



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Socorro Independent School District
12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, TX 79928
November 19, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael A. Najera, Board President; Paul Guerra, Board Vice President; Marivel N. Macias, Board Secretary arrived at 6:03 p.m.; Alice Gardea; Manny Rodriguez; Charles W. Smith; Ryan Woodcraft; and James P. Vasquez, Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Board President Michael Najera. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Vasquez announced new personnel and reported on district initiatives/events.

OPEN FORUM

The following individual(s) signed up to address the Board of Trustees and Superintendent during Open Forum.

- Tommy Hill regarding health insurance and open enrollment.

GOALS AND CONSTRAINTS

Cabinet members along with LSG Coach Ben Mackey, provided a presentation regarding the Board Goals and Constraints. No action was taken on this agenda item.

DISTRICTWIDE INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT FINDINGS

An Intruder Detection Audit was conducted in the district by Region 19 ESC. Findings will be shared with the District School Safety and Security Committee, and the Board of Trustees. A plan of action is in place and will be shared with the Board of Trustees. No action was taken on this agenda item.

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT – QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER

A financial update and the Quarterly Investment Report as of September 30, 2025, was presented to the Board of Trustees, providing an overview of the District's financial position and investment performance for the quarter. No action was taken on this agenda item.

FIRST OFFENDER PROGRAM

The First Offenders Program is an alternative disciplinary initiative specifically designed for students who are first-time offenders involved in THC/marijuana-related offenses. This program is authorized under Texas Family Code Sections 52.031 and is intended to prevent and escalation of delinquent conduct by providing early intervention and support.

TEA CONSERVATOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

An update regarding the review and district/board goals, board operating procedures, the adoption of best practice procedures, communication and parent involvement was provided for the Board of Trustees. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Ryan Woodcraft, seconded by Charles Smith, to approve all items under the Consent Agenda with the exception of 6D1-Request for Increase: Energy Management Controls, OEM Parts and Equipment, Part II-RFP No. E2337; 6E1-Contract: MOU with El Paso Children's Hospital-Project ADAM; 6H-2025-26 Budget Advisory Committee Charter; and 6K2a-revisions to local policy in TASB Update 126: BE-Board Meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

- Board Meeting Minutes
 - October 15, 2025 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
 - October 28, 2025 Special Board Meeting (Revised)
 - November 5, 2025 Special Board Meeting
- Requests for the Use of School Facilities
- Budget Amendments
 - Amendments for November 19, 2025
- Contracts
 - Affiliation Agreements
 - New Mexico State University (NMSU) School Psychology Program
This agreement will allow students from NMSU to complete internship placements within our district. Currently, the district has six vacant positions and have experienced ongoing challenges in filling these roles over the past four years. (No cost to the District)
 - Texas Tech University Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing
This agreement will allow nursing students to complete clinical experience requirements at district facilities. This partnership supports efforts to advance the field of nursing and address the growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals. (No cost to the District)
 - Walden University – Field Site
This agreement establishes a partnership to provide field experience placements for students enrolled in state-approved teacher and principal preparation programs. (No cost to the District)
 - Contract – Linebarger Gogan Blair & Sampson LLP through CTAP-YISD 225001RFP-RB State Property Value Appeal Services
The purpose of the contract is for the administrative appeal, audit, and any judicial appeal of the property value study conclusions for District for the school year 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028. The district agrees to pay as compensation for services a contingent fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the additional State and that the District qualifies for.
 - Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)
 - ESC Region 19 Authorized Provider-Texas Reading Academies
For the implementation of the Texan Reading Academies which are a critical component of the state's literacy initiative, designed to ensure that all K-3 teachers and administrators are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively teach reading. This training is grounded in the Science of Teaching Reading, which emphasized evidence-based practices proven to improve reading outcomes for young leaders. (Maximum \$48,000.00 – Budgeted General Funds-Early Education Allotment)
 - StudentNest Foundation (SNF) and Socorro ISD Community Education
The purpose is to establish a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the parties and to set forth the relative responsibilities of the parties as they relate to Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) services. The department is seeking to utilize the tutoring services provided by the StudentNest Foundation, which are available at no cost to AEL programs funded by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). (No cost to the District)

- Discretionary State Aid Grant – Texas Juvenile Justice Department

The purpose is to establish a collaborative partnership where JDP will provide grant funding to SISD to support two staff positions: a First Offender Program Coordinator and an Administrative Clerk to assist in the implementation, management, and oversight of the SISD First Offender Program, in coordination with SISD law enforcement personnel and school administrators. (No cost to the District)
- Ground/Facilities Lease – Region 19 Education Service Center (ESC19)

Ongoing Ground/Facilities Lease with Region 19 Education Service Center (ESC19) for the purpose of leasing the property located at H.D. Hilley Elementary School, 693 N. Rio Vista, Socorro TX 79927-Socorro Head Start Center (Land) and Options High School, 12380 Pine Springs Dr., El Paso TX 79928-Options Head Start Center (Facilities) to provide the Socorro Head Start Program. ESC19 should pay a rental sum of \$1 per year.
- Purchasing Cooperatives and Purchases Over \$50,000
 - Region 19 Allied CO-OPs
 - Contract #19-7337 Sexual Abuse & Molestation (SAM) Liability Insurance – HR 4623 became effective September 1, 2025, and introduced new civil liability where Governmental Immunity protections previously existed. (Maximum \$94,794.34 – Budgeted General Funds)
 - Contract #22-7448 Temporary Services – A grant of \$56,214.00 has been awarded by the Texas Office of the Governor-Criminal Justice Division. Administration recommends utilizing these services to hire the required personnel. (Maximum \$56,214.00 – Budgeted General and Federal Fund Budget)
 - Contract #25-7517 Shatter Resistant Film and Installation Services, El Paso Tinting – Safety and security remains foundational priorities for the District, encompassing students, faculty, staff administration and families. This investment supports long-term protective measures and reflects the District's proactive approach to campus safety. This allows procurements from an approved vendor. (Maximum \$24,122.50 – Budgeted TEA SAFE Grant Cycle II Funds)
- Financial Update as of September 30, 2025 – Each month, financial statements are prepared to provide the Board of Trustees a summary of the District's financial position.
- New Job Descriptions
 - Coordinator of the First Offender Program
 - Retired CO-OP Coach
 - Compliance Support Librarian
- Updates to Job Descriptions
 - Computer Hardware Technician
 - Information Security Systems Administrator
 - Librarian – Elementary, K8 Combo, and Middle School
 - Technology Support Specialist I
- Local Policy and TASB Update 126
 - Local Policy
 - CVA – Facilities Construction: Competitive Bidding
 - CVB – Facilities Construction: Competitive Sealed Proposals
 - FFH – Student Welfare Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation
 - TASB Update 126
 - BED – Board Meetings-Public Participation
 - CJ – Contracted Services
 - CJA – Contracted Services: Background Checks and Required Reporting
 - CV – Facilities Construction
 - CQ – Technology Resources
 - CQB – Technology Resources: Cybersecurity
 - CQD – Technology Resources: Artificial Intelligence
 - DBD – Employment Requirements and Restrictions: Conflict of Interest
 - DEC – Compensation and Benefits: Leave and Absences

- DFBB – Term Contractors: Non-Renewal
- DGBA – Personnel Management Relations Employee Complaints/Grievances
- DH – Employee Standards of Conduct
- EEP – Instructional Arrangement: Lesson Plans
- EFA – Instructional Resources: Instructional Materials
- EHBAF – Special Education: Video/Audio Monitoring
- FA – Parent Rights and Responsibilities
- FEF – Attendance: Released Time
- FFB – Student Welfare: Crisis Intervention
- FFF – Student Welfare: Student Safety
- FFG – Student Welfare: Child Abuse and Neglect
- FNG – Student Rights and Responsibilities & Parent Complaints/Grievances
- FO – Student Discipline
- GF – Public Complaints
- No Objection to Business Opening near Myrtle Cooper Elementary School – The owner is requesting approval to sell alcohol beverages for the operation of the Office Cantina 2.0 located at 1441 N. Zaragoza, Suite 1213, El Paso, Texas 79936. The distance requirements are 1,000 feet from Myrtle Cooper Elementary School.

REQUEST FOR INCREASE – ENERGY MANAGEMENT CONTROLS, OEM PARTS AND EQUIPMENT, PART II – RFP NO. E2337 (MAXIMUM \$80,000.00 – BUDGETED GENERAL FUNDS)

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Paul Guerra for separate consideration. A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Marivel Macias, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote. Paul Guerra abstained.

CONTRACT – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)-EL PASO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL-PROJECT ADAM (NO COST TO THE DISTRICT)

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Manny Rodriguez to highlight the program. Following a brief presentation, a motion was made by Manny Rodriguez, seconded by Ryan Woodcraft, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2025-26 BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Charles Smith for discussion. Following a brief discussion regarding the criteria for selection of members, a motion was made by Charles Smith, seconded by Marivel Macias, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

REVISIONS TO TASB UPDATE 126 POLICY BE-BOARD MEETINGS

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Marivel Macias for discussion. Following a brief discussion regarding the voting process, a motion was made by Marivel Macias, seconded by Charles Smith, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW POSITIONS IDENTIFIED THROUGH STAFFING/ENROLLMENT – PHASE II

A motion was made by Ryan Woodcraft, seconded by Marivel Macias, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TAX RATE RESOLUTION FOR TAX YEAR 2025 TO SUPPORT THE FY2025-2026 OPERATING BUDGET (TO LEVY THE M&O AND I&S TAX RATE)

Following a discussion regarding the tax rate being proposed, a motion was made by Paul Guerra, seconded by Marivel Macias, to go into closed session for consultation with legal counsel. The motion carried with a 5-2 vote: Aye: Manny Rodriguez, Paul Guerra, Michael Najera, Marivel Macias and Charles Smith. Nay: Ryan Woodcraft and Alice Gardea.

The meeting was closed at 8:36 p.m. for consultation with legal counsel under Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:51 p.m.

TAX RATE RESOLUTION FOR TAX YEAR 2025 (CONTINUED)

A motion was made by Manny Rodriguez, seconded by Ryan Woodcraft, to adopt the tax year 2025 at a total tax rate of \$0.9389 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC SERVICE FROM EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY UNDER ITS TEXAS BUSINESS SOLAR POWER PROGRAM (1 YEAR PROGRAM)

A motion was made by Ryan Woodcraft, seconded by Manny Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT FOR EXPENDITURES TO PARKHILL SMITH & COOPER, INC.

A motion was made by Manny Rodriguez, seconded by Paul Guerra, to approve the item as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was closed at 9:27 p.m. for discussion with legal counsel, to receive Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings for District campus(es); to conduct the Superintendent's Evaluation for period serving as "Interim Superintendent"; and to consider administrative recommendations for Assistant Principal positions at El Dorado High School and Walter E. Clarke Middle School under Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074 and 551.076.

The meeting was reconvened at 11:03 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION FOR PERIOD SERVING AS "INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT"

A motion was made by Michael Najera, seconded by Charles Smith, to approve the item as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Vasquez recommended Irene Mendez to assume the role and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at El Dorado High School. A motion was made by Ryan Woodcraft, seconded by Alice Gardea, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vasquez recommended Fabiola Jordan to assume the role and responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Walter E. Clarke Middle School. A motion was made by Marivel Macias, seconded by Manny Rodriguez, to approve the item as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON DECEMBER 17, 2025.