Managers as well as replace the Superintendent. In the process of looking at this need's assessment, there's 3 main areas that I looked at; one is Governance, the other one is Finance and then also Academics. On the issue of Governance which starts on the second page, you know one thing to point out that the district has had decades of Board Governance challenges. The very first time the TEA got involved and placed a Conservator here at South San was 1990. That's 35 years ago to be exact at this point. So, this dysfunction of Board Governance has been around for a long time and clearly that's why you folks are here. As we move forward, there was also a Conservator in place in 2016, that happened to be the time I was Superintendent here at the time. Things did get better and after 2 years the Conservator was removed. But also, in 2018 not only was the Conservator removed early that year, by late that year and election changed out a majority of the Board. Several people ran on the agenda of reopening schools, which they did in 2019. That

plus the fact that they had bought out several Superintendent's before then, it really plunged the district into about a 12-million-dollar deficit over a period of time. So, that's just a little bit of background concerning Governance and the challenges the district has had for a number of years. On page 3, I talk a little bit about the strengths in Governance; for one thing this Board of Managers has consistently demonstrated very effective Board Governance since you have been appointed the last few months. You collaborate well with your Superintendent. The Board of Managers is also very supportive of the Superintendent and clearly understands the Board responsibilities and Superintendent's responsibilities. The Board of Managers also is respectful of the Conservator and the responsibilities. Now some areas of growth, you're clearly a newly appointed Board of Managers, you haven't done all of the required training yet but I know a lot of that has been scheduled already. On the second bullet you actually have already hired your LSG Coach. Your training is scheduled I know for August and so all of that is moving in the right direction. The Board will need to identify Board goals as well as Board and Superintendent constraints and all of that will become clear as you do your training in August. Financially the district continues to be challenged. The district has a history of making bad decisions, kicking the can down the road, avoiding tough decisions, and for that reason the district for a number of years has had some financial challenges. For example, in 2013, the enrollment in this district was a little over 10,000 students. Ten years later, in October of 2023 that enrollment had dropped to 7,429. As a result of that enrollment dropping, there was a drop-in revenue of 3.2 million dollars, less dollars coming to the district. But yet, the expenditures increased by 7.3 million. So that practice over a period of time, that plus the fact that the schools were reopened, eventually grew to about a 12-million-dollar deficit. The next page, which is page 4, at the very top we have a chart that talks a little bit about what I have just stated in reference to this deficit. In 2010 the Board at the time asked the taxpayers to approve a 58-million-dollar bond issue for a new high school, which was approved. That high school opened and had a capacity of over 3,000 students. The school has never had anywhere near the 3,000 students in capacity but yet the Board in 2019 reopened the second- high school. All of these bad decisions over time has created some really financial challenges for the district. So, on page 5 I talk a little bit about some strengths; you have a very strong CFO. Mr. Kingman is highly respected by not only this Board but even the previous Board believe it or not, so you're in good hands in reference to that. Y'all have had 5 continuous years of A ratings in the FIRST Financial Report, again credit to Mr. Kingman for most of those. The Board of Managers and the Superintendent I know are pretty committed to adopting a balanced budget and the district I believe has approximately 4 months or did have 4 months, I'm not sure if you're down to 3 months Tony or not, but y'all have had a pretty good fund balance over the last several years. There's still opportunities that exist for further reducing your facility footprint over a period of time. There's still not a, your square footage for the enrollment that you have is pretty significant and so there is still opportunities for some future changes also. The district has never had a TRE approved. Actually, a TRE was attempted in 2018 but it failed. So, there is an opportunity there for additional revenue. Some growth areas that I've identified; I really think the district can do more in marketing for enrollment to increase enrollment and the same thing for improving attendance. The district also needs to work towards a balanced budget without the use of disaster pennies. And for a period of time, the district has really not invested sufficiently in capital improvements. Your facilities, the schools are in disrepair for the most part. The roofs, air conditioners, I think things have started to improve recently but you've been so far behind that – that needs to be something that the district pays attention to. The same thing with equipment of vehicles. I know y'all bought some buses recently so, I know Dr. Hinojosa is very aware of this need. The bond rating is not a real strong bond rating. One thing I think the district might want to consider is looking into an energy management program of some sort to become more efficient in that area. In Academic health, I know you're going to receive a report later this evening. The district has not performed as well as it needs to over a period of time. As I go into the next page, page 6, I'm gonna talk a little bit about some of the changes that I know will be forthcoming. But one area I do want to point out is Special Ed. And again, I know Dr. Hinojosa is very aware of this. For two years in a row the district has not been in compliance with some of the federal requirements. I know he's made some changes already and some of those improvements will start coming through this next year. On your academic strengths; again Dr. Hinojosa just hired a very strong Deputy Superintendent, with a strong academic background. I know they've also worked on a long-range professional development plan as well as principals from low performing schools have been removed. A CareZone exists in the district and will provide necessary social, emotional, and basic food clothing need for students and families. An academic audit has been conducted by the new administration, which is good. The Superintendent models, I think this is a real important one, that the Superintendent has modeled campus and classroom visits. I think there's been over 3,700 classroom visits by the administration both central office as well as school principals from February 19th to the end of the school year. The district participates in the Teacher Incentive Allotment and I know that the Superintendent is working on an additional performance pay program. Some of the growth areas, the district is pretty far behind in some of these test scores. I'm not gonna go through all of these, and this is based on the results of 2023 and this will be updated once the 2025

results become final. So some of the focus areas for improvement, the very first one, you know student outcome goals should be the focus of every single action taken by this Board. Outcome goals, and as you go through your LSG training, that will become much more clear. Meeting federal special education compliance requirements is a must. And again I have full confidence that Dr. Hinojosa and his staff will be working on that and things will continue to get better. The collaboration with the Superintendent as I stated with this Board of Managers has been very strong and it needs to remain a priority. And I state this only because South San has had periods of time of improvement where there was good collaboration but it didn't last. And so, I have full confidence that this Board of Managers will make that a major priority. Everything I've seen so far in the last few months tells me that y'all clearly understand the importance of collaborating with the Superintendent. The deficit of course will need to be brought under control and eliminated. The use of disaster pennies is one way to address this issue. But I think at some point those disaster pennies need to go away and still have a balanced budget. I know you have already committed to Lone Star Governance and again your training will occur in August. And the Board needs to demonstrate a clear understanding of the Board work and Superintendent work. All of that comes through the training you'll receive. I know all of you have been through LSG already but this time you'll do it with your Superintendent and it'll be even a better program. Thank you very much.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)

Dr. Saul Hinojosa, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board and audience regarding the closeout of the school year and gave special thanks to the high school staff and administration for making this year's graduation memorable for the 570 students that crossed the stage. He stated that we have many students entering the military, further their education, some have already acquired a skill where they will be able to join the workforce. He congratulated the Class of 2025 and stated that we support them in their future endeavors. He said we made over 200 staff changes to get ready for the next school year including 7 new principals. He said we have 76 new hires all with certified teachers and we are down to 27 vacancies. He stated that the stipends are grabbing attention of new hires in hard to fill areas. He said we have Bluebonnet training coming up on July 21st. We will have a Bluebonnet meeting and parents, teachers, and community members will be able to engage and voice their opinion. He invited all to attend. He said we made some changes in our Athletics Department, separating the Director and Asst. Athletic Director that will be their sole purpose and have hired new baseball coach Hector Degadillo as well as Michael Martinez as the basketball coach for South San HS. He advised that we are currently registering new students and anyone interested can register here at central office. He stated we are still beautifying with painting our buildings, today they are at Palo Alto then tomorrow at Shepard. He said today the Board will be voting to bring back Communities in Schools. He said we plan to have 3 counselors and hopefully grow the program. He said we are also voting on a turnaround plan at Shepard MS as it was identified by TEA as a low performing campus. He said we can't change where we've been but can control where we are going. He said we have hired 6 TIA teachers, high performing principals and 25 Master Teachers. He said not only are we going to have a balanced budget but we will see significant improvement in our academic results.

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

None

PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

1. May 2025 Quarterly Investment Report
Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.
2. May 2025 Financials
Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.
3. Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Grant Application 2025-2026
Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.
4. 2025 STAAR and EOC Preliminary Results
Dr. Jennifer Gutierrez, Deputy Superintendent, 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. Approve the Board Meeting Minutes
- A. May 19, 2025 Regular Called
2. Accept Quote for E-Rate 2025 - 90 Switches Project
3. Accept Quote for 2025 SmartNet Renewal - DIR-CPO-5347
4. Accept Quote for 140 Verkada Door Intercoms + Cabling - Installation Services
5. Accept Quote for SSAISD Security Project - Hardware Only
6. Budget Amendment
7. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Engagement Letter
8. SAVVAS Autentico
9. Branching Minds
10. Carnegie Learning
11. Edgenuity
12. Head Start Site License for Age of Learning
13. Head Start Quote National Educational System
14. i-Ready
15. Interactive Notebooks - SSHS
16. IXL
17. Newsela ELA
18. SAVVAS Science Curriculum
19. Studies Weekly
20. UNIQUE
21. HMH Writable
22. 2025-2026 Head Start Transportation Waiver
23. MOU between South San Antonio ISD and DYS Group LLC, subsidiary Diversified Youth Services, DYS Families for the 2025-2026 school year.
24. MOU between South San Antonio ISD and Brident Dental & Orthodontics for the 2025-2026 school year
25. MOU between South San Antonio ISD and Empower House for school year 2025-2026
26. MOU Family Service of San Antonio, Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year
27. Memorandum Providence Place
28. MOU between South San Antonio ISD and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for the 2025-2026 school year
29. MOU UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing for the 2025-2026 school year
30. Service Agreement with Class Catalyst
31. Contract with SchoolLinks, Inc.
32. Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials Survey
33. Approval of the 2025-2026 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Bexar County Juvenile Board and South San Antonio ISD (SSAISD) for the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)
34. Local Board Policy EXHIBIT Updates
35. Exploros

Ms. Prado moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 – 35 as presented, Dr. Murguia seconded and the Board of Managers voted 7/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Raymond Tijerina	X		
Karla Gomez Sanchez	X		
Darrell Balderrama	X		
Aurelina Prado	X		
Jesus Rendon III	X		

Adrian Guerra	X		
Dr. Kelly Murguia	X		

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. TEA Turnaround Plan

Dr. Jennifer Gutierrez, Deputy Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Ms. Prado moved to approve the item as presented, Ms. Gomez Sanchez seconded, and the Board of Managers voted 7/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Raymond Tijerina	X		
Karla Gomez Sanchez	X		
Darrell Balderrama	X		
Aurelina Prado	X		
Jesus Rendon III	X		
Adrian Guerra	X		
Dr. Kelly Murguia	X		

2. Service Delivery Agreement with Communities in Schools (CIS) of San Antonio

Dr. Saul Hinojosa, Superintendent, and Jessica Weaver, CEO of CIS, were called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mr. Rendon moved to approve the item as presented, Mr. Balderrama seconded, and the Board of Managers voted 7/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Raymond Tijerina	X		
Karla Gomez Sanchez	X		
Darrell Balderrama	X		
Aurelina Prado	X		
Jesus Rendon III	X		
Adrian Guerra	X		
Dr. Kelly Murguia	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 so 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. Personnel §551.074: deliberation on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of personnel, including staffing issues, campus principals and district administrators.
2. Personnel §551.074 and Legal Consultation 551.071: deliberation and consultation with attorney regarding the status and consideration of a resignation agreement with the former Superintendent.

Start time: 7:56 PM.

End time: 9:15 PM.

OPEN SESSION

1. Reconvene from Executive Session for action relative to items considered during Executive Session

Ms. Prado made a motion: So I move that we approve the former Superintendent resignation agreement with the resignation day of June 30, 2025 as it was discussed in closed session, seconded by Ms. Gomez Sanchez, and the Board of Managers voted 6/0/1. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Raymond Tijerina	X		
Karla Gomez Sanchez	X		
Darrell Balderrama			X
Aurelina Prado	X		
Jesus Rendon III	X		
Adrian Guerra	X		
Dr. Kelly Murguia	X		

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez Sanchez moved to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Murguia seconded, and the Board of Managers voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM.

ATTEST

Raymond Tijerina, Board President

Darrell Balderrama, Board Secretary

NOTICE: This meeting of the Board of Managers 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.