

Minutes of Town Hall Meeting

Board of Trustees
Fabens ISD



Members Present: Luis “Charlie” Estrada
Angel Ornelas Jr.
Crystal Ramirez
Julieta Sepulveda Ramirez
Greg Spence

Members Absent: Orlando Flores
Benjamin Morales

Administrators Present: Dr. Rogelio Segovia Mr. Manuel Aldaco
Mr. Justin Kleist Ms. Marcela Licerio
Ms. Sofia Maciel Ms. Silvia Nunez
Mr. Michael Perez Ms. Aide Polanco
Ms. Corina Ruiz

Maria T. Rodriguez

DATE: December 3, 2025

TIME: 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Fabens Middle School – 800 Walker Street

PURPOSE: Town Hall Panel Discussion: “Why It Matters to Show Up to a School Board Meeting and Be Involved as a Community

MODERATOR: Chris Babcock, KTSM 9 New Director

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM

2. Welcome and Overview

Mr. Chris Babcock welcomed everyone present and read the following information:

- Explanation of purpose and event norms
 - Respect everyone – listen, do not interrupt, allow all voices to be heard
 - Stay on topic – comments/questions should focus on the posted topic
 - Be constructive – offer ideas, not personal criticism

3. Panel Discussion – Board Members answered prepared questions

- Each trustee will respond to two questions related to tonight’s theme.

Questions for President Charlie Estrada

Question 1:

Why is it essential for parents and community members to attend school board meetings?"

(Response)

If the Board is undecided about an item or issue, information provided can help board members decide.

Question 2:

"How does community involvement influence the decisions the Board makes for students and staff?"

(Response)

Nosotros vigilamos la operación del distrito no manejamos el día a día operación del distrito. Tenemos que tenerle la confianza a el Señor Segovia y su empleados. Unos piensan que los miembros están pagados por estar en la mesa directiva.

Questions for Vice President Angel Ornelas

Question 3:

"Why is it valuable for board members to hear diverse perspectives from the community?"

(Response)

Different parents point of views provide information the members may not know or have. Hearing all input, provides trust / transparency and clarity.

Question 4:

"Si pudiera dar un mensaje a la comunidad sobre la importancia de asistir reuniones de la junta directiva escolar, cual seria?"

(Response)

Pasen a las juntas para recibir información correcta no de segunda mano. Esto evita chismes.

Questions for Secretary Crystal Ramirez

Question 5:

"Why is community participation essential to a successful public school system?"

(Response)

The Board needs input from all; parents and community. The community needs to know and understand how the district operates. Participation can build a strong community.

Question 6:

"Por que es importante que los estudiantes vean a los adultos presentarse a abogar por sus escuelas?"

(Response)

Adult participation shows students to be thankful and show them adults care. It lets the Board know what is working or not and give us an opportunity to help.

Questions for Trustee Julieta Sepulveda-Ramirez

Question 7:

“How can attending board meetings help support extracurriculars, athletics, fine arts and academic programs?”

(Response)

The community will see how money is budgeted. Help them understand we want the “Best” for them – No pass / No play

Question 8:

“Por que considera que la presencia de la comunidad es tan importante como los comentarios de la comunidad?”

(Response)

Community input is important because it keeps us informed which will have improvements for the students.

Questions for Trustee Greg Spence

Question 9:

“Mr. Spence, how can attending school board meetings help reduce rumors, misinformation, or misunderstandings within the community?”

(Response)

We need information from the community. Rumors may spread wrong information, come to meetings, get correct information / knowledge of what is happening. Remember, we have policy and procedures in place which must be followed.

4. Audience Q&A – Moderated by Chris Babcock

- Public participation is limited to questions posted on the posted topic only
- Moderator will guide order of speakers and ensure Texas Open Meetings Act compliance

Questions from the community were:

Ms. Mischen – Had questions on how the curriculum for Math at Fabens Elementary School (FES) was selected.

Ms. Ornelas – Sometimes changes to programs are not needed; if program works why change? Concerns with new programs and very young staff at FES.

Board members answered above questions.

All Board members present, thanked the community for their attendance and hoped that the next Town Hall Meeting would have a larger audience.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM