

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOVEMBER 13, 2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Ann Garza, President (Video Conference)
Larry Cantu, Vice-President
Cezar Martinez, Secretary
Bobby Marroquin, Assistant Secretary (Video Conference)
Erik Gallegos, Trustee
Mario Mesa, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: All board members were present.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent
Diana L. Silvas, Deputy Superintendent
Adriana Tagle, Assistant Superintendent
Eva Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer

VISITORS:	Victoria Gonzalez	Sandra Blanton	Rachel Medrano
	Margaret Cabrera	Roxanna Ybarra	Mary Ann Saenz
	Norma Cornejo Rivera	Maribel Trevino	Ellen Anderson
	Laura Cueva	Carol Palacios	Anisa Chavera
	Tammy Saenz		

1.0 **GENERAL FUNCTIONS**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 6:02 p.m., Vice-President Larry Cantu called this meeting of the Robstown Independent School District Board of Trustees to order.

ROLL CALL: Lori Ann Garza – Present, Larry Cantu – Present, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Erik Gallegos – Present, and Mario Mesa – Present

Present – 6

Absent – 0

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/PRAYER**

Vice-President Larry Cantu led the audience and the Board in prayer.

3.0 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/TEXAS FLAG PLEDGE**

Vice-President Larry Cantu 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 Cezar Martinez 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 Erik Gallegos 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 **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion #7312 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to open up the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m.

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

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 0 Absent – 2
6:05 p.m.

7.0 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FIRST (FINANCIAL INTEGRITY RATING SYSTEM OF TEXAS) RATING**

Eva Cisneros reported that the primary goal of the FIRST was to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts’ financial resources. The goal was more significant due to the complexity of the accounting associated with the Texas School Finance System, and the FIRST rating ensures that Texas school districts are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving the results are cost effectively and efficiently. The school district must pass indicators 1-5, or the school district will get an F for substandard achievement regardless of the points earned. She reviewed each of the twenty indicators and their scores with the board members. Overall, the school district received a rating of A-94 Superior Achievement with a two point increase from the prior year. After the Public Hearing, Mrs. Cisneros asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. There were no questions.

8.0 **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion #7313 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to reconvene back from the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.

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

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 0 Absent – 2
6:14 p.m.

9.0 **AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS**

9A **PROUD YOU'RE A PICKER AWARD**

Diana Silvas recognized Victoria Gonzalez, Parent Liaison Engagement at Seale Jr. High School; and Caleb Helms, Social Studies Teacher at Seale Jr. High School, as the Proud You're a Picker Award recipients for the month of November.

For the record, President Lori Ann Garza logged on to the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

9B **RECOGNITION OF NYOMI GARCIA, CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP STATE MEET**

Dr. Puig asked to table this item until the Board meeting in December.

9C **RECOGNITION OF RECHS BAND**

Miguel Cabrera presented a slideshow of the band's accomplishments from October 15, 2016, all the way up to this school year (2023). He reported that David Hernandez was the first baritone player to make All-State in school history. The band placed 12th place in the UIL Area Marching. The mariachi band, indoor drumline, indoor color guard, and jazz band also received several awards and contribute to the band's success. Sonya Tobias was named the Outstanding Performer as a freshman, and her sophomore year she made the All-State Band. He also recognized the students that went to the State and Solo Ensemble in 2023. This school year the band received a first division by making the top twelve to go to finals; however, they placed 6th, which was a first time in the school history to participate in the UIL State Marching Band Contest.

9D **RECOGNITION OF RECHS ROBOTICS TEAM ATLAS**

Marietta Saenz reported that team Atlas competed on November 11, 2023, and were able to move up in the competition. The students competed at UT-Arlington a couple of weeks ago, and she was proud to announce that they took 2nd place and earned the Exemplary Team Award for the 2nd year in a row. Also, there was a very good chance, that the students will qualify to go to the Championship in December. She was very proud of the students for all of their hard work. Rachel Medrano presented certificates to the students that were present at the Board meeting.

Motion #7314 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee L. Cantu to take a five-minute recess.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
6:50 p.m.

Motion #7315 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to reconvene back from recess.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
6:55 p.m.

11.0 **PRESIDENT REMARKS**

10A **SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION TRAINING**

Vice-President Larry Cantu announced that following the regular school board meeting on December 11, 2023, the board members will be having a board workshop on the superintendent's evaluation.

10B **CALENDAR/EVENT REMINDER**

Vice-President Larry Cantu reminded the board members that the Calendar of Events was on the school district's website for everyone to see all of the activities that are coming up for the remainder of the school year.

10C **\$400 STIPEND**

Vice-President Larry Cantu announced that the school district's employees would be receiving a \$400 stipend during the month of December.

10D **TASB GOVERNANCE CAMP – FEBRUARY 28, 2024, THROUGH MARCH 2, 2024**

Vice-President Larry Cantu announced that the TASB Governance Camp was coming up in Galveston, Texas on February 28, 2023, through March 2, 2023.

11.0 **SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

11A **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

11B **SUPERINTENDENT GOALS**

Dr. Marc Puig reported that they have completed two hundred and twenty-five learning walks thus far. The Learning Walks are about learning together, learning from each other, and how to improve. The safety audit survey came in with 87% of the employees feeling safe. The overall attendance for last school year was at 87.7%, and currently, the attendance was at 90.60% with 2508 enrollment. He has held several Platicas at San Pedro Fine Arts School, Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, and Seale Jr. High School. The roof repairs will start next week, and other projects are now in progress.

Motion #7316 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to move item number 14A – RISD Financial Audit up and the rest of the items to follow accordingly.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:11 p.m.

14.0 BUSINESS AND SUPPORT

14A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT’S FINANCIAL AUDIT

Phil Vaughn reported that his job was to make sure that the annual report that the school district puts out is as accurate as possible. The school district received a clean opinion, and they did not find any significant requirements that needed attention. The child nutrition fund has an excessive fund balance, and the school district has plans to bring the amount down. The school district was able to add \$2.2 million to the fund balance last school year. He projected that the school district would receive the same rating on the FIRST on the next report. The administrative cost ratio needed to be reduced also. After discussion, Vice-President Larry Cantu asked for a motion to approve the school district’s financial audit.

Motion #7317 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the school district’s financial audit as presented.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
7:16 p.m.

12.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12A ACADEMIC UPDATE

Norma Cornejo shared with the board members her experience with using Amplify. She reported that in the beginning she did not like it, but after she trained for around two weeks and started using it, she was happy with it. Adriana Tagle reviewed with the Board what was new and what was coming up next in the Tier 1, PLC 2.0, learning walks, and coaching. The PLC schedule has been re-vamped to create planning time for teachers. Also, she reviewed the elementary academic health report for Pre-5th, the CLI Circle areas of strength and areas for opportunities for the elementary campuses, the CLI: TX-KEA, McClass composite scores, McClass letter sounds, and the action plan for high-intensity tutorials, brilliance booster, and partnering with parents and the Board.

12B

RISD LIBRARY UPDATE

Jessica Juarez stated that “the RISD libraries are more than storage spaces of information and books. They are dynamic, vibrant spaces where students, staff, and the community come to learn, access resources, and build connections.” She reported that the school district was using the Beanstack: Library Literacy Initiative Program, and the school district’s goal was to have 1.5 million minutes read, which would be 70% participation. She reviewed the minutes that have been read for the elementary and secondary campuses, and the district’s total so far was at 1,100,881 minutes for a 76% district participation. The Beanstack also includes activities, book reviews, and badges for the students that reach milestones.

12C

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Filiberto Tagle reported that they have received the training for the metal detectors, and the safety film at the different campuses has been installed. He is working on the application for the Police Department, and as soon as he has all of the information, he will be submitting it. He has completed the safety survey, and it should be forthcoming. Also, he will be scheduling a safety meeting in the near future.

12D

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Ronald Robles reported that they are working on beautifying the different campuses. They have started with power washing Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, and they will do the rest of the campuses at a later time. They have contacted a landscaping company to landscape the high school quadrangle and as soon as they receive the costs, they will present it to the Board. The rolling gates at Lotspeich Leadership Academy and San Pedro Fine Arts will be fixed. They are trying to stay on track on the grass mowing but because it has been raining they are a little behind. He has created a second shift and it will start after the Thanksgiving break. They have finalized the roof repairs for Robert Driscoll Stem Academy.

12E

RISD FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Juan Vela and Shirley Vela presented the school district’ food service update report to the Board. Mr. Vela reported that they had changed the breakfast at Seale Jr. from the classroom into the cafeteria. He reviewed a participation list by campus for breakfast and lunch compared to last school year with the Board. At this time, the school district’s total was 58% for breakfast and 77% for lunch. Mrs. Vela reported that they are having roving chef events at each of the elementary schools, taste testing at the high school, thanksgiving service events, and student survey at the high school. The cafeteria will be offering the following new menu option during the month of December: Italian Quiche, Mediterranean chicken sale, Spicy Chicken Poke Bowl, Al Pastor Tacos, and Curried Chicken with Rice. She shared the taste test survey results with the Board on the Spicy Chicken Poke Bowl, Al Pastor Taco, and Kofta Mediterranean Meatballs. Also, she shared the upcoming events at the different campuses.

- 12F LIST OF BILLS
- 12G AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK – NOVEMBER 13-17, 2023
- 12H THANKSGIVING BREAK – NOVEMBER 20-24, 2023
- 12I CHRISTMAS BREAK – DECEMBER 18, 2023-JANUARY 3, 2024 (Payroll PERIODS: DECEMBER 8, 2023, and DECEMBER 15, 2023)

Dr. Marc Puig informed the Board that the bills were an informational item. TASBO has recommended to move them from the Consent Agenda Items to informational items. Open House will be from November 13-17, 2023, during American Education Week, the Thanksgiving break will be from November 20-24, 2023, and the Christmas Break will be from December 18, 2023 through January 3, 2024, 2023 (Payroll Periods: December 8, 2023, through December 15, 2023).

13.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S):

- 13A APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- 13B FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Vice-President Larry Cantu asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented:

Motion #7318 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to approve the Consent Agenda Items.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
8:18 p.m.

Motion #7319 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to take a five-minute break.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 1
8:27 p.m.

There was no motion made to come back from the break.

For the record Trustee Bobby Marroquin logged on to the Board meeting at 8:27 p.m.

14.0 BUSINESS AND SUPPORT

- 14B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NAMING AHTLETIC FACILITIES
- President Lori Ann Garza reported that this item had already been approved at a previous board meeting. At the Board meeting it was decided that the board members would submit three names from the community to Dr. Moreno. Dr. Marc Puig reported that he was not able to locate the names. After discussion, Dr. Puig

recommended approving the superintendent to create a committee for naming an athletic facility. Each board member would submit three names to Dr. Puig by Friday.

Motion #7320 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:28 p.m.

14C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 DISTRICT GOALS, DISTRICT AND CAMPUS PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES, AND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN
Dr. Puig recommended approving the 2023-2024 District Goals, District and Campus Performance Objectives, and District Improvement Plan as presented.

Motion #7321 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 – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:30 p.m.

14D DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY FED (LOCAL) – FIRST READING
Dr. Marc Puig recommended tabling this item until the next board meeting.

Motion #7322 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 – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:30 p.m.

14E DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATION OF TAX LEVY FOR THE ROBSTOWN ISD
Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Certification of Tax Levy for the Robstown ISD as presented.

Motion #7323 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 – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, and M. Mesa – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:32 p.m.

14F DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PLACE 7 NUECES COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT FOR THE 2024-2025 TERM

Vice-President Larry Cantu reported that there were two nominations for the Board of Directors – Place 7 Nueces County Appraisal District for the 2024-2025 term. The board of trustees needed to vote for one of the two: Luis A. Elizondo and Mary Ann Y. Saenz. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion #7324 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to vote for Luis A. Elizondo.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:39 p.m.

15.0 CLOSED SESSION - SECTIONS 551.074

15A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

15B FORMATIVE EVALUATION CONFERENCE WITH SUPERINTENDENT

Motion #7325 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos to go into executive session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.074.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:40 p.m.

Motion #7326 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to reconvene from the executive session.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:58 p.m.

16.0 **OPEN SESSION**
17A **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS, EMPLOYMENTS, EVALUATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES**
Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Personnel List as presented in executive session.

Motion #7327 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:59 p.m.

17.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion #7328 A motion was made by Trustee E. Gallegos and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried Yes – 6 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:59 p.m.

(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated 11/13/2023, except for the executive session.)