

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, July 20, 2022, 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: Haley Babb, Adrian Billings, Mary McCallister, Jimmy Morris, Joe Portillo, and Board President, Eddie Natera

Members Absent: Nikki Ahrens

Others Present: Michelle Rinehart, Superintendent of Schools
Dennis McEntire, Construction Supervisor

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 July 15, 2022 at 12:5 p.m.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment

Lacy Schniers addressed the Board about safety issues, pursuant to the incident in Uvalde, Texas. She referenced actions being taken by other districts in the area of access control and master locks for each classroom. She expressed the belief that grant funding is available for schools to help with security projects. Ms. Schniers also expressed concern that there might be some doors not operating correctly, and asked how those issues would be resolved. She assured the Board that the community would like to help, and asked how that might happen.

VI. Convene Public Hearing for Review and Discussion of Alpine ISD's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2022-2023 Grant Application. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Board President Eddie Natera convened the public hearing at 5:38 p.m. for discussion of Alpine ISD's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2022-

2023 Grant Application. Ms. Caroline Fox reviewed the funding amounts, totalling approximately \$230,000, and discussed expenditure restrictions.

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

Board President Eddie Natera adjourned the public hearing at 5:40 p.m. and resumed the regular meeting agenda.

Board President Eddie Natera recommended moving to Item XXXIV.C. School Safety and Security Updates.

XXXIV.C. School Safety and Security Updates

Dr. Rinehart reviewed actions being required for all school districts by Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morraht. Requirements include:

- Summer Targeted Partial Safety Audit (every campus)
- Exterior Door Safety Audit (every campus)
- Convene the School Safety and Security Committee
- Staff training on campus safety procedures
- Training for all threat assessment team members
- Review/update access control procedures

In light of heightened security measures, Dr. Rinehart told board members that the inquiries had been made about Alpine becoming a Marshall or Guardian school. She said these discussions are simply in preliminary stages, with the potential for exploratory processes being examined. She said of 1,200 schools in Texas, there are 80 utilizing the Marshall program, and another 250 utilizing the Guardian program. Dr. Rinehart stressed there would certainly be ripple effects of implementing either program.

Following discussion, Board President Eddie Natera returned to Agenda Item VIII.

VIII. Closed Session - Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code Section 551.071, 551.074, 551.0821, and 551.129. (Goal 1)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:17 p.m.

A. Consultation with the District's Legal Counsel and Deliberations Regarding Level III Grievance Pursuant to Board Policy FNG (LOCAL) by AISD Student.

B. Consider Level III Grievance Pursuant to Board Policy FNG (LOCAL) by AISD Student (Including Possible Presentation by Administration and Grievant)

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

The Board reconvened in open session, at 6:59 p.m., for the purpose of hearing the Level III Grievance.

A. Consider and Take Possible Action Regarding Level III Grievance Pursuant to Board Policy FNG (LOCAL) by AISD Student (Including Possible Presentation by Administration and Grievant)

Board President Eddie Natera read a statement indicating that the student Zyan Llanez has waived her rights, choosing to have her grievance heard in Open Session.

Roll call of Board members was taken for the record. Board members present include:

Jimmy Morris
Haley Babb
Eddie Natera
Mary McCallister
Adrian Billings
Joe Portillo

Others Present:

Dr. Michelle Rinehart
Grievant – Zyan Llanez
Christina Delgado, Ms. Llanez' aunt

Ms. Llanez was given the opportunity to present her grievance and reasons for seeking relief.

Dr. Rinehart outlined the processes the school has taken and the district's response to Ms. Llanez' grievance, including the investigations into her allegations.

Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions for clarification.

Board President Eddie Natera then indicated the Board would deliberate in Closed Session, as well as possible consultation with the school district attorney.

Closed Session - Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code Section 551.071, 551.074, 551.0821, and 551.129. (Goal 1)

The Board adjourned to closed session at 7:47 p.m. for deliberations and consultation with the school district attorney.

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

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:06 p.m., taking action on Closed session deliberations as indicated below:

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to uphold the administrative decision at Level II, but also asking administration to follow up with Ms. Llanez' family about additional support that might be provided to her.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

Following the vote on the motion, the following statement was read by Board President Eddie Natera,

“Ms. Llanez, from what you shared today, it appears that you are frustrated because you believe your teachers had no consequences. While we cannot share any specific actions taken with employees, because of privacy reasons, I can assure you that the District did take corrective action.”

- X. Review and Consideration of Goals and Performance Objectives Included in the District Improvement Plan for 2022-2023 (Goals 1,2,3, 4)**
Caroline Fox, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed the District Improvement Plan for 2022-2023, highlighting changes and additions.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings, to approve the District Improvement Plan for 2022-2023, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

- XI. Review and Consideration of Amendment to District of Innovation Plan (Goals 1, 2, 3)**
Caroline Fox reviewed the changes and additions being recommended in the Amendment to the District of Innovation Plan.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve the Amendment to the District of Innovation Plan, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XII. Review and Consideration of the District's Professional Development Plan (SB 1267) (Goals 1, 2, 3)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the new requirements under SB 1267 and explained the process of developing the plan.

A motion was made by Joe Portillo, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve the District's Professional Development Plan under SB 1267, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XIII. Construction Updates (Goals 1, 2, 4)

A. Alpine ISD

Mr. McEntire updated the progress with the relocation of the portable. Power will be hooked up soon, with Maintenance checking rooms in the portable for minor repairs. Asbestos abatement went well and is complete. Mr. McEntire also reported on progress with the gym floor, parking lot, bleacher seats, and the duct sock.

After Mr. McEntire's update, Dr. Rinehart and Board President Natera expressed their appreciation to him for the job he has done as Interim Superintendent and Construction Supervisor for Alpine ISD.

B. Imperial Construction

Representatives from Imperial Construction addressed progress on flooring, ceilings, mill work, HVAC, electrical, exterior stairs, sidewalks, roofing, and beginning final inspections. Demolition crew will arrive to start work the first week of August.

C. Parkhill

Alan Wolfe addressed the board concerning progress from Parkhill's viewpoint. Beginning to work on punch lists, checking on roofing progress, utility work, and working on Certificate of Occupancy. The date for the first punch list walk-throughs have been scheduled for August 3 & 4.

XIV. Review and Consideration of CCR-051R2 - Fume Hood Electrical and Plumbing. (Goals 1, 2, 4)

Alan Wolfe reviewed the need for the change order at a cost of \$6,710.66. Following discussion, Mr. Wolfe agreed that Parkhill would pay \$1,710.66, with Alpine ISD paying the remaining \$5,000.00 of the total cost.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to approve CCR-051R2 – Fume Hood Electrical and Plumbing with Alpine ISD paying \$5,000.00 and Parkhill paying \$1,710.66.

Motion carried – 5 – 1, with Eddie Natera casting the dissenting vote.

XV. Review and Consideration of CCR-060 - Fire Alarm Field House (Goals 1, 2, 4)

Alan Wolfe reviewed the change order and the cost of \$16,979.00.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve CCR-060 – Fire Alarm Field House, as presented at a cost of \$16,979.00.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVI. Review and Consideration of Selection of Photo Wraps/Murals for Alpine High School (Goals 1, 2, 4)

AHS Art Teacher Rachel Maxwell reviewed the selection process, including the donation of the photos by area artist Time McKenna. The murals will be created on vinyl and installed by Printco at a cost of \$5,000 for three murals. Four photos were offered for the selection of three to be installed.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings to approve installation of the three murals, as selected, excluding the photo of Santa Elena Canyon.

Motion carried – 4 – 2, with Eddie Natera and Haley Babb casting dissenting votes.

Board President Eddie Natera thanked Ms. Maxwell for her time and effort spent on this project.

XVII. Review and Consideration of Contract for Printers/Copiers for Alpine ISD (Goals 2, 4)

Clay Braden reviewed the proposals received for printers/copiers for the District. He recommended accepting a five-year contract with CMC Business Systems at a cost of \$4,000 per month.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve the recommendation made by Mr. Braden and accepting the contract with CMC Business Systems for copier/printer services.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVIII. Review and Consideration of Alpine ISD Compensation Plans (Goal 2)

Clay Braden reviewed the need for the revised compensation plans and reviewed the plans. These allow for salary increases of \$4,000 - \$6,000 for auxilliary staff.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb to approve the revised compensation plans, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XIX. Review and Consideration of Renewal of Insurance Coverage Through TASB Risk Management Fund for 2022-2023 (Goal 2)

Clay Braden reviewed the renewal and costs of insurance coverage.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to approve the renewal of insurance coverage through TASB Risk Management Fund for 2022-2023, as proposed.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XX. Review and Consideration of 2022 EPA Clean School Bus Rebate Grant Application (Goals 1, 2, 4)

Dr. Rinehart provided background on the rebate grant, but recommended postponing action indefinitely due to restrictions.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to postpone indefinitely taking any action on this grant application.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXI. Reports (Goal 2)
A. Chief Financial Officer
1. Monthly Report

Clay Braden, CFO, reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of June, 2022, with corrections per his explanations.

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

Mr. Braden discussed the current deficit of \$20,000 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, but said it could change before the end of the year, due to adjustments.

XXII. Consideration of Budget Amendments (Goal 2)
None

XXIII. Consent Items

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. June 29, 2022 - Regular Meeting

B. District Expenditures for the Month of June, 2022 (Goal 2)

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

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXIV. Review of Alpine ISD Board of Trustee Calendar for 2022-2023 (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4) Information Only, No Action Will be Taken

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the calendar and indicated there were no significant differences from last years' calendar.

XXV. Review of Alpine ISD Ethics for School Board Members (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4) - Information Only, No Action Will be Taken

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the Ethics for School Board Members, as is required annually. There are no changes from previous year.

XXVI. Update on State Assessment Scores, STAAR and End-of-Course Assessments, for 2021-2022 (Goals 1, 3)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the state scores for grades 3 through 12. While the Middle School and High School campuses performed well, the Elementary School underperformed. Campus principals reviewed the highlights and presented strategies for continued improvement. Mr. Wubbena accepted his role in finding answers to improve scores at the Elementary and discussed possible strategies. Ms. Pardo-Alferez and Mr. Vickers discussed strategies to be sure their campuses continue to improve, including providing adequate teacher support.

XXVII. Update on HB3 Board Goals (Goal 1) - Information Only, No Action Required

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the data on goals and strategies for improvement.

XXVIII. Review and Consideration of Recommendation to add a Full-Time Math Interventionist Position for Alpine Elementary School for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 School Years Funded by ESSER III Funds. (Goals 1, 2, 3)

Dr. Rinehart recommended adding the Math Interventionist position for Alpine Elementary School as a temporary, two year, position to assist with supporting improvement in gaps.

A motion was made by Haley Babb, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve the Math Interventionist position for Alpine Elementary School for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, to be funded by ESSER III funds, as proposed.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXIX. Review and Consideration of T-TESS Appraisal Calendar and List of Approved Appraisers for 2022-2023 (Goal 1)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve the T-TESS Appraisal Calendar and list of approved appraisers for 2022-2023, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXX. Review of T-PESS Appraisal Calendar and List of Approved Appraisers for 2022-2023 - Information Only (Goal 1)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the calendar and list of approved appraisers, including the addition of Judith Pardo-Alferez as an appraiser.

XXXI. Review and Consideration of 2022-2023 Student Code of Conduct (Goal 1)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the Student Code of Conduct, explaining that there are no changes except during a legislative year, with the exception of staff names, etc..

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve the 2022-2023 Student Code of Conduct, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXXII. Review of Alpine ISD Handbooks for 2022-2023 School Year - Information Only (Goal 1)

Dr. Rinehart updated the Board on both the Employee Handbook and Student Handbook for 2022-2023, highlighting policy changes and new requirements in each. She explained that these handbooks are not Board approved, so this is for information only.

- A. Employee Handbook**
- B. Student Handbook**

XXXIII. Review and Consideration of Interlocal Agreement for the Provision of Law Enforcement Services with Brewster County (Goals 1, 2, 3)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Porvision of Law Enforcement Services with Brewster County, as recommended with corrections as discussed.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

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

- A. Entry Plan Update** – Dr. Rinehart discussed goals and progress on her Entry Plan.
- B. Communication Plan** – Dr. Rinehart updated the plan and progress . Outlined processes and methods for improved communication with the community and staff.
- C. School Safety and Security Updates** – addressed earlier in meeting

XXXV. Closed Session - Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code Section 551.072, Section 551.074, Section 551.076, and Section 551.089

The Board adjourned to executive session at 10:04 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 2022-2023**
- B. Deliberation of Safety and Security Matters. Texas Gov't Code Sections 551.076 and 551.089 (Goal 1)**

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

The Board reconvened in open session, at 10:41 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 Jimmy Morris to accept the resignations of Nicole Rodriguez, Jessica Chavez, Victoria Rios, and Bianca Barrera, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2022-2023

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to offer a Non-Certified Teaching contract, with an addendum, to Cynthia Cox for a part-time position as a High School Social Studies teacher.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXXVII. Schedule Future Meeting

- Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Special Meeting
- Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Regular Meeting


XXXVIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Jimmy Morris, seconded by Haley Babb, to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 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: 8/25/2022