

**ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIRST REPORT**

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, January 17, 2024, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Alpine High School Band Hall.

I. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Eddie Natera called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Nikki Ahrens, Haley Babb, Adrian Billings, Mary McCallister, Jimmy Morris, Joe Portillo, and Board President, Eddie Natera

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Michelle Rinehart, 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 January 11, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Dr. Rinehart and the three campus principals expressed their appreciation to the Board for the countless hours of dedication to the District and the Alpine ISD students. Each principal highlighted recent projects and activities on their campuses that had been completed through the Board's stewardship and leadership. Each principal presented cards and gifts to the Board from their respective campus and students.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the cards and gifts.

VI. Open Forum - Public Comment

Kara Gerbert, Alpine Avalanche, addressed the Board, expressing her appreciation for the thankless job they do.

On another topic, Ms. Gerbert told the Board that, as a reporter, she would like to request that in the future, more business be addressed before the board recesses for the board appreciation dinner. She said this would be more considerate of the time of those not taking part in the dinner.

VII. Public Hearing to Discuss Alpine ISD's Rating on Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report (Goal, 2)

Board President Eddie Natera, adjourned the regular meeting and called the Public Hearing to order at 5:12 p.m. to discuss Alpine ISD's rating on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report.

Chris Valenzuela, CFO, reported on the 2022-2023 FIRST report, which is based on data from the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Mr. Valenzuela reviewed the indicators and told board members that Alpine received an A – Superior Rating on the report.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Hearing and Reconvening of Open Meeting

Board President Eddie Natera, adjourned the public hearing and reconvened in open session at 5:23 p.m.

IX. Recess for Board Appreciation Dinner

Board President Eddie Natera recessed the regular meeting for the Board Appreciation Dinner at 5:24 p.m.

X. Reconvene Open Meeting

Board President Eddie Natera reconvened the regular meeting in open session at 7:04 p.m.

XI. Reports (Goal 2)

A. Chief Financial Officer

1. Monthly Report

Chris Valenzuela, CFO, reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of December, 2023

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

Chris Valenzuela told Board members that the district has filed for an appeal of State and Federal audit findings with the SHARS/Medicaid program.

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

XIII. Consent Items

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. December 20, 2023 - Regular Meeting

B. District Expenditures for Month of December, 2023 (Goal 2)

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

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XIV. Review and Consideration of Donation Received from Band Boosters for the Alpine High School Band Program (Goal 1, 2)

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Haley Babb, to accept, with gratitude, the donation of \$4,300 from the Band Boosters, to be used to offset costs of the March 360 program which helps supply choreography, costumes, and props for the marching program.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XV. Consider and Take Action on an Order Calling for a General Election on May 4, 2024, 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 Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings, to approve the Order calling for a General Election on May 4, 2024, 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

XVI. Discussion and Consideration of Quotes for Field Maintenance at Kokernot Field (Goals 2, 3, 4)

Dr. Rinehart discussed the current work being completed and the need for additional work. After reviewing the four quotes received, Dr. Rinehart recommended accepting the quote from Big Bend Concrete, in the amount of

\$45,000. Additionally, Dr. Rinehart and Coach Smith discussed the future needs and processes and discussed a division of payments between the Cowboys 06 team, Sul Ross State University, and Alpine ISD. Alpine ISD will be utilizing funds from the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) grant.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to accept the quote from Big Bend Concrete in the amount of \$45,000 for Field Maintenance work at Kokernot Field.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XVII. Review and Consideration of Annual Renewal for Membership in Walsh Gallegos' Retainer Program (Goals 2, 3)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to accept the annual renewal for membership in the Walsh Gallegos' Legal Retainer program, as presented, in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XVIII. Review and Consideration of Renewal of MSB (Medicaid Billing) Contract (Goal 2)

Dr. Rinehart explained the contract is a three-year contract, which would not expire until 2025. Therefore, there was no need for action at this time.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to take no action on this item.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XIX. Review and Consideration of West Texas Food Service Cooperative Contract (Goals 2, 3)

A motion was made by Joe Portillo, seconded by Haley Babb, to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to accept the West Texas Food Service Cooperative Contract, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

Dr. Rinehart explained to Board members that the next three topics pertain to Office of the Governor Grants that require resolutions prior to the application process.

XX. Review and Consideration of Resolution to Approve Criminal Justice Grant Program, FY2025 (Goals 1, 2) Dr. Rinehart explained that this grant funds one of the three School Resource Officer positions.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb, to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to authorize the Resolution to Approve the Criminal Justice Grant Program, FY2025, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXI. Review and Consideration of Resolution to Approve Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention Grant Program, FY2025 (Goals 1, 2) Dr. Rinehart explained that this grant is used to fund one-half of the Assistant Principal's salaries, in the Truancy Prevention role, working to increase attendance.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris, to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to authorize the Resolution to Approve the Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention Grant Program, FY2025, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXII. Review and Consideration of Resolution to Approve General Victim Assistance Grant Program, FY2025 (Goals 1, 2) Dr. Rinehart explained that this grant would be used to hire or contract with an LPC, to work with the students.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to authorize the Resolution to Approve the General Victim Assistance Grant Program, FY2025, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXIII. Superintendent Report (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4)
A. Alpine ISD Board Update

Dr. Rinehart reviewed progress on campus goals.

1. Alpine Elementary is working on a campus-wide behavior system and Character Ed programs.
2. Alpine Middle School is launching a comprehensive Character Education Program, with the help, initially, of Dr. Adrian Smith.
3. Alpine High School has received results of the December administration of the STAAR retests, showing that one-half exceeded expectations. Mr. Vickers discussed the strategies for improvements before the next test administration.

B. Enrollment Report

Dr. Rinehart reviewed enrollment numbers. The total enrollment for the district stands at 905, with 358 at the Elementary, 247 at the Middle School and 300 at the High School. Dr. Rinehart also discussed current attendance rates. Overall, the district has an attendance rate of 95 %, which is 2% higher than last year.

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

The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:53 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 2023-2024**
- B. Review and Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation**

XXV. 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**

None
 - 2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2023-2024**

None

B. Consider and Take Possible Action on Superintendent's Contract

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb, to approve the renewal of Dr. Rinehart's contract with a three-year extension, a 5% raise, paid child care up to \$200 per month, and membership dues of \$550.00 per year.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXVI. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Regular Meeting

XXVII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris, to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 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: 2/21/2024