

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held on Monday, May 15, 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, Joe Portillo, and Board President, Eddie Natera

Members Absent: Jimmy Morris

Others Present: Michelle Rinehart, Superintendent of Schools

II. Invocation

III. Pledges of Allegiance to the Flag

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 May 12, 2023 at 3:36 p.m.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment - None

VI. Canvass of Returns of Alpine ISD Board of Trustee Election Held on Saturday, May 6, 2023 (Goal 3)

Board President Eddie Natera reviewed the results of the Board of Trustee Election held on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Results were as follows:

Single Member District # 2 – Election was cancelled due to lack of opposition. Joe Portillo the uncontested candidate will be sworn in to represent Single Member District # 2.

Single Member District # 6 –
Richard Portillo received 26 votes.

Adrian Billings received 104 votes, and will be sworn in to represent Single Member District # 6.

A total of 130 votes were cast in the election, representing approximately 17 % of the registered voters in Single Member District # 6.

Marsha Roach, Administrative Assistant and Early Voting Clerk, commended her team of Election workers, led by Election Judge Berta Martinez and Alternate Judge Robin Harrison. She said the entire team were professional and ran a clean, well-organized election.

VII. Review and Consideration of Order Canvassing Returns of Board of Trustee Election Held on May 6, 2023 (Goal 3)

A motion was made by Haley Babb, seconded by Nikki Ahrens, to approve the order canvassing the returns of the Board of Trustee Election held on May 6, 2023, as presented.

Motion carried – 5 – 0 – 1, with Adrian Billings abstaining

VIII. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Board Members in Single Member Districts # 2 and # 6 (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Notary Marsha Roach administered the oath of office to newly elected board members Joe Portillo, Single Member District # 2 and Adrian Billings, Single Member District # 6.

IX. Consider Action for Reorganization of Board of Trustees (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Haley Babb, to maintain the current slate of officers for the Board of Trustees, with Eddie Natera as President; Mary McCallister as Vice-President; and Nikki Ahrens, as Secretary.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

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

A. Alpine ISD

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the progress on the High School project. The roof is 100% complete with the warranty complete and on file. Work is continuing on some electronic and programming issues. Door hardware is being worked on. Floors will be addressed during the summer. Outside panels are being addressed. Work is continuin on irrigation and landscaping. Trees and seeding are being addressed.

B. Imperial Construction

Still looking at August 1 as completion date. Working on all the warranties.

C. Parkhill – No report

XI. Review and Consideration of CCR-070 - Additional PSI Panels at Concession Stand Wall (Goals 1, 2, 4)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb, to not take any action on CCR-070, Additional PSI Panels at Concession Stand Wall.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XII. Campus Principal Reports (Goal 1)

A. Alpine Elementary School

Mr. Wubbena reported on the support received from the Community. Students have enjoyed visits by the Fire Department for splash day, and have attended the Border Patrol Open House, and visited CDRI. The AES Awards program is scheduled for May 23rd. Mr. Wubbena told board members his staff will be working on Tier I instruction with the addition of the Amplify and Eureka curriculums, which are being purchased though grant funding.

B. Alpine Middle School

Ms. Pardo told board members that her students have been able to take field trips to the Border Patrol Open House, McDonald Observatory, and will be taking a Band trip to El Paso. The AMS Awards program is scheduled for May 24th, and a Talent Show is scheduled for May 25th.

C. Alpine High School

Mr. Vickers told Board membes that the National Honor Society has worked to raise \$1,800 for the Terlingua School Band and Robotics program to help replace equipment lost to fire earlier in the year. Upcoming activities include Academic Awards scheduled for May 16th, Athletic Banquet and Sports Memorabilia Auction on May 17th, and Graduation on May 26th.

XIII. State Assessment Scores Update - Information Only - No Action Required

Dr. Rinehart reviewed the informtion received on the STAAR changes for passing standards. The early raw scores will not be available until May 22. EOC scores will be available on May 31. Scores for grades 3 – 8 will not be available until August 11, and parents will receive notifications on August 16.

XIV. Reports (Goal 2)

A. Chief Financial Officer

1. Monthly Report

Clay Braden, CFO, reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of April, 2023.

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

a. Property Value Study Discussion

Mr. Braden reviewed the projections from the State, comparing the Local figures and highlighted the discrepancies, as well as the implications on budgeting.

b. Preliminary Budget Figures for 2023-2024 (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Mr. Braden discussed preliminary revenues and expenditures for 2023-2024, which may result in a \$400,000 deficit budget.

c. Budget Driver Analysis

Dr. Rinehart explained some of the factors driving the budget:

1. Alpine ISD pays the second lowest salaries in Region 18
2. Alpine ISD is in the bottom 1.5% of the State of Texas for funding
3. Alpine ISD is overstaffed by 18 teachers

d. Compensation Plan Proposals

Discussed options for increasing benefits.

1. Increasing leave days
2. Moving insurance supplement into salary
3. Extend salary schedule out to 30 years experience
4. Increase teacher compensation by \$3,000
5. Continuing the December annual payment of \$1,000
6. Decrease the teaching staff to be more in line with enrollment
7. Increase Special Ed stipend from \$2,000 to \$3,000, as well as fund a "Grow Your Own" Special Education Certification program

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

XVI. Consent Items

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. April 19, 2023 - Regular Meeting
2. April 24, 2023 - Special Meeting

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

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

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVII. Review and Consideration of Action to Approve Recipient(s) of 2023 Alpine ISD Board of Trustee Scholarship (Goal 3)

AHS Principal Jarrett Vickers recommended Orly Holguin to be the recipient of the Alpine ISD Board of Trustee Scholarship. Ms. Holguin will be studying nursing at an out-of-state university.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve the recommendation and award the 2023 Alpine ISD Board of Trustee Scholarship to Orly Holguin, in the amount of \$1,000.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XVIII. Review and Consideration of Joint Resolution for the Establishment of the Alpine Public Education Fund (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Dr. Rinehart provided background on the proposal and discussed the donations and funding opportunities that would be available through the partnership.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Nikki Ahrens to approve the Joint Resolution for the Establishment of the Alpine Public Education Fund, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XIX. Review and Consideration of Acceptance of Donations Received. (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

A. Permian Basin Area Foundation - Alpine Elementary Library Renovation

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to accept the donation from the Permian Basin Area Foundation for the Alpine Elementary Library Renovation, in the amount of \$ 25,000.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

B. Permian Basin Area Foundation - Alpine Reads Program (Alpine Elementary & AISD Child Care Center)

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Joe Portillo to accept the donation from the Permian Basin Area Foundation for the Alpine Reads Program (Alpine Elementary & AISD Child Care Center) in the amount of \$ 5,000.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

C. Permian Basin Area Foundation - Alpine ISD Staff Appreciation

A motion was made by Joe Portillo, seconded by Mary McCallister to accept the donation from the Permian Basin Area Foundation for Alpine ISD Staff Appreciation end of year and beginning of year programs in the amount of \$7,500.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

D. West Texas National Bank - AHS Laminator (1/2 Purchase)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to accept the donation from West Texas National Bank for an AHS Laminator in the amount of \$1,500 for one-half of the purchase.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

E. Trans Pecos Banks - AHS Laminator (1/2 Purchase)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to accept the donation from Trans Pecos Banks for an AHS Laminator in the amount of \$1,500 for one-half of the purchase.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

F. Alpine Band Boosters - Marching Season Fees for AHS Fightin' Buck Band

A motion was made by Joe Portillo, seconded by Mary McCallister to accept the donation from the Alpine Band Boosters for Marching Season Fees for AHS Fightin' Buck Band in the amount of \$5,750.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

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

A. Alpine ISD Board Report

Dr. Rinehart highlighted activities and upcoming events, as well as progress on goals and objectives.

B. Enrollment Report

Dr. Rinehart reviewed enrollment numbers. The total enrollment for the district stands at 925, with 370 at the Elementary, 261 at the Middle School and 294 at the High School.

C. AHS Graduation

Graduation is scheduled for May 26th at 7:30 p.m. Board members are asked to meet at 6:30 p.m. Parking passes will be available in the Administration office to be picked up.

D. Summer Leadership Institute

Board members and Dr. Rinehart will leave for San Antonio on June 14th, and will return to Alpine on June 17th.

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 Recommendation for Chief Financial Officer Position**
 - 3. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2023-2024**

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

The Board reconvened in open session, at 9:38 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 Haley Babb to accept the resignations of Gloria Canaba and Lara Wash, both of whom will be retiring at the end of the current school year.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

A motion was made by Haley Babb, seconded by Mary McCallister to accept the resignations of Audra Hunt, Meghan Boudreaus, and Cassandra Aguilar.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

2. Superintendent Recommendation for Chief Financial Officer Position

Dr. Rinehart told Board members that it was her honor to recommend Chris Valenzuela for the position of Chief Financial Officer, replacing Clay Braden.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendation to offer a contract to Chris Valenzuela for the position of Chief Financial Officer.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

3. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2023-2024

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Nikki Ahrens to approve Dr. Rinehart's recommendations to offer the following contracts: Chris Wilson-Harris, Dual Assignment Probationary contract; Michelle Ramos, Probationary contract; Jackson Yezak, Dual Assignment Probationary contract, and Lauren Martinez, Dual Assignment Probationary contract.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XXIII. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, June 21, 2023 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 Mary McCallister, seconded by Haley Babb to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 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: 6/21/2023