



# Board Meeting

## H I G H L I G H T S

Regular Board Meeting held on August 17, 2020 via Zoom webinar

### Recognitions

The Board recognized the District-level honorees for the Great Employees Modeling our Standards (G.E.M.S.) Employee of the Year Awards for the 2019-2020 school year. Adriana Moreno (Computer Lab Assistant at Carvajal ES) won Paraprofessional Employee of the Year. Magdalena Cruz (Head Custodian at Travis ECHS) won Classified Employee of the Year. Delisa Nunez (Senior Executive Secretary at Operations Services) and Patricia Perez (Data Clerk at Margil Academy) won honorable mention for Paraprofessional Employee of the Year. John Gutierrez (Warehouseman at Office of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning) and Anna Zuniga (Head Custodian at DeZavala ES) won honorable mention for Classified Employee of the Year. This program was created during the 2015-2016 school year and was designed to recognize the talented support personnel in the classified and paraprofessional categories in San Antonio ISD. Individuals are nominated by their principals and department administrators for exemplary performance and for modeling the District's core values. In addition, they must demonstrate service, leadership, make significant contributions to their school or department, and/or demonstrate other outstanding qualities. Each month, administrators have an opportunity to recognize talented and committed employees who exemplify these standards at their respective campuses and departments. At the end of the year, administrators have an opportunity to nominate one of the monthly winners for District-level honors. A District-level Committee reviewed the nominations and determined the 2019-2020 Employee of the Year honorees. Committee members included Tiffany Grant (Chief of Staff), Laura Short (Communications Department), Rosa Linda Lomas and Sylvia Rendon (Human Resources Department).

### District's Certified Appraisal Roll for Tax Year 2020 Accepted

The Board accepted the Certified Appraisal Roll for Tax Year 2020 for the San Antonio Independent School District. Section 26.04 of the Texas Property Tax Code requires that once a local appraisal tax roll is certified by the local County Appraisal District, that the roll must then be submitted to the Board of Trustees for official acceptance. The Chief Appraiser of the Bexar Appraisal District has certified and submitted the appraisal roll as approved by the Appraisal Review Board for calendar year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 and was delivered to Albert Uresti, Tax Assessor-Collector for SAISD, a statement of the total amount of appraised, assessed and taxable value of property as of January 1, 2020. This also included is the value for properties under protest at the time of submission for the assessment rolls lying within SAISD.

## No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, Voter-Approval Tax Rate for 2020 Accepted

The Board accepted the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate and Voter-approval Tax Rate for Tax Year 2020 for SAISD. Albert Uresti, Tax Assessor-Collector for the SAISD, has calculated the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate for the District for tax year 2020. Section 26.04 of the Property Tax Code requires that the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate be submitted to the Board of Trustees.

## Ordinance & Order Adopting Tax Rate for School Year 20-21 Approved

The Board adopted the Tax Rate of \$1.50230 per hundred-dollar valuation. The total tax rate consists of a rate of \$1.02105 for maintenance and operations and a rate of \$0.48125 for debt. Each year after a certified appraisal roll has been submitted to a school district and after the new school year's budget is adopted, the Board of Trustees must adopt a tax rate.

## Recommendations by Blue Ribbon Task Force Presentation

Trustees received a presentation of recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF). Committee Co-Chairs Mario Barrera and Victoria Moreno Herrera provided the presentation. On March 17, 2020, the SAISD Board of Trustees approved an initial listing of members to serve on the 2020 Blue Ribbon Task Force to examine how to fund operating and capital needs of the District. Additional members were appointed to the BRTF on May 11, 2020. The Task Force was comprised of a diverse group of up to three Single Member District (SMD) residents nominated by each Trustee and appointed by the Board. Task Force Chairpersons were appointed by the Board President and Superintendent. The charge of the Task Force was to inform and advise the Board on matters relating to District facility needs and a possible 2020 Bond. Presentations on the physical condition of schools, the District's 2030 Facilities Master Plan, and tax rates were made by staff. School tours were conducted and videotaped to share with all Task Force members and the public.

## Order Calling a Bond Election for Nov. 3, 2020 Approved

On May 11, 2020, the SAISD Board of Trustees appointed a community-based Blue Ribbon Task Force to analyze the District's capital and operating needs, and review priorities for facilities and academic programs. On August 17, 2020, the Task Force presented their recommendations to the Board which included pursuing a \$1.3 billion Bond to fund the construction, renovation, acquisition and equipment of school buildings throughout the District, and the acquisition and update of technology equipment. This Order calls a Districtwide Bond election for the purpose of determining whether the Board of Trustees of the District shall be authorized to issue bonds of the District in the amount not to exceed \$1,300,000,000 for the purposes of constructing, renovating, acquiring and equipping school buildings in the District and the purchase of the necessary sites therefor; and for the purposes of acquiring and updating technology equipment. The Order calls for the election to be held on the November Uniform Election Date, being Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

## Joint Election Agreement between SAISD, Bexar County, and other Governmental Entities to Participate Jointly in November 3 Elections

Trustees approved the Joint Election Agreement for the District's participation in a Joint Election with Bexar County and other governmental entities, to take place on November 3, 2020 for the convenience of the registered voters in the San Antonio Independent School District. National, state, county, and local elections will take place on November 3, 2020. Under Chapter 271 of the Election Code, when elections ordered by the authorities of two or more political subdivisions are to be held on the same day in all or part of the same county in Texas, the governing bodies of the political subdivisions may enter into an agreement to hold the elections jointly in the election precincts that can be served by common polling places for the convenience of the voters. Otherwise, voters may have to travel to several different poll locations in order to vote in all of the elections in which they are permitted to vote. The terms of a joint election agreement must be stated in an Order, Resolution or other official action, adopted by each of the governing bodies of each participating subdivision.

## Update on SAISD's Plan to Safely Reopen Schools and Approval of SAISD Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 School Year

Trustees approved the finalized SAISD Reopening Plan for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The Board received an update from Superintendent Pedro Martinez on the District's plan to safely reopen schools and preparations being made for the safe return of students and staff. Discussion points also included a recommended approval of a Texas Education Agency (TEA) Waiver and a recap of the first day of school. The TEA Waiver was a request to extend the start of the 2020-2021 school year transition beyond the four-week limit. The first day of school took place virtually on August 17. The report showed staff assisted families with technology and log-ons, minimal campus concerns occurred, and several teams worked phone lines to provide support to families and campus staff.

## Wellness and Leave Program Approved

The Board approved the proposed Wellness Leave Program. A presentation was provided by Toni Thompson, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some employees have had to self-quarantine due to being in the proximity or close contact of another individual who may have tested positive for COVID-19 or was otherwise experiencing symptoms of the virus. Through no fault of their own, the employee was directed to not work while they were to self-quarantine for up to 14 calendar days. While an initial self-quarantine may have been covered under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA), negating the need for employees to use their own earned leave, subsequent self-quarantines did not allow for the use of EPSLA. For the safety of our students and staff, the District has developed the Wellness Leave Program that will help provide paid leave to employees who have previously exhausted EPSLA. These employees would have had to use their own earned leave (or go on unpaid leave) if they were directed to self-quarantine due to being in close contact with certain individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 (or if they themselves tested positive) after having exhausted EPSLA. The Wellness Leave Program will be managed by the COVID Team in coordination with Employee Benefits, Risk Management &

Safety. Certain limitations will apply. The Wellness Leave Program will likely be available during the fall 2020 semester but could extend into the Spring. However, the District retains the ability to end the Program at any time.

## Nomination for Texas Association of School Boards of Director Positions Approved

Trustees approved the nomination of one individual, Rolinda Schmidt (Kerrville ISD), to the TASB Board. Currently, this position is held by Ms. Schmidt. Nominations were due by August 31, 2020. The terms and duties of TASB Board of Directors are as follows:

- Directors serve 3-year terms. Once elected to a 3-year term, the Director can be elected to a maximum of 3 additional terms.
- Directors can be elected to an unexpired term of less than three years when a vacancy is created by resignation or a Director leaving his or her local board.
- Directors supervise, control and direct affairs of TASB in accordance with Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and the Advocacy Agenda.
- Directors meet at least four times annually.

## Acceptance of Charter Schools Compliance & Accountability Draft Audit Report

The Board accepted the Charter Schools Compliance & Accountability Draft Audit Report as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee. The request was part of the guidelines approved by the Board on November 18, 2019 by which the Internal Audit Department communicates audit findings to the Board.

## Acceptance of Draft Report for Prior Year Follow Up – Facility and Athletic Rentals Audit

Trustees accepted the draft report for the Prior Year Follow Up – Facility and Athletic Rentals Audit as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee. The request was part of the guidelines approved by the Board on November 18, 2019 by which the Internal Audit Department communicates audit findings to the Board.

## Board of Trustee Committee Reports

Steve Lecholop (Academic Excellence Committee), Art Valdez (Finance & Audit Committee) and Christina Martinez (Governance Committee) provided a report.

## Items Approved

- Commitment Forms for Education Service Center, Region 20 (ESC-20) Services for 2020-2021.
- Waiver of penalty and interest for the real property account, Big E. Enterprises LLC.

## Contracts Approved

- Contract between SAISD and College Board for SAT School Day and PSAT/NMSQT for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SAISD and Culinary Institute of America (CIA).
- Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between SAISD and Alamo Colleges District, University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), and Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) for the College Preparatory Mathematics and English Language Arts Courses.
- Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SAISD and The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to Implement a Master's in Education Degree in Educational Leadership Program.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SAISD and Arizona State University for Dual Enrollment in the Harvard National Education Equity Lab Courses.
- Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Arizona State University for Verizon Innovative Learning Lab at Rhodes Middle School.
- Amendment to the University Health System (UHS) License Agreement for Use of District Property.
- Minor General Contractor for the Innovative Outdoor Playground at Huppertz Elementary School.
- First amendment to the Occupancy Agreement between SAISD and Broadway SA Investors GP, LLC. This amendment would allow SAISD to occupy, after the sale, the various properties at the 141 Lavaca Street and Matagorda lots that were sold to Broadway SA Investors GP, LLC (Silver Ventures partnership). The original agreement anticipated that SAISD's occupancy would end on August 31, 2020. The planning, construction and relocations of the new Central Administration building and associated parking structure at 514 W. Quincy, San Antonio, TX 78205 demanded a longer period of time. The District requested and was granted an amendment to allow for occupancy to continue until July 31, 2021, as needed.
- Memorandum of Agreement with Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc. to provide support to SAISD students and families through a variety of services, programs and partnerships.

## Bids, Proposals and Purchases for Goods Approved

- Ratification of the purchase of student book packs. This purchase supports PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade registered students that received 4 book titles and 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade registered students that received 3 book titles for summer remote reading.
- Purchase of Classroom and Office Furniture for staff and students in grades PK through 5<sup>th</sup> at Huppertz Elementary School.

- Ratification of the purchase of Employee Benefits Consulting Services. This service will be used to assist SAISD with the overall cost management of its self-insured Health Insurance, Stop Loss Policies and Ancillary Benefits.
- Purchase of replacing two (2) roof top units serving the new wing at Advanced Learning Academy (ALA).
- Purchase of Band Uniforms for students in grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> in the Band Program at Burbank High School.
- Purchase of an Online Literacy Program that adapts to students' individual needs by tracking reading growth. This purchase will support students in grades 3 – 5 District-wide.
- Purchase of Student and Teacher Editions for World Geography, World History, US Government/Economics, Psychology and Sociology online textbooks to be used for daily instruction of TEKS. This will support students at all High Schools District-wide.
- Purchase of a Web-based System that provides students asynchronous and synchronous instruction for World Languages. This purchase will provide students at Academies, Middle and High Schools with live and recorded conferencing sessions through a virtual classroom to learn American Sign Language, Latin, Chinese, Spanish and French.
- Purchase of a comprehensive web-based Special Education Student Information System that includes accountability and compliance reporting capabilities for eligible students District-wide.
- Ratification of the purchase of tailored professional development as well as coaching services to co-teach pairs. This purchase will be provided to co-teach hubs at Cotton, Gates and Kelly Elementary Schools.

**Board of Education**

**Patti Radle, President; Arthur V. Valdez, Vice President;  
Debra A. Guerrero, Secretary; Ed Garza, Member; Steve Lecholop, Member;  
Christina Martinez, Member; Alicia M. Perry, Member;  
Pedro Martinez, Superintendent**

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