



**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 Thursday, November 21, 2024, 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
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.		X	
Shirley Ibarra	X		

- Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- TEXAS PLEDGE
- PRAYER

Led by Alexis LaFosse, Director of Communications

MISSION

Led by Trustee Araiza

VISION

Led by Trustee Araiza

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tom Cummins, AFT Representative, addressed the Board regarding the AFT Committee formed in response to Donald Trump’s pledge to deport the 20 million migrants and refugee children. He asked that the district deliver counseling to those in fear of deportation. He also stated that teachers have expressed that Board meetings be on Thursdays so they can attend.

TEA REMARKS

Dr. Abe Saavedra, TEA: I do not really have any remarks; I just want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving next week.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board and audience introducing Israel Deleon, new Director of Technology and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Manuel Lopez, Board President: As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday I want to take a moment the express my heartfelt gratitude to our students, educators, staff, families and community members. This school year has already been marked by remarkable successes from academic achievements, increased enrollment, higher attendance rates, stellar financial ratings, and improved financial stability. These milestones and accomplishments are a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in making the South San Antonio Independent School District great again. I share these important observations because I feel they have been overshadowed by current events. Recently our Conservator strongly advised TEA to impose a Board of Managers, a position with which I vigorously disagree with. Contrary to his opinion, the record shoes that

Trustees have worked closely the successes I described. I want to recognize the full Board but especially 3 Trustees; Homer Flores Jr., Joe Araiza, and Ernesto Arrellano Jr., who have reaffirmed their service to the tax payers by returning for new terms. Ms. Gonzales, a soon to be sworn in Trustee brings a fresh perspective. Together we will continue to lift the district to new heights. In times of challenge and opportunity, alike, steady and consistent leadership remains the cornerstone of meaningful progress. Leadership rooted in proven results provides stability needed to guide us towards our goals, ensuring every decision is thoughtful deliberate and informed by experience. While change can seem like the quickest path forward, the impulsive easy fix often leads to uncertainty and unintended consequences. In my opinion, this is the wrong path our Conservator has endorsed. Instead, I extend my hand to our Conservator and respectfully ask him not to quit on the district but to continue working with the Board of Trustees in the spirit of community based self-governance. Progress is best achieved when leadership is focused on long-term growth supported by clear vision and driven by commitment to serving the best interest of all stakeholders. Let us continue to place our trust in leadership that has demonstrated its ability to deliver results and sustain success, knowing that this approach builds a foundation for a stronger future. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the blessings we share and I'm especially thankful for the opportunity to serve a district so deeply committed to the success and wellbeing of our students. As we pause to enjoy this holiday season with loved ones, let us also look ahead to the rest of the school year with renewed energy and determination. Together we will return ready to finish strong achieving even greater heights in the months ahead. On behalf of the South San ISD School Board, we wish everyone a great and safe Thanksgiving. And these are my personal opinions. Thank you.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Discussion and possible action to approve ordinance/order/resolution declaring unopposed candidates for the following single member districts, 2, 3, 5, and 7 as the newly elected Trustees in their respective single member districts.

Mr. Lopez read the resolution into the record:

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the South San Antonio Independent School District Board of Trustees is composed of seven (7) members, each elected to staggered four-year terms by single-member districts;

WHEREAS, the Trustees for Single-Member Districts 2, 3, 5, and 7 were scheduled for election during the general election held on November 5, 2024.

WHEREAS, in the November 5, 2024, election, there was only one candidate for each of the Trustee positions up for election in the respective single-member districts.

WHEREAS, the District subsequently removed the election measure from the ballot, as each candidate ran unopposed.

WHEREAS, the District has received certification from the Bexar County Elections Administrator confirming that the unopposed candidates for the four (4) single-member districts would have been duly elected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD THAT:

1. All the above-referenced paragraphs are incorporated into and made part of this Resolution.
2. The Board declares each unopposed candidate elected to the office for which they ran as it pertains to the November 5, 2024, general election.

Adopted by the vote of the majority of members of the Board of Trustees of the South San ISD present and voting at an open meeting of the Board on the 21st day of November 2024, at which a quorum was present:

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

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		

3. Administration of Anti-Bribery Statements and Oaths of Office
Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant/Notary, was called to administer the Statements and Oaths related to this item.
4. Remarks by Newly Elected Trustees
Ernesto Arrellano Jr, Jose Araiza, and Homer Flores, Trustees, were called to share remarks.

5. Discussion and Possible Action to elect board officers pursuant to Texas Education Code 11.061 and South San ISD Board Policy BDAA (Legal) and (Local).

Manuel Lopez, Board President, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mr. Araiza made a motion: I have a motion to leave the board officers as is, Ms. Ibarra seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0. Motion passed. (President: Lopez, VP: Ramirez, Secretary: Arrellano)

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Elsa Gonzales	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		

6. Lone Star Governance Student Outcome Goal Report

Millicent Marcha, Chief Academic Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

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

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Elsa Gonzales	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		

RECOGNITIONS

1. SSAISD Winter Wonderland: A Fine Arts Showcase & SSAISD Santa Paws Toy Drive

Alexis LaFosse, Director of Communications, was called to recognize students for their achievements.

PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

1. October 2024 Financials

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

2. Facilities Strategic Planning

Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, Richard Acosta, District Financial Advisor, Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, and Andy Rocha, Executive Director of Operations, were 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. October 16, 2024 Regular Called

2. Consent to approve the South San Antonio ISD (SSAISD) 2024-2025 Compensation Plan Amendments

3. Consider approval of Educational Experience Agreement between UTSA and SSAISD Child Nutrition Department

4. TexPool Authorized Representatives

5. UIW Material Transfer Agreement

6. Budget Amendment

- 7. A&M University-San Antonio Amendment to MOU for Mobile Autism Unit
- 8. Approval of RFP 2024-05 Fence Replacement
- 9. FFAC LOCAL Policy Update

Mrs. Ramirez moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 – 9 as presented, Mr. Araiza seconded and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Elsa Gonzales	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	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. Personnel §551.074: deliberation on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of personnel.
- 2. Presentation of District real estate property and matters related thereto
- 3. Consultation with legal counsel regarding the Agreed Order between South San Antonio ISD and the Texas Education Agency.

Start time: 7:59 PM.
End time: 8:21 PM.

OPEN SESSION

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

Personnel §551.074: deliberation on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of personnel.

Mr. Araiza made a motion: I move that the Board direct the Superintendent to declare that Samuel Flores abandoned his contract and made all necessary reports including to SBEC. Ms. Ibarra seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Elsa Gonzales	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		

Consultation with legal counsel regarding the Agreed Order between South San Antonio ISD and the Texas Education Agency.

Mrs. Ramirez made a motion: I move that South San Antonio ISD Board of Trustees direct legal counsel to file all the appropriate legal responses to the Conservator’s recommendation for the Texas Education Agency known as TEA to impose an outside unelected Board of Managers on voters, tax payers, parents and all students of the South San Antonio ISD, Mr. Arrellano seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Elsa Gonzales	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ramirez moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Ibarra seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.

ATTEST

 Manuel Lopez, Board President

 Ernesto Arrellano Jr., 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.