

# Minutes of Regular Meeting

## The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held Wednesday, January 20, 2021, beginning at 5:00 PM was held in the Alpine High School Library.

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

Board President Eddie Natera called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Members Present: Adrian Billings, Rachel Carvajal, Justin Cross, Mary McCallister, Joe Portillo, and Eddie Natera

Billy Ray Laxton arrived later in the meeting, joining the meeting prior to being reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

Others Present: Becky McCutchen, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: None

**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 January 15, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

**V. Recognition of Board Members for Board Appreciation Month (Goal 3)**

Superintendent McCutchen read a statement in recognition of board members and the job they do on behalf of the District, staff, and students. She then introduced each board member. Campus principals expressed their appreciation to the board members and presented gifts from their respective campuses and student groups.

**VI. Open Forum - Public Comment**

Justin Downing addressed the Board requesting access to district facilities by outside groups. He was speaking on behalf of a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls' travel basketball team and the Little Dribblers organization. Currently, due to COVID-19, all district facilities are closed to outside groups. Mr. Downing asked the Board to revisit their decision and allow groups to utilize the gyms for practice and games, if possible.

**VII. Recess for Board Appreciation Dinner**

Board President Eddie Natera adjourned the regular board meeting at 5:13 p.m. for the Board Appreciation Dinner.

During the recess for dinner, Billy Ray Laxton arrived to join the meeting.

**VIII. Reconvene Open Meeting**

Board President Eddie Natera reconvened the regular board meeting in open session at 6:35 p.m.

**IX. Presentation by Leigh Ann Glaze, Associate Director of Texas Association of Rural Schools (TARS) (Goal 3)**

Leigh Ann Glaze, Associate Director of Texas Association of Rural Schools (TARS) addressed the Board to recognize Alpine ISD and Superintendent Becky McCutchen for membership in TARS and for serving as TARS President for the past two years. Ms. Glaze outlined the accomplishments and contributions Ms. McCutchen has made over the past few years, and commended her for her dedication to public education in Texas. Ms. McCutchen was presented with a gift from TARS.

Board members commended Ms. McCutchen for the recognition. Dr. Billings congratulated Ms. McCutchen by using a quote from Fred Rogers, "I'POY – I'm Proud of You".

**X. Construction Update on High School Project (Goals 2, 4)**

Ms. McCutchen provided board members with an update on the construction projects. She said the project was approximately one month behind schedule due to delays in the permitting process and a shortage of workers. However, the plan is to begin pouring foundations in March, with all of the materials arriving in March, as well. Ms. McCutchen reviewed the change order and reviewed Alternate # 3, with a breakdown of costs for HVAC system in the small gym.

**XI. Monthly Update on HB3 Board Goals (Goal 1)**

**Presenters: Campus Principals**

Campus Principals, Verl O'Bryant and Justin Gonzales, reviewed progress on HB3 Board Goals. Additionally, Mr. Gonzales discussed progress on the CTE Certification programs for students.

**XII. Campus Data Presentations (Goal 1)**

**Presenters: Campus Principals**

Due to an error in the compilation of the board book, the appropriate data was omitted from the Board book and therefore, was not available for review. Campus principals did review progress and discussed strategies teachers have been implementing.

**A. Alpine Elementary School**

**B. Alpine Middle School**

**C. Alpine High School**

**XIII. Reports (Goal 2)**

**A. Financial Reports**

**1. Monthly Report**

Becky McCutchen reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of December, 2020.

**2. Discussion of Financial Topics - None**

**XIV. Consideration of Budget Amendments (Goal 2) – None**

**XV. Consent Items**

**A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)**

**1. December 16, 2020 - Regular Meeting**

**B. District Expenditures for Month of December (Goal 2)**

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

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**XVI. Review and Consideration of TASB Board Policy Update 116, Affecting Local Policies, as Follows: (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)**

- DCD (LOCAL) - Employment Practices: At Will Employment
- DCE (LOCAL) - Employment Practices: Other Types of Contracts
- FFAC (LOCAL) - Wellness and Health Services: Medical Treatment
- GKA (LOCAL) - Community Relations: Conduct on School Premises

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the changes and additions affected by Policy Update 116.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Rachel Carvajal, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to adopt TASB Board Policy Update 116, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**XVII. Consider and Take Action on an Order Calling for a General Election on May 1, 2021, for School Trustees in Single Member Districts # 1, # 3, and # 4, and Providing for the Administration of the Election (Goal 3)**

A motion was made by Justin Cross, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve the Order calling for a General Election on May 1, 2021, for school trustees in Single Member Districts # 1, # 3, and # 4, and providing for the administration of the elections, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**XVIII. Review and Consideration of Renewal of Membership in Legal Services Retainer Program With Walsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Russo, & Kyle P.C. (Goals 1, 2, 3,4)**

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the services provided through the retainer program, and the fee for the program.

A motion was made by Rachel Carvajal, seconded by Billy Ray Laxton, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to renew membership in the Legal Services Retainer program with Walsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Russo & Kyle, P.C., as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**XIX. Superintendent Report (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4)**

**A. Enrollment Report**

Total enrollment stands at 940, with an ADA of 94.9 %.

Enrollment for the campuses is:

Alpine High School: 308 enrollment; ADA of 96.43 %.

Alpine Middle School: 273 enrollment; ADA of 94.08 %.

Alpine Elementary School: 359 enrollment; ADA of 94.49 %

**B. COVID-19 Update**

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the current number of cases in the district, spraying, cleaning, and disinfecting protocols. Additionally, she reported on supplies that were received through the Texas Department of State Health Services, including rapid test kits and PPE.

Ms. McCutchen also discussed the use of district facilities by outside groups. She said youth baseball and softball will be beginning soon, and she felt the district may need to revisit the use of outside facilities.

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

**The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:40 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 2020-2021**

**B. Review and Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)**

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

**The Board reconvened in open session, at 8:55 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**

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to accept the resignation of Justin Gonzales as high school principal, effective 1/29/2021. Mr. Gonzales is moving from the district to accept another position.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

A motion was made by Justin Cross, seconded by Billy Ray Laxton, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to accept the resignation of Amanda Bolanos, effective 3/5/2021, contingent upon the district being able to employ a replacement prior to her being released from her contract.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2020-2021**

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to offer an Administrative contract to Lee Sanchez, as interim high school principal.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Rachel Carvajal, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to offer a probationary teacher contract to Lauren Smith for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, retroactive to 1/4/2021.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**B. Consider and Take Possible Action on Superintendent's Contract (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)**

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to extend the Superintendent's contract by one year, making the contract effective through June 30, 2024, with a 3% increase in salary.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**XXII. Review and Consideration of Update of Alpine ISD Board of Trustees Mission, Vision, Values, Goals, and Objectives (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)**

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the Mission, Vision, Values, Goals, and Objectives statement.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to ratify the Mission, Vision, Values, Goals, and Objectives statements, as presented by Ms. McCutchen, with no changes or revisions.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**XXIII. Schedule Future Meetings**

- Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine Middle School Library, Regular Meeting

**XXIV. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Motion carried – 7 – 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)

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**Board President**

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**Board Secretary**

**Date of Approval: February 24, 2021**