

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held Wednesday, March 24, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Alpine Elementary School Cafeteria.

I. Call Meeting to Order

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

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

Others Present: Becky McCutchen, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: 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 March 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment - None

VI. Review and Consideration of Plans to Construct Batting Cage at Kokernot Field (Goals 2, 3, 4)

Ms. McCutchen told board members that Sul Ross State University was not ready with a proposal for construction of the batting cage at Kokernot Field. Therefore, action was postponed until a later date.

VII. Construction Update (Goals 1, 2, 4)

Individuals in attendance to provide construction updates included:

Jon Jones – Imperial Construction, owner

Bobby Kelley – Project Manager

Frank Patton – Construction Manager

Paul Kucera – Site Supervisor

Allan Wolf – Parkhill

Before updates were given, Board member Rachel Carvajal asked to read a statement expressing her frustration, displeasure, and disappointment with the problems incurred during the pouring of the concrete footings at the construction site.

Jon Jones, owner of Imperial Construction, responded to Ms. Carvajal's statement, accepting responsibility for the problems with the concrete sub-contractor and assuring the Board that Imperial would stand responsible and would see to it that the situation was corrected to the satisfaction of the Board and Administration.

A. Imperial Construction - Update on Removing Concrete Footings
Concrete footings have been removed. A new company is in place and working to replace footings and get back on schedule. New material will be on site soon.

B. Imperial Construction - 3-Week Look Ahead
Frank Patton addressed the Board with the 3-Week Look Ahead schedule, including light poles, underground utility work, plumbing, excavating and pouring the elevator pit, and site work. Mr. Patton told board members that one problem they have encountered is an extreme amount being assessed by the City of Alpine for tap fees. He said they were in discussion with City personnel attempting to get the \$25,000 fees either reduced or waived. He also told board members that there would be some night work being done on the Elementary and Middle School gyms for the HVAC systems.

C. Parkhill Update
Allan Wolf reviewed progress and discussed improvements working with the new concrete company. He assured the Board that there is good cooperation with Imperial. Mr. Wolf reviewed the CCR logs.

D. Alpine ISD Update
Mr. Kucera reviewed his update, providing numbers of workers on site each day, and the work being accomplished.

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

Mr. O'Bryant reported on progress towards Elementary goals. Mr. Sanchez reported on CCMR goals, as well as benchmark schedules and EOC schedule. He said they have one student who has been getting certifications.

IX. Campus Data Presentations (Goal 1)

A. Alpine Elementary School

Mr. O'Bryant reviewed progress, utilization of tutorials, and upcoming tests.

B. Alpine Middle School

Mr. Patterson reviewed progress, unit assessments, utilization of tutorials, and upcoming events.

C. Alpine High School

Mr. Sanchez reviewed progress, upcoming assessments, benchmarks, and tutorials.

X. Review and Consideration of 2021-2022 School Calendar (Goals 1,3)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the proposed calendar.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to adopt the school calendar for 2021-2022, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XI. Reports (Goal 2)

A. Chief Financial Officer

1. Monthly Report

Becky McCutchen reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of February, 2021. Additionally, Ms. McCutchen told board members that Culberson County-Allamoore ISD has scheduled a surplus auction for June 6, 2021. She suggested that Alpine ISD might look at including some of their surplus vehicles in the sale.

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

a. Discussion of Budget Priorities for 2021-2022 (Goals 1, 2, 4)

Topics addressed included inclusion of the one-time payment for employees in the 2021-2022 budget, classroom budgets, purchase of a suburban, and purchase of a bus at a later date.

XII. Consideration of Budget Amendments (Goal 2)

None

XIII. Consent Items

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. February 24, 2021 - Regular Meeting

B. District Expenditures for Month of February (Goal 2)

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

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XIV. Review and Consideration of Resolution Regarding the Wearing of Masks and Face Coverings on School Property (Goals 1, 3)

Ms. McCutchen provided board members with input from students and staff on the issue regarding the wearing of face masks.

Dr. Billings thanked Ms. McCutchen for the compiled data. He then voiced his strong objection to passing of the resolution since it goes against CDC guidelines. He said he felt action to accept the resolution would be premature since there is still no vaccine available for any youth below the age of 16. He asked the Board to vote the resolution down on merits of health, safety, and science.

Mary McCallister spoke in favor of the resolution, thereby offering parents a choice in the matter of wearing masks.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to approve the resolution regarding the wearing of masks and face coverings on school property.

Motion failed – 2 ayes, and 4 nays, with Ms. McCallister and Mr. Cross casting the two votes in favor of the resolution. All other board members voted against the resolution.

XV. Review and Consideration of Application to Texas Education Agency for Missed School Day Waiver (Goals 1, 2)

A motion was made by Justin Cross, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to submit the application to the Texas Education Agency for the Missed School Day Waiver.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVI. Certification of Unopposed Candidate for May 1st General Election for Alpine ISD Board of Trustees in Single Member District # 1 (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Board President Eddie Natera accepted the Certification of Unopposed Candidates from Marsha Roach, Administrative Assistant, responsible for developing the ballot for the Board of Trustee election.

A motion was made by Rachel Carvajal, seconded by Adrian Billings, to accept the Certification of Unopposed Candidate in Single Member District # 1.

Motion carried – 5 – 0 – 1 with Eddie Natera abstaining

XVII. Review and Consideration of Order of Cancellation for May 1st General Election for Alpine ISD Board of Trustees, Single Member District # 1 (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

A motion was made by Rachel Carvajal, seconded by Adrian Billings, to adopt the Order of Cancellation for the May 1st General Election, due to there being no contested race for Single Member District # 1. The General Election for Single Member Districts # 3 and Single Member District # 4, will be held on May 1, 2021, as ordered on January 20, 2021

Motion carried – 5 – 0 – 1, with Eddie Natera abstaining

XVIII. Review and Consideration of Agreement with Brewster County Elections Administrator for Election Equipment and Election Services (Goal 3)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Rachel Carvajal, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to accept the agreement with Brewster County Elections Administrator for election equipment and election services, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XIX. Review and Consideration of Resolution Pertaining to Annual Review of Alpine ISD Investment Policy CDA, (Legal and Local) and Investment Vendors and Training Providers (Goal 2, 3)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the reason for the review, and discussed the changes to the list of Investment Vendors and Training Providers.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to adopt the Resolution Pertaining to Annual Review of Alpine ISD Investment Policy CDA, (Legal and Local) and Investment Vendors and Training Providers, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

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

Total enrollment stands at 942, with an ADA of 95.13 %.

Enrollment for the campuses is:

Alpine High School: 310 enrollment; ADA of 96.57 %.

Alpine Middle School: 275 enrollment; ADA of 94.76 %.

Alpine Elementary School: 357 enrollment; ADA of 94.44 %

B. COVID-19 Update

Ms. McCutchen told board members that there is currently one active case within the district. She told board members that the maintenance and custodial staff are continuing with sanitization and cleaning processes. Ms. McCutchen said the high school is moving forward with plans for graduation on May 21st at 7:30 p.m., to be held in the Gallego Center at Sul Ross. She said plans for end of year ceremonies and banquets have not yet been determined.

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

The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:32 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. Alpine High School Principal Search Update

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

The Board reconvened in open session, at 8:16 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 Rachel Carvajal, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to accept the resignations of Esther Martinez, District Librarian, Eileen Hogue, Elementary Art Teacher, and Melinda Hinojos, High School special education teacher. All three teachers will be retiring in June.

Motion carried – 6 - 0

2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2020-2021

None

XXIII. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, April 21, 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 Rachel Carvajal at 8:18 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: April 21, 2021