

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 12, 2025

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

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

VISITORS:	Sandra Blanton	Richard Gonzalez	Jorge Hernandez
	Les Hines	Matthew Scott	Anisa Chavera
	Myra Alaniz	Belinda Alaniz	Holly Bockholt

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, Erik Gallegos – Present, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Larry Cantu – Present, Mario Mesa – Present and Yvette Villalobos – Present

Present – 7

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 Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2.0

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAYER

Dr. Marc Puig led the audience and the Board in 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 the Texas Flag Pledge.

4.0 VISION – OUR VISION IS TO IGNITE BRILLIANCE AND IMPACT LIVES BY PROVIDING TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER STUDENTS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Trustee Mario Mesa 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 – 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

Trustee Cezar Martinez 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

Trustee Cezar Martinez informed the audience “that those wishing to address the school board must provide their name for the record and observe a three-minute time limit. During this time, the Board of Trustees may not respond to the citizens' concerns as per the Texas Open Meetings Act.” Myra Alaniz informed the Board that a certified air permit consultant has reviewed Avina’s permit application and has found serious oversights. The consultants are questioning the integrity of the permit in process. Avina’s current permit contains significant inaccuracies and if not addressed these issues will cause long-term risks for the families and neighborhoods in Robstown. She provided a copy of the letter that was forwarded to TCEQ to the Board and they are waiting for their final decision expected in the next few months. Over three hundred residents have submitted requests for reconsideration. She urged the board members to oppose any tax abatement to Avina because if the communities are expected to put up with the environmental burden then Avina should have to pay their full share of taxes. Any abatement will only serve to boost Avina’s profits. Jorge Hernandez addressed the Board about how to improve the school district’s rating from the Texas Education Agency. Also, he asked the board members if they would consider a program that would move the school district from a D to a B.

6.0 AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

6A HEART OF GOLD

Dr. Marc Puig announced that there would be no Heart of Gold Award at this time.

7.0 MADAM PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

7A 2025 SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – JUNE 11-14, 2025

President Lori Ann Garza announced that the 2025 Summer Leadership Conference was going to be held in San Antonio, Texas, on June 11-14, 2025.

8.0

8A

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Marc Puig reported that the school district's enrollment as of today was 2534, and the attendance rate was at 90.3% compared to 84.1% from last school year. The ADA as of today was at 2220. House Bill 4 is not the elimination of STAAR. This is going to replace the current structure of STAAR with three shorter exams in the beginning of the year, in the middle of the year, and towards the end of the year. House Bill 2 will be discussed in the Senate this week. The increase in salaries looks very good. Senate Bill 2 on school vouchers will go into effect in 2027. He shared pictures of students who are earning their educational aide certification by helping the school district's younger students. The RECHS hosted thirty CTE Directors from different school districts who came to visit the district's CTE Program. They are continuing community engagement between the school district and the Robstown Education Foundation. Also, he presented the following graduation data: The annual dropout rate for the state was at 2.0%, Region 2 was at 1.6%, and the school district's dropout rate was at 0.6%. The school district's graduation rate was at 95.3% which is above the state (90.3%) and Region 2 (91.6%). Also, in honor of National Police Week – May 11-17, 2025, he thanked Chief Tito Tagle and the police officers for taking care of the school district's students.

9.0

9A

PRESENTATION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

RISD DONATIONS

Dr. Marc Puig announced that the following ten companies had submitted donations to the school district: 1) Jana Diane Ross donated \$100 to Seale, Jr. High School, 2) Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union donated \$400 to Teaching and Learning, 3) Amplify donated \$250 to Tech Connect, 4) ClassLink donated \$300 to Tech Connect, 5) Curipod donated \$250 to Tech Connect, 6) Edlio donated breakfast for all attendees, 7) Imagine Learning donated \$750 to Tech Connect, 8) Kiddom donated \$250 for snacks to Tech Connect, 9) Securely donated \$750 to Tech Connect, 10) Sphere donated \$250 to Tech Connect, and 11) Summit K-12 donated \$750 to Tech Connect.

Dr. Marc Puig mentioned that they will be presenting at the SLI Conference and some employees will be presenting at the Safety Conference. Trustee Cezar Martinez announced that the name of the talk that they would be presenting is on Vision Gap: Bridging the Real Divide to Achieve Success in Your District. In this session, attendees can learn actual strategies to close this gap by cultivating a shared inspiring vision that aligns leadership and empowers the education of students, and engages communities.

9B

ACADEMIC UPDATE/TIA UPDATE

Adriana Tagle announced that it was a team effort when it came to Teaching and Learning. Her staff will be sharing on the following items: The purpose of what they

do, summer school, LASO Blended Learning updates, LASO news, and TIA update.

Joshua Garcia reported that the teachers are ready to streamline summer school. He shared pictures of the orientation that was held on April 26, 2025, with the teachers who will be working summer school. The letters to the parents were sent out on Friday notifying them if their child needed to attend summer school. The letter contained the registration information for summer school. The secondary letters will be sent out this week to the teachers so that they can give them to the students to take home to their parents. Summer school will held during the week of June 2-19, 2025.

Rachel Medrano reported that they had received \$375,000 from LASO III Blended Learning Grant. The grant aims to provide difficult, high-quality instructional materials that cover ground and master grade-level TEKS. The students have answered 750,000 questions. Also, they attended the LASO III Blended Learning Summit at the Education Service Center Region 4 in May. The purpose of the summit is to connect across the state on the Blended Learning process. The elementary and secondary teachers were able to visit campuses to see all core contents, a variety of levels of learners, and a variety of different teachers on how they implement things within their content. Also, Adriana Tagle reported that the school district has received an additional \$445,000 from LASO III Strong Foundation Implementation. The funds will be used to support Math K-5 for \$245,000, and \$200,000 for Algebra I 6-8.

Belinda Alaniz reported that today they received eleven pallets of books, they will be having curriculum camps during the summer, and they are working on teacher plans.

Adriana Tagle reported that she had attended a workshop at the ESC II with fifteen RISD math teachers on the Bluebonnet Math. She invited the following two teachers to share on the workshop: Schlaine Wynn, San Pedro Fine Arts Academy; and Jasmine Mondagron, Seale Jr. High School. Both teachers reported that they had a lot of fun and they learned how to make the student's work come alive in the classroom.

Diana Silvas reported that the Human Resources Department and the Teaching and Learning Department are working together on the TIA Road Map. She explained how it is attainable for teachers to earn money on TIA. She reviewed the changes that were made to TIA and stated that they had met on April 15, 2025, to continue working on the handbook. The goal is to have the handbook completed by the time they leave for the summer. They are meeting every Tuesday for an hour to work on the handbook. A training was held on April 23, 2025, with NIET. On May 5, 2025, they attended a Rural Cohort meeting to discuss the next steps to TIA.

9C GRADUATION DATE – MAY 23, 2025, 8:00 P.M., RECHS FOOTBALL STADIUM
Dr. Marc Puig announced that the Robstown Early College High School graduation will be held on May 23, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.

9D M & O UPDATE
Ron Lawver reported that the asbestos testing had been completed at the fieldhouse, with no findings. Because of graduation, they will start the fieldhouse project on the 26th of May. Mathew Smith, Architect, reported that they were hired to provide the school district with construction administration services. Their role is to review what the contractor has provided to the school district, attend pre-construction meetings, and provide on-site construction observations on a weekly basis. Les Hines reported that they have been working every week since the project started by reviewing the contractor's documents provided, every week they make an on-site observation, review the progress, and make sure that the details are being followed. Every week, they provide a report on the visits that they make to Ron Lawver and Dr. Marc Puig. At the meeting, they review what happened that week or any concerns that have come up. The roofing at Hattie Martin is done and completed. A punch list was submitted for Seale Jr. High School and they will be checking to see that it is completed. Ortiz is ongoing and it is 65% complete. Once they finish at Ortiz, they will start at the high school.

9E SAFETY REPORT
Chief Tito Tagle reported that they have received the metal detectors for Lotspich Leadership Academy and the staff has already been trained. They received another intruder detection audit from the Education Service Center at Lotspeich Leadership Academy and he was happy to announce that they had passed. He has been meeting with the city officials, and they have informed him that everything looks good on the grant for the sidewalks. Also, an engineer from TX DOT has already been approved for the project.

9F LIST OF BILLS
President Lori Ann Garza informed the Board that the list of bills was in their Board packets for their review. If they have any questions, please let Dr. Puig know.

9G FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT
Dr. Marc Puig reported that the revenues and expenses that have been projected will be very close. He had one concern and that was the local shares.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)

10A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the minutes as presented with a correction on page 51 to state that the attendance was 90.3% instead of 93%.

Motion #7631 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, E. Gallegos – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, L. Cantu - Yes, M. Mesa – Yes, and Y. Villalobos – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent 0
7:14 p.m.

11.0 ACTION ITEM(S)

11A DISCUSS AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON A PLAN OF FINANCE IN RELATION TO THE ISSUANCE OF MAINTENANCE TAX NOTES AND/OR TIME WARRANTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, ACQUISITION, RENOVATIONS, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, REHABILITATION, AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES, INCLUDING, PARTICULARLY, THE FIELD HOUSE

Robert Tijerina presented the Maintenance Tax Notes, Series 2025, to the Board, for the construction, acquisition, and equipping of school facilities including, particularly, the field house. The total estimated project is \$3,500,000 and the cost of issuance plus a rounding amount of \$70,000 for a total of \$3,570,000. He is expecting a TIC of 4.8% and the first payment will be in 2026, for fifteen years. The approval today allows the consultants and the administration to put a financing package together. The financing package will be presented at a future board meeting. He reviewed the timetable and he will be meeting with the Board again next month on June 16, 2025. The money will be used for the field house and the difference will be paid out of the fund balance. After discussion, Dr. Puig recommended approving the finance plan as presented.

Motion #7632 A motion was made by Trustee M. Mesa and seconded by Trustee Y. Villalobos to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0
7:25 p.m.

11B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING POSSIBLE ACTION ON AN ORDER EXPRESSING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE WITH TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATION PROCEEDS COST INCURRED TO CONSTRUCT, ACQUIRE, RENOVATE, MAINTAIN, REPAIR, REHABILITATE, AND EQUIP SCHOOL FACILITIES

Robert Tijerina reported that this item allows school districts to start working on a project, by using funds from the fund balance for the project until the money is received. The order allows school districts to start on a project before the money is received and get reimbursed for it when the money comes in. After discussion, Dr.

Marc Puig recommended approving an order expressing official intent to reimburse with tax-exempt obligation proceeds the cost incurred to construct, acquire, renovate, maintain, repair, rehabilitate, and equip school facilities.

Motion #7633 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, E. Gallegos – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, L. Cantu - Yes, M. Mesa – Yes, and Y. Villalobos - Yes

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0
7:28 p.m.

11C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION ADOPTING A ONE-TIME
EMPLOYEE RETENTION INCENTIVE PAYMENT
Trustee Bobby Marroquin recommended tabling this item for further discussion.

Motion #7634 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa to table this item for further discussion.

Roll Call L. Garza – No, E. Gallegos – No, C. Martinez – No, B. Marroquin – Yes, L. Cantu - Yes, M. Mesa – Yes, and Y. Villalobos - No

Motion did Yes – 3 No - 4 Absent – 0
not carry
7:29 p.m.

After discussion, Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving a resolution for the one-time employee retention incentive payment of \$500.

Motion #7635 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee Y. Villalobos to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

Roll Call L. Garza – Yes, E. Gallegos – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – No, L. Cantu - No, M. Mesa – Yes, and Y. Villalobos - Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 2 Absent – 0
7:42 p.m.

11D DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE REQUESTS FOR EARLY
GRADUATION FROM ROBSTOWN EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
Adriana Tagle reported that board policy requires that any time a student requests for early graduation it has to be taken to the Board. The process is that the student will visit with the high school counselor and the counselor will then consult with the principal. She has received a written request, a transcript, and a plan that is feasible for early graduation. The student does meet the early graduation requirements and they are requesting to graduate in 2026. After discussion, Dr. Marc Puig

recommended approving the requests for early graduation from Robstown Early College High School.

Motion #7636 A motion was made by Trustee E. Gallegos and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0
7:46 p.m.

11E DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT MINUTES WAIVER
Diana Silvas requested approval of the Staff Development Minutes Waiver. She reported that this waiver allows the school district to train on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in place of student instructional strategies. After discussion, Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the Staff Development Minutes Waiver as presented.

Motion #7637 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, E. Gallegos – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, L. Cantu - Yes, M. Mesa – Yes, and Y. Villalobos - Yes

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent 0
7:46 p.m.

12.0 **CLOSED SESSION – SECTION 551.074**
12A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

Motion #7638 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 Section 551.074.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0
7:47 p.m.

Motion #7639 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, E. Gallegos – Yes, C. Martinez – Yes, B. Marroquin – Yes, L. Cantu - Yes, M. Mesa – Yes, and Y. Villalobos – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:33 p.m.

13.0 OPEN SESSION

13A 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 the
executive session.

Motion #7640 A motion was made by Trustee E. Gallegos and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez
to approve the superintendent's recommendation.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:34 p.m.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion #7641 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee E. Gallegos
to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0
8:34 p.m.

(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated 05/12/2025, except for the executive session.)