

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, 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, 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 August 24, 2023, at 7:07 p.m.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment

None

VI. Review and Consideration of CCR-072, Credit for Cafeteria Install of Projector and Screen. (Goals 2, 4)

Dr. Rinehart explained to board members that this was reimbursement for work that was removed from the scope of the project. The credit is in the amount of \$ 3,000.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to approve CCR-072, Credit for Cafeteria Install of Projector and Screen, in the amount of \$3,000, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

VII. Review and Consideration of CCR-073, Credit for the IFP outlets in the Welding/Ag classrooms. (Goals 2, 4)

Dr. Rinehart explained to board members that this was reimbursement for work that was removed from the scope of the project. The credit is in the amount of \$ 500.

A motion was made by Joe Portillo, seconded by Mary McCallister approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to approve CCR-073, Credit for the IFP outlets in the Welding/Ag classrooms, in the amount of \$ 500, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

VIII. Review and Consideration of Change Order 005, Credit Unused Owner Contingency. (Goals 2, 4)

Dr. Rinehart explained that this change order was reimbursement for unused contingency, due to changes in the scope of work in the project. Credit is in the amount of \$ 30,717.40.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to approve Change Order 005, Credit Unused Owner Contingency, in the amounty of \$ 30,717.40, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

IX. Review and Consideration of Goals and Performance Objectives Included in the District Improvement Plan for 2023-2024 (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Caroline Fox, Director of Curriculum and Special Programs, reviewed the process, and highlighted changes and updates to the Plan.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb to approve the Goals and Performance Objectives Included in the District Improvement Plan for 2023-2024, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

X. Review and Consideration of Resolution Granting Extracurricular Status of 4H Organization Under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 76.1 (Goals 2, 3)

Dr. Rinehart explained that this is a Resolution that is done annually, to allow 4H students to attend recognized activities under extracurricular staus, without incurring unexcused absences in school.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt the Resolution Granting

Extracurricular Status of 4H Organization Under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 76.1, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XI. Review and Consideration of Adjunct Faculty Request for Brewster-Jeff Davis County 4H Organization (Goals 2, 3)

Dr. Rinehart explained that this recognizes Mr. Luke Hendryx as an adjunct faculty member when working with, or traveling with, Alpine ISD students within the 4H Organization.

Dr. Billings pointed out that there was an error in the request in line item # 1, showing an end date of May, 2023. This date should be May, 2024.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve the Adjunct Faculty Request for Brewster-Jeff Davis County 4H Organization, with the corrected date.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XII. Review and Consideration of Action to Include Innovative Course in Alpine High School Curriculum Titled Principles of Exercise Science and Wellness. (Goals 1, 3)

Dr. Rinehart explained that the new course was considered an innovative course, thereby requiring Board approval for inclusion. Mr. Vickers briefly described the course and said that TEKS were available for review if anyone wanted to look them over. The course will be taught by Coach Schroeder and will be in addition to the regular Health course.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt Principles of Exercise Science and Wellness as an Innovative Course in the Alpine High School Curriculum.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XIII. Campus Principal Reports (Goal 1)

A. Alpine Elementary School – Mr. Curtis Wubbena

Mr. Wubbena's main focus this month was to address the after-school program. He said the program has been revamped and expanded. He has hired two new employees and three high school students to better serve the program. The program now has expanded hours and has implemented a homework time to assist students.

B. Alpine Middle School – Ms. Judith Pardo-Alferez

Mr. Pardo reported on completing the required drills on the first day of school. She said changes are being made based on issues that surfaced

during the drills. She is working closely with the PTO on various projects. Ms. Pardo told board members that the robotics classes are being expanded to work with drones and rocketry. Fund-raising projects for these models will be on-going. AMS staff are working towards establishing an astronomy club.

C. Alpine High School – Mr. Jarrett Vickers

Mr. Vickers told board members that he and Ms. Fox have been working to make YAG (Year at a Glance) align with Plan Book to make it more applicable and helpful for his teachers. A very successful orientation for incoming 9th graders was held, and Open House has been scheduled for Wednesday night, August 30 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

XIV. Discussion of 2023 STAAR Results (Goals 1, 3)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the results, providing data on Beginning of Year testing, Interim Scores, and End of Year testing for Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies.

XV. Reports (Goal 2)

A. Chief Financial Officer

1. Monthly Report

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

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

Mr. Valenzuela told board members that his staff has been working to get ready for the upcoming audit. Auditors will be on site beginning on September 5, 2023.

XVI. Consideration of Budget Amendments (Goal 2)

None

XVII. Consent Items

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

- 1. July 26, 2023 - Regular Meeting**
- 2. August 14, 2023 - Special Meeting**

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

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

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XVIII. Review and Consideration of Certification of 2023 Appraisal Roll for Alpine ISD Adjusted Roll (Goals 2, 3)

Dr. Rinehart explained to Board members that two appraisal rolls had been submitted, one showing the \$40,000 homestead exemption, and one reflecting the proposed \$100,000 homestead exemption. She said since the higher exemption had not yet been approved by voters, the lower exemption was the one to be considered, and that was her recommendation.

A motion was made by Joe Portillo, seconded by Haley Babb, to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to certify the 2023 Appraisal Roll for Alpine ISD Adjusted Roll in the amount of \$1,148,300,196 for total appraised values, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XIX. Discussion of Proposed Tax Rate for 2023-2024 - Information Only, No Action to be Taken. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed projections and options for tax rates as they affect bond payments. There were no recommendations made, just options to consider. The tax rate will be adopted in September.

XX. Review and Consideration of Resolution to Designate the CFO to Calculate the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, the Voter-Approval Tax Rate, and Other Truth-in-Taxation Requirements. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the process and requirements for action.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt the resolution designating the CFO to Calculate the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, the Voter-Approval Tax Rate, and Other Truth-in-Taxation Requirements, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXI. Review and Consideration of Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding) and to Delegate Contractual Authority to the Superintendent. (Goals, 1, 2)

Dr. Rinehart provided explanatory background information and reviewed the process.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation , for the 2023-2024 school year, the Board delegated contractual authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code (TEC) §11.1511(c)(4) to the superintendent, solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC, §48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized under TEC, 49.006. This included approval of the

Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit or the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding).

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXII. Review and Consideration of Alpine ISD's Legislative Priorities for the 2023 Texas Legislative Education Special Session. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the list of Legislative Priorities which had been discussed at a previous meeting. Priorities include:

- Address Rural Underfunding.
- Allotments: Prioritize adequately funding all Texas public schools at least to the allotment levels set by current state law.
- Formula Transition Grant.
- CAD/Comptroller Disputes.
- Local Option Homestead Exemptions.
- Enrollment-Based Funding.
- Small- and Mid-Sized Schools.
- Safety & Security
- Teacher Salaries

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings, to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to adopt the list of Alpine ISD's Legislative Priorities for the 2023 Texas Legislative Education Special Session.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXIII. Review of Alpine ISD Student Random Drug Testing Handbook - Information Only, No Action Taken (Goal 1)

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the handbook, and highlighted minor changes which had been made. Mr. Vickers discussed random testing schedules and the use of the Brewster County Sheriff's office drug canine. He said they had been utilizing the canine more often than scheduling random testing.

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

A. Alpine ISD Board Update

Dr. Rinehart reviewed data analysis, discussed administrators visiting each classroom on a rotating schedule, and reviewed progress towards objectives. Additionally, she highlighted activities tied to objectives.

B. Enrollment Report

Dr. Rinehart reviewed enrollment numbers. The total enrollment for the district stands at 917, with 356 at the Elementary, 254 at the Middle School and 307 at the High School. Currently, attendance stands at approximately 97 – 98%. However, Dr. Rinehart cautioned board

members that the numbers will likely change as fall approaches with cold and flu season.

C. Public/Private Partnerships Update

Dr. Rinehart discussed the new law allowing co-enrollment between public and private schools, with ADA going to the public schools. The partnership then enables private schools to draw on resources from the public school based on contractual agreements. While early discussions were in place with both Montessori and Alpine Christian School, both private schools decided to enter into a partnership with Fort Davis ISD. Dr. Rinehart corresponded with Montessori providing reasons why Alpine ISD would have been a better choice, with more resources to share with Montessori School. Early discussions indicate that both entities will be contracting with Alpine ISD for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Rinehart also discussed the Federal grant requirement for inclusion of private schools if they are within the boundaries of a public school applying for grant funding.

D. Statewide Underfunding Due to CAD/Comptroller Disputes Initiative

Dr. Rinehart updated Board on efforts to address the issues with underfunding and explained the problems with underfunding across the State. She will be leading a webinar on August 30, 2023, with other underfunded districts. Approximately 75 schools have indicated an interest in the webinars. She discussed the urgency of creating a state-wide surge of support before the Legislative Special Session.

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

The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:26 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. Safety and Security Matters. Texas Gov't Code Sections 551.076 and 551.089 (Goals 1, 3, 4)

1. Update from Alpine ISD School Safety and Security Committee (Goals, 1, 3, 4)

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

The Board reconvened in open session, at 8:15 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
No action
2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2023-2024
No action

XXVII. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Regular Meeting


XXVIII. 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 8:17 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: 9/20/2023