



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, November 17, 2021, 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/Departed Early
Stacey Alderete	X		
Gilbert Rodriguez		X	
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- TEXAS PLEDGE
- PRAYER

Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant

Change order of the day by Board President Arrellano

RECOGNITIONS

1. Honoring Officer Mario Hinojosa Service  
Eugene Tovar, SSAISD Chief of Police, and Dolores Sendejo, Deputy Superintendent, were called to recognize late Officer Mario Hinojosa for his service to the district.
2. Exploratory Arts and Trilingual Academy at Armstrong Elementary  
Nneka McGee, Executive Director of Learning & Innovation, and Laura Lopez, Principal, were called to recognize students for their achievements. The students displayed their skills by speaking in Mandarin, Spanish, and English and by performing a song in Mandarin and Spanish for the Board and community.

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tom Cummins, South San AFT, addressed the Board regarding an increase of substitute teacher pay and increasing teacher pay for covering classrooms during their conference periods. He asked that they allocate \$40 for teachers who volunteer to sub during their conference period. He stated that teachers are working without Chromebooks or textbooks. He also stated that employees have lost their doctor as a result of the new health insurance carrier and asked that the district negotiate that

their doctor be added to the approved providers.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### 1. Public Hearing to discuss the 2021 FIRST Rating

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

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

Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board and audience regarding visiting several campuses, parents, and students and highlighted district progress. He remarked on the safety commitment, stating that the Board approved a partnership with Community Labs in which 4,000 children and staff at COVID tested every week. He stated that we have had zero transmissions originate from our campuses. Dr. Puig informed that yesterday the district launched a children's vaccination clinic ages 5-11 years old. He stated that several months ago, he visited several campuses with President Arrellano to discuss the importance of investing in our future leaders. He announced that we have partnered with TAMUSA to launch our Aspiring Principals Program. Through this program, employees will have the opportunity to obtain a Master's degree and Principals certification. He stated that the district will invest a minimum of 25% up to 50% reimbursement of their tuition and fees and that will be supported with federal funds. He discussed the TCLAS grant, one of those components involved a teacher pipeline. He stated that last week we had a showcase districtwide, he thanked Ms. McGee for her efforts to make the event successful. He informed the Board and audience on upcoming projects during the Thanksgiving break to include continuing construction work at West Campus. He stated that Monday morning the owner, architect, and contractor will conduct a punch list walkthrough.

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

Ernesto Arrellano Jr., Board President, addressed the Board and audience stating that we will see a presentation on student outcomes for the district and he reiterated that we have issues within the secondary schools particularly the high schools, South San and West Campus. He stated that it is a crisis situation and we need all hands on deck to get this turned around as fast as possible. He stated that 61% of the students at West Campus are failing and 68% of the students at South San are failing. He stated that he is deeply concerned in the direction are students are going. He stated that at the elementary level, that is the shining star and a spark of hope that we can hang on to as we try to fix the secondary level. Mr. Arrellano said that one way the board is going to try to partner with Dr. Puig and staff is to try to revision our priorities for the district. He stated that we have a short fall of about \$4 million because of enrollment issues that are partly due to student outcomes. He stated that the controversial Athletic Complex at West Campus, the \$4-\$6 million cost for that field alone, is something that we are going to look into. He stated that the Board and Superintendent and staff need to figure out how to fast track money for the West Campus cafeteria and library. He discussed how to divide monies for West Campus projects and to other schools for a multiplier effect. He stated that one proposal is providing a solid practice facility. He said let's get something for them to practice on and Shepard can play their Saturday games on a good field. He stated that they will talk about it at the facilities and budget committee meetings. He stated that the cafeteria is where you learn your social skills with friends and at the elementary levels, you have the playgrounds. He stated that we cannot sacrifice our FIRST rating to get everything that we want.

## **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. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- A. Revised September 15, 2021 Regular Called
- B. October 21, 2021 Regular Called
- C. October 27, 2021 Special Called

2. 2021-2022 District Improvement Plan
3. 2021-2022 Campus Improvement Plan
4. 2021-2022 Targeted Improvement Plan

Mrs. Alderete moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 – 4 as presented, Ms. Villagomez seconded and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

### **PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**

1. TEA Monitor Report/Remarks

Dr. Abe Saavedra, TEA Monitor stated:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for the opportunity. One of the requirements of TEA when they placed the Monitor was for there to be an agenda item for the Monitor to present either remarks or a report at the regular scheduled meetings and my comments tonight are basically remarks. I'll deliver a formal report at the December meeting. But I have been placed here now for a little over a month now and I would like to report some of my observations. Some of these I have discussed with President Arrellano and Superintendent Puig as well and one of the observations I've made is there seems to be a lot of tension in this school system, in the governance and possibly even the administration. There seems to be just tension. I've observed that many times, or at times, maybe not many but at times, either Board or administration will do something within their authority, but it may not be necessarily the best way to approach things. Kind of like, we do things because we can oppose to we do things because that's what's best. I would encourage both the Board and the administration to give some thought as to how do we bridge this tension, this controversy that seems to just float out there in communications. I see it among Board members with each other, I see it between Board and administration but it is something that I have observed and I think something that I really would like this Board to work on. Some of the things I will point out that will most likely be in my report that I submit to TEA are things such as, I know that the Board issued 2 reprimands. I listened to the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. When the Board came out and voted on those reprimands and the best that I could tell, the remarks were remarks that actually came from closed session, in essence those reprimands in my opinion occurred in public, that's in violation, those type of things should only occur in closed session and be discussed and none of that should be coming out in reference to the discussion that occurs, and it occurred openly so I think there is a conflict there. Related to that, outside legal counsel rights of communication that basically repeats that the information concerning that reprimand to a third party from outside the district, that was inappropriate. Again this is, these are things that need to be corrected, need to be addressed. At the October 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting, there was an action item taken after the Board exited from closed session and that item was an item, and I will just quote, "I move that the South San Board of Trustees direct legal counsel to make a written request to Juan Cruz & Associates and for all information and documents related to the Superintendent's procurement of Juan Cruz & Associates for any legal services rendered and such documents to be delivered to outside auditors." That item was not posted for action nor was that item discussed in executive session in closed session. In my opinion that item was acted on outside the authority of the board at that time because it was not properly posted. The board also the board had a well, the Board has had a redistricting committee that took action, or met, I won't say took action, met, at the time the board met several times, that that committee had not been approved by the Board in violation of your own local policy. That has since been corrected. It has properly the Board has now taken proper action for that Redistricting Committee to be a properly functioning committee. But

during the time that it did not have that authority, that committee that consisted of members of the Board and exofficio members Board President and Superintendent worked through outside counsel to solicit qualifications for services and for redistricting and in my opinion that request for qualifications or request for proposals is an administrative function and it is not the function of a Board Committee. As a matter of fact, BD(Legal) states, this is your policy under legal, “However should the committee actually function as something more than merely an advisory committee with a result that it in fact supervises or controls public business or policy and going out for qualifications is public business, it must comply with the Open Meetings Act. None of those meetings complied with the Open Meetings Act. So that would be a violation of that. There was one situation where a Trustee met with the Superintendent, and provided the Superintendent a 27-page application packet of an employee applying for some other position. That was inappropriate on the part of the Trustee to be discussing employment or reassignments or promotions of an employee and advocating on behalf of an employee. Those are the type of things that need to be corrected. One of the requirements of TEA is that the board complete a Board governance training. It’s my understanding that the Board has started that but has not completed that. I think a lot of this might be simply be a lack of education on the part of the Board as to what you can do and cannot do and I think that’s something that we all need to work together on in order for things to get better. So with that I will stop my comments and respond to any comments or questions you might have.

2. 2021-2022 Enrollment Update

Dolores Sendejo, Deputy Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

3. October 2021 Financials

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

4. Academic Health Report

Theresa Servellon, Chief Academic Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

5. West Campus HS Reopening Investment Report

Dolores Sendejo, Deputy Superintendent, and Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent, were called to present and answer questions related to this item.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. District Wide Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Assessment

Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent, and Mark Madorski, Leaf Engineers, were called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mr. Flores moved to approve the item as presented, Ms. Villagomez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0 to approve. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

2. SSAISD Fleet Replacement

Michael Sosa, Enterprise Representative, and Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, were 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 6/0 to approve. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

3. Professional Services Consulting Agreement with Erasmo Rodriguez

Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent, Dolores Sendejo, Deputy Superintendent, and Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, were called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mr. Flores made a motion: I would like to make a motion that we table this item for future vote given that maybe we can discuss it in an executive session under personnel and yeah and so I just want to make that make that motion, Ms. Villagomez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0 to approve. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

4. 551.071: Discussion regarding the retention and process of engagement of Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P. for a forensic audit

Mr. Arrellano pulled this item for now

**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. Discussion concerning personnel matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074.
2. Discuss possible employment of administrators, including principals, directors, and assistant principals.
3. 551.071: Discussion regarding the retention and process of engagement of Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P. for a forensic audit  
Start time: 9:47 PM.  
End time: 10:10 PM.

**OPEN SESSION**

1. Reconvene from Executive Session for action relative to items considered during ExecutiveSession  
Recommendation from Dr. Puig- I recommend we hire the director as discussed in closed session. Mr. Flores moved to approve the item as presented, Mrs. Alderete seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0 to approve. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Connie Prado	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez	X		

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Alderete moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Ibarra seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 PM.

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gilbert F. Rodriguez, Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Alderete, 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.*