

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL 25, 2022

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Ismael Gonzalez, Trustee
Hector Lopez, Trustee

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. José H. Moreno, Superintendent
Mrs. Diana L. Silvas, Deputy Superintendent
Mrs. Vanessa Riggs, Chief Financial Officer

VISITORS: Richard Gonzalez Tessie Ledesma Lorena Ceballos
Lisa Persyn Beatrice Lopez Hector Gomez
Roxana Ybarra Benito Portillo Maribel Trevino
Anisa Chavera Laura Cueva Candace Rodriguez
Michelle De La Pena Tessie Ledesma

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 6:00 p.m., President Lori Ann Garza 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, Ismael Gonzalez – Absent, Hector Lopez – Absent, and Bertha Roldan – Present

Present – 5

Absent – 2

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

Trustee Bertha Roldan led the board members and the public in a prayer.

3.0 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/TEXAS FLAG PLEDGE**
President Lori Ann Garza 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: “Inspiring Life-Long Learning by Providing Limitless Opportunities for Success.”

**MISSION – EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TODAY TO PREPARE FOR
TOMORROW**
Trustee Bertha Roldan read the following mission statement: “Empowering Individuals Today to Prepare for Tomorrow.”

5.0 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
There were no comments from the public.

6.0 **SUPERINTENDENT’S CELEBRATION(S)**
6A **RECHS COLORGUARD**
Norma Martinez reported the RECHS Luna Rossa Guard had an amazing 2022 season and placed in four contests before state championships by placing 2nd 1st, 3rd, and 1st at each of the contests. They earned second place in their division block at the Texas Educational Colorguard Association in Laredo, Texas. This is a first for this group to not only place at every contest but to place in the top three at state championships. The group was also voted Fan Favorite of their group. Also, they have two seventh graders in the group. She recognized each of the members of the group that were present at the Board meeting.

6B **RECHS BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA**
Beatrice Lopez reported that several RECHS students participated in the Business Professionals of America contest on Saturday, January 22, 2022. The students advanced to the State Leadership Conference in March. She recognized the following three students that advanced to state: 1) Maegan Morales, 1st Place in Advanced Word Processing; 2) Natly Saenz, 1st Place in Health Administration Procedures; and 3) Heather Arroyo, 2nd Place in Fundamental Word Processing.

6C **RECHS AND SEALE JR. HIGH SCHOOL BANDS**
Miguel Cabrera reported that the Seale Junior High School traveled to Alice, Texas on April 13, 2022, to compete in the UIL Concert & Sight-Reading contest for the first time since 2019. The Seale Junior High School Band received straight ones from the three judges. The students were not able to make the board meeting because they had practice for marching band. This was the 10th UIL Sweepstakes award in his career. On Thursday, April 14th, the RECHS Band traveled to Alice High School to perform at the UIL and Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. The band received straight ones from all of the six judges.

7.0

INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

7A

2022 SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE – JUNE 15-18, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Dr. Jose Moreno informed the Board that the 2022 Summer Leadership Institute Conference is being held in San Antonio, Texas on June 15-18, 2022. If anyone was interested in attending to please let Ms. Padilla know.

7B

SUMMER SCHOOL UPDATE

Diana Silvas presented the Robstown ISD Summer School flyer to the Board. She reported that summer school would be from June 6, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The flyer has the times on it, and they are required to offer summer school to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten emergent bilingual students from June 6th thru June 30th, and the rest of the students from June 6, 2022, through June 23, 2022. The elementary students and Seale Junior High School students will attend from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and the high school students from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon or 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m., and lunch will also be provided. Also, bus transportation will be provided for the students, and the flyer has been posted on the school district's website.

7C

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Jose Moreno reported that the Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan was implemented back in September. The plan is required to be updated as needed. He reviewed the areas that needed to be updated with the Board and stated that once it was updated, they would post it on the school district's website.

7D

SUPERINTENDENT SCORE CARD REPORT

Dr. Jose Moreno reported that the Score Card Report has been set up in a different format to make it easier to work with. Eric Gonzalez reported that the projected enrollment was 2509 and as of April 22, 2022, the enrollment was 2468 for a difference of forty-one students less. He reviewed the attendance percentage by six weeks, attendance letter counts by campus, the cumulative number of students – truancy filings, discipline referrals report for 2021-2022 by campus, and the process and status of the students that they have filed on. Leeroy Gonzalez reported that during the month of March they closed 394 work orders in three weeks and during April 18th through April 22nd, they have 163 open work orders and so far they have closed fifty-eight. He also reviewed work orders during the other weeks in March and April. Diana Silvas reported that during the week of April 16th through the 22nd, the school district had zero teachers out for COVID-19, the week of April 16th through the 22nd, and they had only one student out that tested positive and previously it had been zero. The school district is in very good shape, and they continue to be at zero with the staff.

7E

WELDING LAB UPDATE

Dr. Jose Moreno reported that he was given the official start date of May 16, 2002,

to start on the welding lab. The agreement has been signed. The original proposal was for \$958,600, and after they renegotiated, they came down to \$790,568. He was pleased with the negotiations, and he was super excited for the school district's students. The school district will only have to pay around \$16,000 from local funds. The rest is being paid out of ESSER funds.

7F

ESSER III UPDATE

Vanessa Riggs presented the ESSER III update as of April 2022, and stated that it was posted on the school district's website. The ESSER funds were a one-time use only and the funds could not be used on raises because the raises were not sustainable. She reviewed the expenditures that have been identified, estimated costs, object codes, and program descriptions for ESSER III. The money is to be used in response to the pandemic and the school district is required to spend 20% on learning loss and the rest can be used for operational continuity. Out of the \$12 million, they have to spend \$2.5 million on learning loss activities. Also, they have allocated \$970,000 set aside for the welding lab. Every month, under the Consent Agenda Items, she shares the expenditures of funds for review that have been spent on the ESSER funds.

7G

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Dr. Jose Moreno reported that the school district will benchmark the students in the fall and spring. They will begin testing at the secondary level next week and follow with the elementary campuses. Lorena Ceballos presented a two-part snapshot overview on the school district's students. She reviewed the campus comparison for the Fall and Spring Benchmarks with the Board for the following campuses: Robert Driscoll Elementary School (3rd Grade Reading and Math, 4th Grade Reading and Math, 5th Grade Reading and Math, and 5th Grade Science); San Pedro Elementary School (3rd Grade Reading and Math, 4th Grade Reading and Math, and 5th Grade Science); Lotspeich Elementary School (3rd Grade Reading and Math, 4th Grade Reading and Math, 5th Grade Reading and Math, and 5th Grade Science); the elementary Fall and Spring Benchmark comparisons, Seale Jr. High School (6th Grade Reading and Math, 7th Grade Reading and Math, 8th Grade Reading and Math, 8th Grade Algebra 1, 8th Grade Science and Social Studies), and RECHS (End of Course for English I and English II, Algebra 1, Biology, and US History). She reviewed how the students did on this year's STAAR test compared to last year's STAAR test for each of the school district's campuses. Also, she reviewed the change in performance for each of the school district's campuses. After discussion, Dr. Moreno mentioned that they are working on initiatives and interventions to help those students that need improvement.

8.0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

8A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8B

APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS (#17-#19)

8C

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

8D

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion to approve the minutes, budget amendments #17-#19, list of bills, and financial report as presented.

Motion #6934 A motion was made by Trustee B. Roldan and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
7:59 p.m.

9.0 GOVERNANCE

9A DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT TO BOARD POLICY (CCGB) LOCAL RELATED TO AD VALOREM TAXES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Jose Moreno reported that sometimes businesses are often called upon to make difficult financial decisions about where to locate their business, and the school district welcomes companies to the area. Chapter 313 would be an advantage to the school district because they would contact the school district of their interest to bring their business to Robstown. Chapter 313 allows school districts to take on this economic conundrum at the local level by entering into a Value Limitation Agreement with qualifying businesses. The agreement qualifies a business for certain valued limitation in reference to certain tax purposes. The company will resume paying school district taxes on the full value of the property after ten years. In order for the school district to move forward with Chapter 313 process, the school district will be able to adopt or update Board Policy CCGB (LOCAL) to include rules regarding the Chapter 313 application process. Vanessa Riggs reported that the school district had previously accepted an application; however, the company went bankrupt. She reviewed the school district's present CCGB (LOCAL) and the revised policy with the Board. After discussion, Dr. Jose Moreno recommended adopting Board Policy CCGB (LOCAL) related to ad valorem taxes and economic development.

Motion #6935 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee L. Cantu to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
8:09 p.m.

9B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO DEC (LOCAL)

Diana Silvas recommended approving the following revisions to DEC (LOCAL): To include the Extended Sick Leave – “After all available paid leave days and any compensatory time have been exhausted, an employee shall be granted in a school year a maximum of twenty leave days of extended sick leave to be used only for the employee's own catastrophic illness or injury, including pregnancy-related illness or injury. A written request for extended sick leave

must be accompanied by medical certification of the illness or injury. For professional employees, the district shall deduct \$90 for each day of extended sick leave taken, whether or not a substitute is employed. For all other employees, the district shall deduct \$45 for each day of extended sick leave taken,” and 2) Payment for Accumulated Leave Upon Retirement – The employees retirement would be voluntary and not being discharged or nonrenewed. The employee must provide advance written notice of the retirement thirty days before the last day of retirement, and the non-contractual employees must provide written notice two weeks before the last day of employment. An employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated local leave at a rate of \$30 for the first thirty days and \$15 for each additional day, to a maximum of sixty days. Once, an employee is re-employed with the school district, the days for which the employee received payment shall not be available to the employee. The Board establishes the rate and it shall be in effect until the Board adopts a new rate. The change to the rate shall apply beginning with the school year following the adoption of the rate change. After discussion, Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving the revisions to DEC (LOCAL) as presented.

Motion #6936 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Roldan to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu –Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
8:17 p.m.

10.0 BUSINESS AND SUPPORT

10A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DECLARING SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AT THE DULIN AND SALAZAR BUILDING

Dr. Jose Moreno reported that the school district would be hiring an auctioneer to help them out with the surplus equipment at the Dulin and Salazar Buildings. The school district did not sell everything at the previous auction so they would like to sell the remaining items and the new items declared surplus equipment. Vanessa Riggs reported that the auction would be online and sold to the highest bidder. The company will receive a certain percentage of the gross. After discussion, Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving to declare surplus equipment at the Dulin and Salazar Building.

Motion #6937 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu –Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
8:21 p.m.

10B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL TO HOLD A PUBLIC AUCTION
Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving to hold a public auction online for the purpose of selling the school district's surplus equipment. After discussion, Dr. Jose Moreno recommended holding a public auction to sell the school district's surplus equipment.

Motion #6938 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu –Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
8:25 p.m.

10C CONSIDER AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE DELIVERY METHOD FOR PROCUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE BAND HALL RESTROOMS RENOVATION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 2269

Vanessa Riggs reported that according to board policy CI (LOCAL), the Board determines the project delivery/contract award method to be used for each construction contract valued at or over \$50,000.00. The superintendent shall recommend the project delivery/contract award method that the superintendent determines to be the best value for the school district. There are various ways that they can procure construction services. The administration felt that in the best interest of the school district that they use the Competitive Sealed Proposals, as the delivery method for procurement of construction services, for the Band Hall Restroom Renovation Project. Nava Architects have been selected and they are in the process of executing the contract. After discussion, Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving the Competitive Sealed Proposals with the ability to negotiate the contract.

Motion #6939 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee L. Cantu to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu –Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
8:28 p.m.

11:0 **CLOSED SESSION – SECTION 551.072 AND 551.074 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE**

- 11A PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.072 AND 551.074 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, THE BOARD WILL ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES
- 11B DISCUSSION OF EXTENSION OF ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT
- 11C DISCUSSION OF RENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, COUNSELORS, AND NURSES (RN'S)

Motion #6940 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to go into executive session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.072 and 551.074.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 3
8:29 p.m.

For the record, Trustee Larry Cantu signed off from the board meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Motion #6941 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Roldan to reconvene back from executive session.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Absent, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 0 Absent – 3
9:40 p.m.

12.0 OPEN SESSION

12A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving the appointments, employments, evaluations, reassignments, duties, discipline, or dismissal of employees as discussed in executive session.

Motion #6942 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Absent, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 0 Absent – 3
9:41 p.m.

12B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF ADMINISTRATOR’S CONTRACTS
Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving the extension of administrator’s contracts as presented in executive session.

Motion #6943 A motion was made by Trustee B. Roldan and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Absent, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 0 Absent – 3
9:42 p.m.

13C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, COUNSELORS & NURSES (RN’S)
Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving the renewal of employment contract for teachers, librarians, counselors & Nurses (RN’S) as presented in executive session.

Motion #6944 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Roldan to approve the superintendent’s recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Absent C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 0 Absent – 3
9:43 p.m.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion #6945 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Roldan to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, L. Cantu – Absent, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin –Yes, I. Gonzalez – Absent, H. Lopez – Absent and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 0 Absent – 3
9:43 p.m.

(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated, 04/25/2022 except for the executive session.)

