

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held Wednesday, January 19, 2022, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Alpine High School Library.

I. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Eddie Natera called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dennis McEntire, Interim Superintendent of Schools and Becky McCutchen, Previous Superintendent

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 14, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

V. Recognition of Board Members for Board Appreciation Month (Goal 3) Becky McCutchen recognized board members for the job they do for the students and staff of Alpine ISD. Gifts were presented to board members by campus principals, Athletic Director John Fellows, as well as certificates presented by Ms. McCutchen.

VI. Open Forum - Public Comment None

VII. Public Hearing to Discuss Alpine ISD's Rating on Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) (Goal 1) Board President Eddie Natera, adjourned the regular meeting and called the Public Hearing to order at 5:08 p.m. to discuss Alpine ISD's rating on the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR).

Campus principals reviewed data and statistics included in the TAPR reports. Information includes assessment scores, comparisons with state averages, scores for special populations, and, at the high school level, drop out rates, college readiness, and graduation tracts. Accountability ratings were not provided, as TEA declared a State of Disaster for 2021 and did not release accountability ratings.

Mr. McEntire commended the principals and campuses for the jobs being done, excelling through all the trials faced by administrators, teachers, staff, and students. He said Alpine ISD is maintaining rigor, while still working through the adversities.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Hearing and Reconvening of Open Meeting

Board President Eddie Natera, adjourned the public hearing and reconvened in open session at 5:43 p.m.

IX. Recess for Board Appreciation Dinner

Board President Eddie Natera adjourned the regular board meeting at 5:44 p.m. for the Board Appreciation Dinner.

X. Reconvene Open Meeting

Board President Eddie Natera reconvened the regular board meeting in open session at 7:11 p.m.

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

A. Alpine ISD

Ms. McCutchen updated board members on the status of the gym floor, indicating that progress is pending a decision from the insurance companies. Inspections of the gym walls are being conducted to see if there is water damage to the walls. Cleaning crews have been working on the Ag Shop and Welding Shop with a target move in date of 1/29/2022. The target date for the academic building is 6/18 – 6/29/2022. Mr. McEntire discussed issues with the floors in the CTE rooms. Said it will be replaced at the builders expense.

B. Imperial Construction

Jon Jones reviewed the three week look-ahead, reviewing progress and issues. He explained that they have been encountering crew problems due to COVID, and have been attempting to employ temporary help with utilizing local laborers. Mr. Jones also reported they have been encountering material supply issues. Work continues on duct socks at Middle School and Elementary gyms.

C. Parkhill

Les Burke discussed corrections to roofing issues and said he has been working through the problems with Greg Carroll. Working on signage meetings and final subittals.

XII. Review and Consideration of Furnishings Plan and Pricing for AHS Bond Project (Goals 1, 2, 4)

Conrad Arriola reviewed the changes made to the proposal. He said that implemented cuts and valued engineering changes to reduce the overall project from \$848,000 to \$940.186.97.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to approve the furnishings plan and pricing package at a cost of \$697,940.18, with an adjustment for the purchase of desks for the robotics classroom, and excluding purchase of new music stands.

Motion carried – 7 - 0

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

Jessica Murphy, Elementary Principal, and Verl O’Bryant, High School Principal, reviewed progress on HB3 Board goals.

XIV. Reports (Goal 2)

A. Chief Financial Officer

1. Monthly Report

Clay Braden, CFO, reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of December, 2021.

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

Mr. Braden told board members that he has been working to recode salary amounts to ESSER-II, thereby freeing up additional funds for local maintenance. Mr. McEntire commended Mr. Braden and Ms. Fox for the work they’ve been doing for the management of funds.

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

XVI. Consent Items

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. December 16, 2021 - Regular Meeting

2. December 20, 2021 - Special Meeting

B. District Expenditures for Month of December, 2021 (Goal 2)

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

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XVII. Review and Consideration of Adjustment for COVID Leave for Employees (Goals 1, 2, 3)

Mr. McEntire recommended an additional five days local leave be approved for school employees.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings to approve Mr. McEntire's recommendation to allow an additional five days local leave for all employees to be used for COVID related issues only. The additional leave days will be made available beginning on January 20, 2022, and will be available through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. The additional days will only be available going forward and will not be retroactive for prior absences.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XVIII. Consider and Take Action on an Order Calling for a General Election on May 7, 2022, for School Trustees in Single Member Districts # 5 and # 7, and Providing for the Administration of the Election (Goal 3)

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve the Order calling for a General Election on May 7, 2022, for school trustees in Single Member Districts # 5 and # 7, and providing for the administration of the elections, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XIX. Review and Consideration of Alpine ISD Mission, Vision, Values, Goals, and Objectives Statements (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Nikki Ahrens, to readopt the Alpine ISD Mission, Vision, Values, Goals, and Objectives statements, with no changes.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

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

Enrollment Report

Total enrollment stands at 970, with an ADA of 94.37 %.

Enrollment for the campuses is:

Alpine High School: 309 enrollment; ADA of 96.09 %.

Alpine Middle School: 272 enrollment; ADA of 95.14 %.

Alpine Elementary School: 389 enrollment; ADA of 92.69 %

B. COVID-19 Update

Mr. McEntire commended the school nurse, Gayla Owen, for the job she is doing. He said Alpine ISD has been working very hard to stay within TEA guidelines. He said administrators have reviewed the Return to School plan, and Ms. Fox is currently working on a document making protocols clearer. He said the document would be posted to the website and circulated as soon as it is complete. He said the revisions would assure consistency with protocols from campus to campus. Mr. McEntire also reviewed changes made to the COVID dashboard. Testing days will be changed to only two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday, due to a shortage of test kits.

Dr. Billings expressed his appreciation to Ms. Owens for the job she is doing as school nurse. He said she is in a very difficult position, trying to assimilate school processes with health guidelines and concerns.

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

The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:57 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 2021-2022**
- 3. Discussion of High School Principal position (Goals 1, 2, 3)**

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

The Board reconvened in open session, at 9:30 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 approve Mr. McEntire's recommendation to accept the resignation of High School band director Alan Perkins, effective at the end of the current semester.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2021-2022

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Nikki Ahrens to approve Mr. McEntire's recommendation to offer a multi-year term administrative contract to Verl O'Bryant, effective through June 30, 2023.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXIII. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, 2/16/2022, 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 Nikki Ahrens, seconded by Mary McCallister to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 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: *February 16, 2022*