

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held Wednesday, October 21, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Alpine High School - Library.

I. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Eddie Natera called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

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

Others Present: Becky McCutchen, Superintendent of Schools
Les Burke, Parkhill, Smith, & Cooper

Members Absent: Justin Cross and Billy Ray Laxton

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 October 16, 2020 at 4:15 p.m.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment - None

VI. Public Hearing to Discuss Alpine ISD's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2020-2021 Grant Application (Goals 1, 2)

Presenter: Caroline Fox - Director of Curriculum and Special Programs

Board President Eddie Natera convened Public Hearing at 5:35 p.m.

Caroline Fox reviewed the purpose of the ESSA Grant, eligible programs, and amounts to be allocated from the grant.

VII. Adjournment of Public Hearing and Reconvening of Open Meeting

Board President Eddie Natera adjourned Public Hearing and resumed regular meeting at 5:38 p.m.

VIII. Review and Consideration of Approval of Value Engineering Item Number 10 - Air Handler Units with duct socks in lieu Air Rotation Units -- Locations - High School Gym, Middle School Gym, Elementary Gym. For a Cost Savings of \$110,562 (Goals 2, 4)

Presenter: Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper, LLC

Les Burke presented information on the Value Engineering Item Number 10 – Air Handler Units. Utilization of these units in the three main gyms would result in a savings of approximately \$110,562.00

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve of Value Engineering Item Number 10 - Air Handler Units with duct socks in lieu of Air Rotation Units for the High School Gym, Middle School Gym, and Elementary Gym, at a cost savings of \$110,562.

Motion carried – 5 – 0

IX. Review and Consideration of Approval of Alternate 3 Air Handler Unit with duct socks in the high school practice gym For a Cost of \$140,873 (Goals 2, 4)

Presenter: Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper, LLC

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve purchase of Alternate 3 Air Handler Unit with duct socks in the high school practice gym at a cost of \$140,873.

Motion carried – 4 – 1, with Joe Portillo casting the dissenting vote

Mr. Burke, Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper also provided an update on the current progress, including fencing, phasing, timelines, and meetings with the City of Alpine Code Official.

X. Monthly Update on HB3 Board Goals (Goal 1)

Justin Gonzales, AHS Principal, reported on progress on testing dates and number of students being tested for the SAT, PSAT, and ASVAB. He also reported that CTE teachers have been meeting to align courses and certifications.

Board Member Billy Ray Laxton, arrived at 5:58 p.m.

Elementary Principal, Verl O’Bryant, reported on progress on bench marks and strategies towards closing the gaps on STAAR Reading and Math assessments.

XI. 2020-2021 Special Programs Evaluations (Goals 1, 3)

Presenter: Caroline Fox - Director of Curriculum and Special Programs

Caroline Fox provided an overview of each program, including goals for each program, data, services, and evaluation summaries. Additionally, she addressed updates and changes in each program. She then reviewed data for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) program, for all three campuses.

- A. Gifted and Talented (G/T) Program
- B. Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) Programs
- C. At-Risk Program
- D. Career Technology Education (CTE)

XII. Campus Data Presentations (Goal 1)

Presenter: Campus Principals

- A. Alpine Elementary School
Verl O’Bryant reviewed data for each grade level and discussed processes for intervention.
- B. Alpine Middle School
Cody Patterson reviewed data for each grade level and each subject, and processes for interventions. Additionally, he reviewed current activities and upcoming events.
- C. Alpine High School
Justin Gonzales reviewed data, assessments, and intervention strategies. He then reviewed positive happenings at the Campus.

XIII. Reports (Goal 2)

A. Chief Financial Officer

Presenter: Tucker Durham

- 1. Monthly Report

Tucker Durham reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of September, 2020.

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

Mr. Durham provided the Board information on two grants received from the Office of the Governor, in the amounts of \$113,000 and \$58,000. Additionally, he explained that the District has received information that TEA will extend the “hold harmless” process for ADA through the end of the first semester, as opposed to using true ADA.

XIV. Consideration of Budget Amendments (Goal 2) - None

XV. Discussion of Property Values (Goal 2)

Mr. Durham provided information received from Karla Pope-Osborne with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, and Mott, delinquent tax attorneys for Alpine ISD. Ms. Pope-Osborne had compiled information on property value studies dating back to 2014, and the problems with County appraisals and the data being provided. Mr. Durham reviewed the data on worksheets and differences between CAD values and State values and how it impacts funding for Alpine ISD.

XVI. Consent Items

The Board has been furnished with background material on each item and/or it has been discussed at a previous meeting. Items may be withdrawn for individual consideration. All remaining items will be adopted by a single vote. Items withdrawn for separate discussion will be acted upon individually.

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. September 16, 2020 - Regular Meeting
2. September 30, 2020 - Special Meeting and Board Training

B. District expenditures for month of September, 2020 (Goal 2)

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

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVII. Review and Consideration of Alpine ISD Board of Trustee Ethics Statement for 2020-2021 (Goal 3)

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Billy Ray Laxton, to adopt the Alpine ISD Board of Trustee Ethics statement for 2020-2021, as presented by Superintendent Becky McCutchen.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVIII. Review and Consideration of Action Limiting Instruction for Students Requesting Synchronous or Asynchronous Instruction (Goals 1, 2)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the current status of enrollment, attendance, and gaps in learning under the current synchronous and asynchronous remote learning. Principals were then given an opportunity to share information from teachers, preferences, problems, and concerns about the process.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to limit synchronous and asynchronous instruction for students, as of October 30, 2020, with great thanks being given to the teachers, staff, and administration who have worked diligently to make these processes work.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

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

A. Update on Issues Associated with COVID-19

This information was addressed through earlier topics.

B. Enrollment Report

Total enrollment stands at 975, with an ADA of 95.31 %.

Enrollment for the campuses is:

Alpine High School: 317 enrollment; ADA of 96.19 %.

Alpine Middle School: 285 enrollment; ADA of 94.5 %.

Alpine Elementary School: 373 enrollment; ADA of 95.20 %.

C. Quarterly Goal Update

Ms. McCutchen reviewed progress on Board of Trustee goals and objectives for the third quarter of 2020-2021.

XX. Closed Session - Pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code §551.074

The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:13 p.m. for the purpose of hearing an Employee Level III grievance appeal, pursuant to Texas Gov't Code § 551.082

- A. Hear and deliberate regarding employee Level III grievance appeal. Tex. Gov't Code § 551.082. (Goal 3)

XXI. Open Session: Consider and take possible action on Closed Session deliberations

The Board reconvened in open session, at 9:38 p.m., taking action on Closed session deliberations as indicated below.

A. Consider and Take Action, If Any, On Employee Level III Grievance Appeal. (Goal 3)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings, to deny Ms. Chavez's Level III appeal, and uphold the administration's Level II decision.

Motion carried – 4 – 2, with Eddie Natera and Joe Portillo casting dissenting votes.

XXII. Closed Session - Pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code §551.072 & §551.074

The Board adjourned to executive session at 9:40 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

XXIII. Open Session: Consider and take possible action on Closed Session deliberations

The Board reconvened in open session, at 9:55 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 Billy Ray Laxton, seconded by Mary McCallister, that the Board find that Crystal Shay Conwell (Cano) resigned without good cause and failed to perform her contract; and further moved that the Board decline to accept her resignation and instead submit a written complaint to SBEC for the employee's abandonment of her contract.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2020-2021

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve Ms. McCutchen’s recommendation to offer a one-year Probationary Dual Assignment Contract, with certification addendum to Selena Garcia for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, replacing her current contract.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXIV. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine High School Library, Regular Meeting

XXV. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Billy Ray Laxton to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 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: November 18, 2020