

**ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING**

Minutes of Regular Meeting

**The Board of Trustees
Alpine ISD**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Alpine ISD Administration Building, Board Room.

I. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Eddie Natera called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Nikki Ahrens, Haley Babb, Adrian Billings, Mary McCallister, Jimmy Morris, and Board President, Eddie Natera

Members Absent: Joe Portillo

Others Present: Michelle Rinehart, Superintendent of Schools

II. Invocation

III. Pledges of Allegiance to the Flags

IV. Verification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law. This is to verify that the provisions of Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.041 in connection with public posting of meeting notice was met on September 15, 2023 at 4:39 p.m.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment

None

VI. Convene Public Hearing for Review and Discussion of Alpine ISD's State Compensatory Education Funds for 2023-2024. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Board President Eddie Natera convened the public hearing at 5:31 p.m. for discussion of Alpine ISD's State Compensatory Education Funds 2023-2024.

Caroline Fox, Director of Federal Programs reviewed the goal of the State Compensatory Education programs and the proposed expenditure of funds for 2023-2024. Alpine ISD's allocation for 2023-2024 is \$1,092,144.00.

VII. Adjournment of Public Hearing and Reconvening of Open Meeting.

Board President Eddie Natera adjourned the public hearing at 5:32 p.m. and resumed the regular meeting agenda.

VIII. Convene Public Hearing for Discussion of Proposed Tax Rate for 2023-2024 (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Board President Eddie Natera convened the public hearing at 5:33 p.m. for discussion of the proposed tax rate for 2023-2024.

Dr. Rinehart and CFO Chris Valenzuela reviewed factors impacted by the tax rate, including a tax analysis, debt service on the 2019 bond, and discussed options for tax rates. Dr. Rinehart explained how changes in the Interest and Sinking tax rates would affect bond payments over the next several years. She explained that an I & S tax rate of 0.225 could result in a saving of \$4M and 10 years of bond payments on the 2019 bond.

IX. Adjournment of Public Hearing and Reconvening of Open Meeting

Board President Eddie Natera adjourned the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. and resumed the regular meeting agenda

X. Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution Providing for the Defeasance and Calling for Redemption of Certain Currently Outstanding District Obligations; Directing and Delegating to Certain District Officials and Staff the Authority to Effectuate Matters Herein Resolved; and Other Matters in Connection Therewith. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the notice that was put in the newspaper and explained the process for a defeasance and the impact on tax rates.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt a Resolution Providing for the Defeasance and Calling for Redemption of Certain Currently Outstanding District Obligations; Directing and Delegating to Certain District Officials and Staff the Authority to Effectuate Matters Herein Resolved; and Other Matters in Connection Therewith, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XI. Review and Consideration of Ordinance to Approve Tax Rate for 2023-2024 (Goal 2, 4)

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt the Ordinance to approve the tax rate for 2023-2024, thereby setting the tax rates at \$0.7575 for maintenance and operations, and \$0.225 for payment of principal and interest on debts.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XII. Campus Principal Reports (Goal 1)

A. Alpine Elementary School – Curtis Wubbena

Mr. Wubbena discussed the importance of attendance and discussed prizes his campus has purchased to use for an attendance incentive program. Mr. Wubbena also explained the Student of the Month program. He commended his teachers for the time and effort being spent on curriculum.

B. Alpine Middle School – Judith Pardo-Alferez

Ms. Pardo discussed tutorials, new curriculum. She told board members that due to fund raising efforts by Mr. Creer, he was now able to add the use of drones to the robotics classes.

C. Alpine High School – Jarrett Vickers

Mr. Vickers told board members that the school newspaper would go to press on September 21st. He also discussed student activities and pep rallies, as well as providing information to the Board about a very generous donation from the Gear Up program. Gear Up will be paying for caps, gowns, tassels, and medallions for all of the graduating seniors.

XIII. Review of Handbooks for Student Groups/Extracurricular Activities for 2023-2024 School Year - Information Only (Goal 1)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed updates and changes to each of the handbooks for student groups and/or extracurricular activities, as well as updating travel guidelines.

- A. Athletics**
- B. Band**
- C. Cheerleading**
- D. FFA**
- E. Student Council**
- F. National Honor Society By-Laws**
- G. Academic UIL**

XIV. Reports (Goal 2)

- A. Chief Financial Officer**
 - 1. Monthly Report**

Chris Valenzuela, CFO, reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of August, 2023

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

None

XV. Consideration of Budget Amendments (Goal 2)

None

XVI. Consent Items

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. August 29, 2023 - Regular Meeting

B. District Expenditures for Month of August, 2023 (Goal 2)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister , seconded by Haley Babb, to approve the consent items, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVII. Review and Consideration of Donation Received from Big Bend Regional Medical Center for Purchase of Tables for the Athletic Trainers' Facility. (Goal 1, 2)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to accept, with gratitude, the \$6,000 donation from Big Bend Regional Medical Center for the purchase of tables for the athletic trainers' facility. The balance of the cost is anticipated to be provided by a donation from the Hospital District.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVIII. Review and Consideration of Donation Received from Permian Basin Area Foundation for Purchase of Technology (Goal 1,2,4)

Dr. Rinehart explained that Caroline Fox has been working on a project for the Permian Basin Area Foundation to provide partial funding for technology for the campuses. The balance of the funding will come from a grant already approved for the district.

A motion was made by Haley Babb, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to accept, with gratitude, the \$70,000 donation from Permian Basin Area Foundation for the purchase of technology for the campuses.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XIX. Discussion of SB 763: Resolution of the Board to Employ or Accept Volunteer Chaplains (Information Only) (Goals 1, 2, 3)

Dr. Rinehart explained the process and discussed the three options to be considered. She will do further research to compile additional information to be considered. The Board is required to take action with the next six months.

XX. Review and Consideration of Board Resolution to Establish Non-Business Days for Public Information Act Response (Goals 1, 3)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt the Resolution Establishing Non-Business Days for Public Information Act Responses, with an Amended Exhibit A. The Amended Exhibit A will be included with these minutes.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXI. Review and Consideration of Board Policy FFAC (Local) - Wellness and Health Services/Medical Treatment (Goals 1, 3)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the changes to the policy, which are based on legislative changes.

A motion was made by Haley Babb, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt Board Policy FFAC (Local) – Wellness and Health Services/Medical Treatment, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXII. Review and Consideration of Board Policy CKEC (Local) - Security Personnel/School Resource Officers (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the reasons for the change to the policy.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt Board Policy CKEC (Local) - Security Personnel/School Resource Officers, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXIII. Review and Consideration of Superintendent Evaluation Instrument (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Dr. Rinehart presented the document to Board members and asked if there were any recommendations for changes.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb, to adopt the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument, as presented, with no changes.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXIV. Superintendent Report (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4)

A. Alpine ISD Board Update

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the progress on goals and objectives, and highlighted recent activities.

B. Enrollment Report

Dr. Rinehart reviewed enrollment numbers. The total enrollment for the district stands at 923, with 361 at the Elementary, 254 at the Middle School and 308 at the High School. Dr. Rinehart also discussed current attendance rates.

XXV. Closed Session - Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code Section 551.072 & Section 551.074

The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:21 p.m.

A. Personnel - Hear and Deliberate Regarding Superintendent Recommendations for Personnel. Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074 (Goal 1)

- 1. Employee Resignations or Retirements**
- 2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2023-2024**

B. Deliberation of Safety and Security Matters - Discussion Only (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

- 1. Safety and Security Updates**

XXVI. Open Session - Consider and Take Possible Action on Closed Session Deliberations

The Board reconvened in open session, at 8:04 p.m., taking action on Closed session deliberations as indicated below.

A. Consider and Take Possible Action Regarding Personnel. Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074 (Goal 1)

- 1. Employee Resignations or Retirements**

2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2023-2024

A motion was made by Jimmy Morris, seconded by Haley Babb, to offer a Non-Certified Professional contract to Nathan Struthers, for 20% of the week, on a 197 day basis, for the remainder of the year, as an occupational therapist.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXVII. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Regular Meeting

XXVIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Jimmy Morris, seconded by Mary McCallister to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

*The Board may retire to executive session at any time between the meeting's opening and adjournment for purposes of deliberating business as authorized in Texas Government Code, Title 5, Subchapter D, Sections 551.071-551.074 and 551.076. Action, if any, will be taken in open session. (Texas Government Code Chapter 551.102)



Board President



Board Secretary

Date of Approval: 10/11/2023

**Board Resolution to Establish
Non-Business Days for Public Information Act**

AMENDED EXHIBIT A

District-Designated Non-Business Days for 2023-24 School Year

November 22, 2023
November 24, 2023
December 26, 2023
December 27, 2023
December 28, 2023
January 2, 2024
January 3, 2024
January 4, 2024
March 14, 2024
March 15, 2024