

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 24, 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, Deputy Superintendent
Adriana Tagle, Assistant Superintendent
Eva Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer

VISITORS:	Lillie Garza	Diana De Leon	Ludy Garcia
	Maribel Trevino	Rachel Medrano	Sandra Blanton
	Damris Cantu	Holly Bockholt	Lorraine Morales
	Jacqueline Padilla	Norma Cornejo	Samantha Munoz
	Belinda Alaniz	Paula Wakefield	Anisa Chavera

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, 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 Meeting 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 in accordance with board policy BED LOCAL, the Robstown ISD Board of Trustees welcome comments from citizens on any agenda item or non-agenda item at any regular scheduled board meeting. In the event of a special board meeting/board workshop, public comments will be limited to agenda items only. 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 citizen's concerns as per the Texas Open Meetings Act.” Lillie Garza, parent of three children at Ortiz Intermediate Stem Academy, asked the Board for help with one of her sons. She reported that her son exhibits violent behavior and she was concerned for the safety of the other students and her son. She has asked for help and she was given paperwork to fill out to begin the process to determine if her son had an emotional disability and qualified for special education services. The timeline was ninety days and she has still not heard from the administration. Her son has been in ISS since Spring Break and she wanted to make them aware of her concern. Jorge Hernandez informed the Board that he was a Texas Education Agency-Certified Psychology Teacher, and he asked the Board for a teaching contract because he could help students learn to be civil, respectful, and follow the rules of America. Holly Bockholt, RISD Property Tax Payer, presented to the Board a letter for a request for reconsideration (Air Quality Permit No. 174951) in reference to Avina. She invited everyone who missed the July deadline to submit their public comment to TCEQ to deny Avina’s air permit. The letter will show their support for the students of Robstown ISD. Safety cannot be proven because they have never built one this size before. She asked the Board to please consider and support

the safety and well-being of the students of Robstown ISD and community by submitting the letter of request for reconsideration by April 11, 2025, to TECQ.

6.0

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

6A

RECOGNITION OF TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Diana L. Silvas announced that she would be recognizing the teachers of the year for each of the individual campuses. These teachers ignite brilliance every single day and are exceptional teachers. She recognized the following teachers by campus: Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, Hannah Bailey Soliz; San Pedro Fine Arts Academy, Zelda Z. Martinez; Lotspeich Leadership Academy, Kayla Orona; Robstown Early College High School, Kaitlyn Ruiz; and Seale Jr. High School, Apolonio Paredez. The Elementary Teacher of the Year Award went to Zelda Z. Martinez, San Pedro Fine Arts Academy, and the Secondary Teacher of the Year Award went to Apolonio Paredez, Jr., Seale Jr. High School.

6B

PROUD YOU'RE A PICKER AWARD

Katrina Alejandro recognized Damaris Cantu, RECHS Ag Teacher/FFA, as the recipient of the Proud You're a Picker Award. She reported that Ms. Cantu had been nominated for her outstanding dedication and leadership during the Nueces County Junior Live Stock Show and beyond.

6C

SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Katrina Alejandro reported that this was a new committee that would be started up this school year. She recognized each of the following students and the campus that they will be representing: RECHS – Christian Moreno and Eunsil Eom, Seale Jr. High School – Axel Lopez and Clarrisa Salazar, Robert Driscoll Stem Academy – Ryleigh Chavera and Emily Padilla, San Pedro Fine Arts Academy – Ellie Gonzalez, and Lotspeich Leadership Academy – Anthony Martinez. The group of students will be meeting with Dr. Marc Puig and herself to continue to make RISD brilliant. Dr. Puig presented the students with a challenge coin for volunteering to serve on the Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council. The council will allow the students to have a voice.

6D

RECOGNITION OF 5TH GRADE STUDENTS AT ROBERT DRISCOLL STEM ACADEMY

Katrina Alejandro recognized John Paul Cortez, a 5th-grade student at Robert Driscoll Stem Academy, for scoring a perfect 100 on February 26, 2025, on his interim math exam.

6E

RECOGNITION OF RECHS CTE/BIM CERTIFICATION STUDENT

Katrina Alejandro recognized Andria Espinoza, RECHS student, who successfully passed seven Microsoft Office certification exams.

7.0
7A

MADAM PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

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. If they are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Padilla.

For the record, Trustee Bobby Marroquin joined the Board meeting at 6:22 p.m.

8.0
8A

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Marc Puig reported that the Lady Pickers have captured their fourth consecutive state championship at the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association State Meet in Edinburg. Two of the boys powerlifters placed in the top ten at the THSPA 4A D2 Boy's Powerlifting Sate Meet in Abilene. The enrollment is growing and it stands at 2,539 reflecting an increase from 2,516 last school year. The attendance rate is at 90.6% compared to last school at 89.5%. Senate Bill 26 will provide salary increases for teachers and will expand the Teacher Incentive Allotment, House Bill 3 will expand parental control over education by allowing taxpayers funds to be used for private school tuition, homeschooling resources, specialized educational services, Pre-K, and early childhood education expansion, House Bill 6 will strengthen teacher's authority to maintain discipline and uphold academic integrity, House Bill 1481 prohibits cell phone use in schools during instructional time, House Bill 124 will increase school safety allotment. He has been helping Dr. Rumaldo Juarez and the Robstown Education Foundation with their strategic planning process. Also, he presented an update on the facilities and property updates and a Federal Policy Update from the Department of Education Reduction in Force. The next town hall meeting will be held on April 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Nueces County Keach Family Library.

9.0
9A

PRESENTATION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ACADEMIC UPDATE/TIA UPDATE

Adriana Tagle reported that her team would be presenting the district's progress and state assessment. Belinda Alaniz reported that they are 98% complete on testing except for around three to four students who have not finished up their testing. They are working on the PEIMS verification to make sure that everything is included that is on the accountability system and that the students are all coded correctly. The EOC scores came in on Friday. The STAR window opens up on April 8th and the last tests will be Algebra and Math tests which open on the 25th. She highlighted that they had done the benchmarks across the board and they did see an increase in the passing percentage. She reviewed the increases at the different campuses. Adrian Tagle reported that TEA had shared the following feedback during their visit at the junior high school and Lotspeich Leadership Academy: 1) At the Seale Junior High School, they saw the use of high-quality instructional material, positive school culture, the classrooms were safe, saw students teaching, academic monitoring, and high-order thinking, and 2) For the visit at Lotspeich Leadership Academy, TEA

identified the following three areas: Positive school culture, the use of high-quality instructional materials, student discourse, rigorous questioning, and rigorous monitoring. Overall, the campuses are moving in the right direction. Rachel Medrano reported that when school districts collaborate the students win. Kingsville ISD has found out that the Seale Junior High School has over twenty different careers that they can explore in one school year through Picker Paths. Kingsville ISD visited the Picker Path and is now collaborating with the school district. Mrs. Tagle stated that Tuloso Midway is now wanting to partner with the school district. The school district bused the Tuloso Midway teachers to the elementary campuses and joined them on the walk-throughs. When they collaborate they learn from each other. Joshua Garcia reported that the Amplify representative wants to visit the school district because the program is very successful. The second-grade scored a 69% percent growth and they are outperforming the nation. They will be using some of the school district's testimonies on how Amplify is working and being successful in the school district. This weekend, they had forty-six students compete in San Antonio at the Regional Science Spelling B and twenty-two have qualified on the national level to compete in Orlando, Florida. Diana Silvas reported that a TLA Spending Plan Survey was sent out to the district to get feedback on the plan that they prefer. On February 25, 2025, they attended a Rural Cohort webinar about NBCT, on February 26, 2025, RISD's TIA planning committee met to go through the Full TIA application, on February 28, 2025, district and campus administrators went through a T-TESS calibration training with Dr. Dalia Torres from the ESC2, on March 3, 2025, the team met with RECHS and SJH administrators to discuss PEIMS service IDs to ensure the correct teachers are eligible for TIA in Phase 1. On March 4, 2025, the TIA Planning Committee attended a webinar about CTE and music testing options, and on March 6, 2025, they submitted a draft TIA plan to the Rural Cohort for review. The plan is due on April 8, 2025.

Trustee Cezar Martinez asked the Board to move item 9D - RISD Donations up and the rest of the items to follow accordingly.

9D

RISD DONATIONS

On behalf of the Robstown Education Foundation, Victor Pinon presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the school district. The check is part of the second wave of the grant funding for the school district's dedicated teachers. These funds will support the teacher's innovative grant application that was submitted in the fall ensuring that creative and impactful classroom projects come to life. In addition, the foundation has approved appropriating the remaining funds from the grant totaling \$4000 to further expand the program for a total of \$9000. The additional \$4000 will be used for five additional teacher grants. Dr. Puig announced that Denise Villalobos had donated money to cover the pizza for the last town hall meeting and RBFCU Credit Union donated \$400 for the town hall meetings also.

9B

M & O UPDATE

Ron Lawver reported that the HVAC Project has been completed; however, they still needed to schedule a walkthrough with the engineer. The roofing is coming along

great. The Seale Jr. High School and Hattie Martin roofing are about 95% complete. They will move on to Ortiz the first week of April. The parking lot has been restriped. The gym floor at the high school has been repaired and the concession stand electrical has been completed. A third round of pest control has been completed. He has one bus driver (Chico Molina) who will be retiring. The gate behind the band hall was requested to be installed by the state for security. Once they get the funding, they can install another gate at the band hall.

9C SAFETY REPORT

Filiberto Tagle reported that they have ordered the metal detector for Lotspeich Leadership Academy. This was the last school so they will start ordering extra metal detectors for the high school and the other campuses. They are working on sending out the safety climate survey, and they will have the results presented to the Board at the next board meeting. They are working on the TxDOT Transportation Funding Grant for Lotspeich Leadership Academy School Sidewalk Project. Ramon Acosta reported that they have submitted an application to TxDOT for review and it is being considered for funding at this time. They will have a meeting with TxDOT to review the application, and it looks like they will be funded.

9E LIST OF BILLS

9F FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

President Lori Ann Garza informed the Board that the list of bills and the financial reports were included in their board packets for their review. There were no questions.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)

10A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10B BUDGET AMENDMENT #5

10C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF THE TEKS AND APPROVAL OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ALLOTMENT FOR THE 2025-2206 SCHOOL YEAR

President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as noted.

Motion #7592 A motion was made by the Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented.

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
7:58 p.m.

11.0 PRESENTATION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11A DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TASB LOCAL POLICY MANUAL UPDATE 124, AFFECTING THE FOLLOWING LOCAL POLICIES: CAA, CDA,

CY, DH, EHB, EHBB, FFG, AND GKA

President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion to approve the TASB Local Policy Update 124, affecting the following local policies: CAA, CDA, CY, DH, EHB, EHBB, FFG, and GKA as presented.

Motion #7593 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee B. Marroquin to approve the TASB Local Policy Update 124, affecting the following local policies: CAA, CDA, CY, DH, EHB, EHBB, FFG, and GKA as presented.

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
7:59 p.m.

11B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING \$50,000 FOR AMPLIFY TEXAS K-8 ELAR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the purchase order exceeding \$50,000 for Amplify Texas K-8 ELAR Instructional Materials. The purchase of the instructional materials will be paid with instructional materials allotment funds. The purchase will have no impact on the local budget.

Motion #7594 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, 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
8:00 p.m.

11C DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING \$50,000 FOR CROMEBOOKS

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the purchase order exceeding \$50,000 for Chromebooks. The Chromebooks will be purchased with LASO III Technology Lending Grant funds and it will have an impact on the local budget.

Motion #7595 A motion was made by Trustee M. Mesa 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
8:05 p.m.

11D DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRIP REQUEST FOR SEALE JR. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO WASHINGTON, D.C, DURING THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Marc Puig recommended approving the out-of-state trip request for Seale Jr. High School students to Washington, D.C., during the 2025-2026 school year. Anisa Chavera reported that this trip would be very exciting and educational for the students by taking the classroom to Washington, D.C. The trip is at no cost to the school district and it will be during the summer of 2026. The expenses will be paid by the students that participate.

Motion #7596 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 – Yes, L. Cantu - Yes, M. Mesa – Yes, and Y. Villalobos - Yes

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent 0
8:11 p.m.

11E DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TASB ACTIVE MEMBER DIRECTOR NOMINATION – REGION II

There were no nominations for the position of Region II Director.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION – SECTION 551.074

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

President Lori Ann Garza asked for a motion to go into the executive session under section 551.074.

Motion #7597 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, 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
8:15 p.m.

Motion #7598 A motion was made by Trustee B. Marroquin and seconded by Trustee C. Martinez to reconvene from the executive session.

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

Motion carried Yes – 7 No - 0 Absent – 0
9:24 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 #7599 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, 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
9:25 p.m.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion #7600 A motion was made by Trustee C. Martinez and seconded by Trustee M. Mesa
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
9:25 p.m.

(The details of this meeting are recorded on tape dated 03/24/25, except for the executive session.).