

# 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, October 20, 2021, 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, Adrian Billings, Justin Cross, Mary McCallister, Jimmy Morris, Joe Portillo, and Board President, Eddie Natera

Members Absent:

Others Present: Becky McCutchen, 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 October 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

### **V. Open Forum - Public Comment**

Emma Green addressed the board as a band parent. She expressed concern with the current situation, space, and lack of location for the band program.

Alpine Middle School students, Colt Billings, Max Cramer, and Jachin Iniguez, addressed the board with a request for additional funding for the Middle School Robotics program, to help buy robots and allow for student travel. The students told board members that each new robot costs approximately \$879.00.

Allison Vidal read a letter on behalf of Katie Fowlkes, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Fowlkes letter was written in support of the Alpine ISD Band program, and the need for the Board to work for a smooth transition during the mid-year change in directors. In her letter, Ms. Fowlkes stressed the importance of the band program for many students, and urged the Board to search for the best possible candidate for director to help the program grow.

Amy Struthers also addressed the Board about the band program, urging continuity and support for the band program so that the current success could continue.

**VI. Presentation of Audit Report for 2020-2021 (Goal 2)**

Robert Gattilia, representing Singleton, Clark, and Company, PC, explained the audit process, and presented the audit report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021. This was a Single Audit, and in summary, Mr. Gattilia reported that it was an unmodified report, with a clean opinion, no material weaknesses, no significant deficiencies, and no areas of non-compliance material to financial statements. Mr. Gattilia indicated that for the year ending June 30, 2021, there would be an addition to the Alpine ISD fund balance in the amount of \$590,726.00. He explained that the unassigned fund balance should be between \$3,000,000 and \$6,000,000. Alpine's unassigned balance is \$4,369,358.

In closing, Mr. Gattilia commended Mr. Braden and his office staff for the job they are doing on behalf of the district.

**VII. Review and Consideration of Audit Report for 2020-2021 (Goal 2)**

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to accept the Audity Report for 2020-2021, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**VIII. Update on Delinquent Property Tax Collections (Goal 2)**

Tracy Crites, representing Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, and Mott, LLP, reported on the delinquent property tax collections for Alpine ISD. Mr. Crites discussed the turnover amounts for each year, the amount of reductions, and seizure activities. He focused on the problems with the Panorama Leisure properties in South Brewster County, and the possible solutions. A tax sale as been tentatively scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**IX. Construction Updates (Goals 1, 2, 4)**

**A. Alpine ISD** – Ms. McCutchen updated the board on progress in the band/welding/ag shops, as well as projected completion dates for various stages of the construction. She also provided an update in the duct work in the gyms.

**B. Imperial Construction** – Bobby Kelley provided an update on the structural progress, material delays, and Frank Patton reviewed the three week look-ahead. Jon Jones provided a hand-out reviewing specific details of the progress

**C. Parkhill** – Les Burke updated the Board on meeting with Imperial relating to possible solutions for problems with the existing high school facility. Parkhill is continuing work on submittals, reviewing CCR's, revisions to duct socks for gyms, and furniture meetings.

**X. Review and Consideration of CCR-029 – Delete all landscape from scope of work. Alpine to purchase and install landscaping except for irrigation. Contractor to install irrigation system. (Goals 2, 4)**

Les Burke, Parkhill, reviewed the specifics involved with CCR-029 pertaining to landscaping work, which would result in a credit of \$51,500.00. Ms. McCutchen recommended no action at this time until additional information and quotes are available.

**XI. Review and Consideration of CCR-030 – Alpine ISD to purchase all landscape materials. Contractor to install landscaping and irrigation; no warranty will be given on trees, plants, and grass. (Goals 2, 4)**

Les Burke, Parkhill, reviewed the specifics involved with CCR-030 pertaining to landscaping work, which would result in a credit of \$22,250.00 Ms. McCutchen recommended no action at this time until additional information and quotes are available.

**XII. Receive Update from Superintendent and Possibly Contractors Related to Water Damage to Gym Floor. (Goals 1, 2, 4)**

Ms. McCutchen provided board members with information, pictures, timelines of incidents, and correspondence pertaining to the damage to the high school gym floor as a result of four rain storms. She discussed the disagreements between contractors, school district, and insurance carriers as to who holds liability for the damage. Information was also provided on estimates for repairs or replacement of the floor. Ms. McCutchen and board members expressed concern with allowing basketball to be played on the gym floor with the current damage, and risk of injury.

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

Jessica Murphy, Elementary principal, reviewed progress on HB3 goals and timelines.

Verl O'Bryant, High School principal reviewed progress on HB3 CCMR and Closing the Gaps goals and timelines.

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

- A. Alpine Elementary School – Jessica Murphy, Campus Principal  
Ms. Murphy reviewed enrollment, social and emotional issues faced by teachers and students as a result of pandemic, statistical assessment data, and plans for strategies to work towards improvement.
- B. Alpine Middle School – Judith Pardo-Alferez, Campus Principal  
Ms. Pardo-Alferez reviewed enrollment, statistical assessment data, intervention strategies, and continued utilization of tutorials.
- C. Alpine High School – Verl O’Bryant, Campus Principal  
Mr. O’Bryant reviewed enrollment, statistical, and assessment data.

**XV. Review and Consideration of Quotes Received for Purchase of Bus (Goals 2, 4)**

In the absence of Clay Braden, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. McCutchen reviewed the quotes and specifications on the buses. Additionally, she reviewed the problems with the current buses.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to approve Ms. McCutchen’s recommendation to purchase two 51 passenger buses from Master’s Transportation at a cost of \$245,000 each, plus the cost of wraps, bringing the total cost to \$510,000.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

**XVI. Reports (Goal 2)**

- A. Chief Financial Officer
  - 1. Monthly Report

Ms. McCutchen explained to board members that Clay Braden, Chief Financial Officer was absent from the meeting because he is attending required training. In the absence of Mr. Braden, Ms. McCutchen reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of September, 2021. Tax collections stand at 97.81 % for the year.

- 2. Discussion of Financial Topics – no additional information

**XVII. Consideration of Budget Amendments (Goal 2)**

A motion was made by Justin Cross, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve Ms. McCutchen’s recommendation to authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$510,000.00 to fund the purchase of two new buses. Budgetary Fund

Balance, Account # 199-00-3700-00-000-200000, would be decreased by \$510,000.00. Local Maintenance, M2 Freightliner Coach, Account # 199-34-6631-01-999-299000, would be increased by \$500,000.00 and Bus Wrap, Account # 199-34-6399-00-999-299000, would be increased by \$ 10,000.00, bringing the total increase in expenditure amounts to \$510,000.00

Motion carried – 7 – 0

#### **XVIII. Consent Items**

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

1. September 15, 2021 - Regular Meeting

**B. District Expenditures for Month of September, 2021 (Goal 2)**

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve the consent items, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

#### **XIX. Annual Transportation Report (Goals 2, 4)**

Ms. McCutchen presented the Annual Transportation Report, reviewing the list of vehicles with mileage on each, as well as the bus routes and number of riders.

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

**A. Enrollment Report**

Total enrollment stands at 976, with an ADA of 92.62 %.

Enrollment for the campuses is:

Alpine High School: 315 enrollment; ADA of 95.75 %.

Alpine Middle School: 278 enrollment; ADA of 91.09 %.

Alpine Elementary School: 383 enrollment; ADA of 91.12 %

Ms. McCutchen told board members that the enrollment snapshot date for the current school year is October 29, 2021. She also provided board members with information pertaining to options for remote conferencing for students who have to quarantine due to infectious diseases. More information will be provided at a later date.

**B. Update on Required Board Team Building Training**

The required Team of 8 Board Training session has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021 in the AISD Board Room. Ms. McCutchen reminded board members that 100% attendance is required for board training credit.

- C. **Quarterly Goal Update (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)**  
Ms. McCutchen provided an update on progress towards the goals and objectives.

**XXI. Closed Session - Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.129 & Section 551.074**

**The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:34 p.m.**

- A. **Consultation With Legal Counsel Regarding Possible Assertion of Claims Related to Water Damage to Gym Floor, Pursuant to Texas Government Code sections 551.071 and 551.129. (Goals 2, 4)**
- B. **Consult with Board Counsel Regarding Legal Issues Related to Probationary Contract Teacher Termination. Tex. Gov't Code Section 551.071 (Goal 1)**
- C. **Personnel - Hear and Deliberate Regarding Superintendent Recommendations for Personnel. Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074 (Goal 1)**
  - 1. **Personnel - to Include Discussion of Proposed Mid-Year Termination of Probationary Contract Teacher. Tex. Gov't Code Section 551.074**
  - 2. **Employee Resignations or Retirements**
  - 3. **Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2021-2022**
    - a. **Non-Certified Professional Contracts**

**XXII. Open Session - Return to Open Session to Consider and Take Possible Action on Closed Session Deliberations**

**The Board reconvened in open session, at 9:17 p.m., taking action on Closed session deliberations as indicated below.**

- A. **Consider and Take Possible Action Regarding Water Damage to Gym Floor (Goals 2, 4)**

**No action taken**

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

- 1. **Propose Mid-Year Termination of Probationary Contract Teacher.**

**No action taken**

## **2. Employee Resignations or Retirements**

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to accept Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to approve the resignation of Ken Johnson, high school teacher, effective as of January 17, 2022.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

## **3. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2021-2022**

### **a. Non-Certified Professional Contracts**

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Nikki Ahrens, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to offer Probationary Non-Certified Professional Contracts to the following: Katie Moody, 240 days, on salary scale AD-10 and Imelda Galindo, 240 days, on salary scale AD-10, effective November 1 – June 30, 2022.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister, to offer a full-time Probationary teaching contract to Zana Moore, effective September 2 through December 17, 2021.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

## **XXIII. Schedule Future Meetings**

- Wednesday, November 16, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Special Meeting and Board Training Session
- Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Regular Meeting

## **XXIV. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Nikki Ahrens, seconded by Mary McCallister to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 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)

  
Board President

  
Board Secretary

Date of Approval: November 17, 2021