

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AUGUST 8, 2022

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Cantu, Vice-President
Ismael Gonzalez, Trustee

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

VISITORS:	Rachel Medrano	Adan Botello	Pam Kwiatkowski
	Maribel Trevino	Anisa Chavera	Lisa Persyn
	Tessie Ledesma	Cordelia Bosquez	Ricardo Bosquez
	Laura Cueva		

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 6:04 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 – Absent, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Ismael Gonzalez – Absent, Hector Lopez – Present, 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 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 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 PARTICIPATNION

There was no public participation.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT’S CELEBRATIONS

6A RECOGNITION OF RISD SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Jose Moreno congratulated the Board of Trustees for being named Regional Honor Board and Board of the Year for Region II. The Board was one of eight school districts in the State of Texas to be named Regional Honor Board of the Year. He thanked them for their commitment to the school district’s students, and the Board will be recognized at the TASA/TASB Conference in September.

6B PROUD YOU’RE A PICKER AWARD

Dr. Jose Moreno announced that they did not have a Proud You’re a Picker Award recipient for this month.

6C SEALE JR. HIGH SCHOOL CHEER RECOGNITION

Anisa Chavera recognized the Seale Jr. High School Cheer Squad for participating at cheer competition in Corpus Christi. They received a superior ribbon, the spirit stick, and many other awards, helping them take first place. Also, three of the girls made the All-American Team. The cheer squad performed a cheer for the Board.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

**7A TASA/TASB CONVENTION ON SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2022, SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS**

Dr. Jose Moreno announced that the TASA/TASB Convention was coming up on September 22-25, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas. The Board will be recognized on September 23, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at this conference.

- 7B **UPDATE OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
Dr. Jose Moreno presented a calendar of events for the month of August to the Board. He reviewed some of the items.
- 7C **ON-LINE GOVERNANCE CAMP SESSIONS UNTIL AUGUST 26, 2022**
Dr. Jose Moreno reminded the Board members that they could register for online sessions on the TASB website until August 26, 2022. This would be a great opportunity for them to acquire board hours.
- 7D **CONTRUCTION UPDATES**
Dr. Jose Moreno reported that they were making progress on the welding labs at the high school. He shared updated pictures as of Friday on the progress that is being made. The next step was to work on the floors, and they are getting ready to finish off the different bays.
- 7E **“FIRST YOU MUST BELIEVE”**
Trustee Bobby Marroquin reported that the baseball program was built on the “First You Must Believe” statement, and several people would like to bring it back. Since Phyllis Castro owns the Copywrite to the statement he asked her to be present at the Board meeting this evening. Mrs. Castro informed the Board that she missed seeing the statement on the school’s walls, especially in the dugouts. The Castro family did have a trademark on the statement, and it was placed to identify a distinctive set of goods against another. As far as the school district being able to display it on the walls or dugouts, there was nothing to counter that. The Castro family is very excited and honored that they are looking into bringing it back. Her family was all for it.

For the record, Trustee Hector Lopez joined the board meeting at 6:28 p.m.

- 8.0 2022-2023 BUDGET WORKSHOP**
Vanessa Riggs conducted the 2022-2023 Budget workshop with the Board. She shared the following items with the Board: Copy of presentation, notice of public meeting to discuss budget and proposed tax rate that will be published in the paper as per legal requirements, regulations from TASB, and a resolution of the Board to set the tax rate. She reported that the goals for the budget was to work towards a balanced budget, work with everyone to ensure the budget matches, prioritize the academic mission and district goals, identify and implement cost saving measures, focus on staff and student safety, look for opportunities to apply and seek any grant/reimbursement opportunities available to the district, and utilize ESSER II and III funds as much as possible. The following items influenced the school district’s budget: student enrollment and attendance, retain the best-qualified staff for the school district, the COVID-19 Pandemic, increase in property values, federal funding, and inflation. She reviewed the enrollments for the last ten years, changes in student enrollment for the past six years, PEIMS snapshot enrollment by grade level – 5 years. She announced that they had received the school district’s certified value for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$735,534,800 for an

increase in value of 9.42% compared to the previous school years. The proposed tax rate would be \$0.9832 in the M & O, \$0.5200 in the I & S Tax rate for a total tax rate of \$1.5032 with a tax reduction of \$0.0604. The district still has several vacant positions, and payroll will change as positions get filled. Human Resources has been evaluating class sizes to see where reductions can be made through attrition. In 2021, the Board of Trustees approved retention stipends for all employees for three years, and for the next two years employees will receive \$2500.00 (\$1500 at the beginning of the year, \$400 in December, and \$600 at the end of the school year). Also, she reviewed the salary increases for the past nine years, updated teacher scale, TRS Active Care Insurance Rate Changes, changes to substitute pay, TASB partnership (pay systems review and staffing review), debt obligations (HVAC/ Lighting Notes), maintenance notes, total debt service of \$6,098,262.40 and debt service for the fiscal year 2023 of \$822,103.90, fiscal requirements set by TEA, campus allocations, department budgets, other/special requests, last five audited fiscal years, and the Child Nutrition Budget. The administration is recommending to continue eliminating positions through attrition, initiate hiring freeze, reduce campus/department budgets, hold a tax ratification election (TRE-Increase budget by \$500,000), monitor expenditures to ensure that they are financially responsible, align with board goals and academic mission, and sale of property. Also, she reviewed different scenarios of the budget with different tax rates and recommended to maintain the tax rate at \$1.5032 with an ADA of 2057. In shifting some of the expenditures from ESSER II and ESSER III, they will end up with a budget deficit of \$1,084,673 which was the budget she was proposing today. The budget deficit would be paid out of the fund balance and it was a balanced budget.

- 9.0

9A

9B

9C

9D
- CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

LIST OF BILLS

APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT(S)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT/QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT

Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Vanessa Riggs informed the Board that Budget Amendment #25 did not make it into the Board packet, and she needed to present it to them for board approval. Budget Amendment #25 was to move monies from supplies (\$1007.00) and out rental (\$247.00) into security (for games) for a total of \$1,254.00. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion #7013 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Roldan to approve the Consent Agenda Items with Budget Amendment #25 as presented.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
7:26 p.m.

10A

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TASB DELEGATE AND
ALTERNATE TO THE 2022 TASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY IN SAN
ANTONIO, TEXAS ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2022, THROUGH SEPTEMBER
25, 2022

President Lori Ann Garza asked for volunteers to serve as TASB Delegate and Alternate to the 2022 TASB Delegate Assembly in San Antonio, Texas, on September 22-25, 2022. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion #7014 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee L. Garza to have Cezar Martinez serve as the Delegate and Trustee L. Cantu as the Alternate to the TASA/TASA Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
7:28 p.m.

10B

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ENDORSING MOISES ALFARO
FOR THE TASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion on this item. She announced that Moises Alfaro was the current representative at this time. The following motion was made:

Motion #7015 A motion was made by Trustee B. Roldan and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to endorse Moises Alfaro for the TASB Board of Directors.

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

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
7:29 p.m.

10C

REVIEW OF UPDATED BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT GOALS

Dr. Jose Moreno presented an updated copy of the Board and Superintendent Goals based on the last board meeting's discussions. He reviewed the revisions made to the following five goals with the Board: 1) Safe Learning Environment - RISD will provide a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment for students, 2) Academic Performance – RISD will prepare students to be college, career, and/or military ready, 3) Facilities – RISD will operate safe, clean, and efficiently used facilities that are conducive to learning, 4) Financial Stewardship – RISD will ensure that the District is fiscally accountably and efficient, and 5) Marketing – RISD will highlight student, staff, and district success on various social media and media. He also reviewed the updated sub-goals for each one of the main goals.

11.0 BUSINESS AND SUPPORT

11A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR SPEECH THERAPY

Vanessa Riggs reported that on June 28, 2022, the school district issued a request for proposals for several special education services for the year ending August 31, 2022, with the option to extend the contract for up to four more years through August 31, 2026. The administration is requesting that the contract for speech therapy be renewed with The Stepping Stone Group until August 31, 2023. After discussion, Dr. Jose Moreno recommended approving the renewal of contract for speech therapy with The Stepping Stone Group until the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Motion #7016 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 – Yes, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
7:43 p.m.

11B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDER(S) EXCEEDING \$50,000 FOR FIRE ALARM PANELS AND ACCESSORIES THROUGHOUT RISD

Dr. Jose Moreno reported that the school district had conducted a summer audit on the school district's fire alarm panels and accessories throughout the school district, and the audit results indicated that the system needed to be upgraded. The purchase order is over \$50,000 to perform the upgrades and make repairs as necessary. Vanessa Riggs reported that Johnson Control was the school district's current provider and the administration was bringing it to the Board because it was over \$50,000. After discussion, Dr. Moreno recommended approving the purchase order exceeding \$50,000 for fire alarm panels and accessories throughout the school district. The quote was around \$63,000.

Motion #7017 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the purchase order over \$50,000 to perform the upgrades and make repairs as necessary as presented.

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

Motion carried Yes – 4 No - 1 Absent – 2
7:49 p.m.

12A

INSTRUCTION

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING POSSIBLE ACTION ON EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DEL MAR COLLEGE FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Jose Moreno recommended tabling this item until the next scheduled board meeting.

Motion #7018 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 – Yes, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
7:51 p.m.

13A

CLOSED SESSION

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

13B INTERVIEWS: DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SECURITY AND DIRECTOR OF
FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Motion #7019 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 551.074.

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 – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
7:52 p.m.

Motion #7020 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 – Yes, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
9:36 p.m.

14A

OPEN SESSION

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS,
EMPLOYMENTS, EVALUATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, REASSIGNMENTS.

DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

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

Motion #7021 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee H. Lopez 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 – Yes, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
9:37 p.m.

14B INTERVIEWS: DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SECURITY AND DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS
Dr. Jose Moreno announced that, under his authority, he would be hiring a Director of Safety and Security (John Garcia) and Director of Facilities and Operations (Ronald Robles).

15.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion #7022 A motion was made by Trustee H. Lopez 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 – Yes, and B. Roldan – Yes

Motion carried Yes – 5 No - 0 Absent – 2
9:38 p.m.

(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated, 08/8/22 except for the executive session.)