

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held Wednesday, July 21, 2021, 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, Adrian Billings, Justin Cross, Mary McCallister, Jimmy Morris, Joe Portillo, and Board President, Eddie Natera

Members Absent:

Others Present: Becky McCutchen, Superintendent of Schools
Kelly Kalchthaler, Attorney

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 July 16, 2021 at 11:20 a.m.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment

Dr. Joseph Velasco addressed the board on two issues:

- Health, Social, and Emotional concerns related to clear or mesh backpacks
- Hazards and problems associated with clear water bottles, recommending either stainless steel or aluminum bottles be used instead.

Dr. Velasco asked the Board to reconsider policy pertaining to these two topics.

VI. Public Hearing for Review and Discussion of Alpine ISD's Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (Esser II) 2021-2022 Grant Applicant (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4)

Board President Eddie Natera, adjourned the regular meeting and called the Public Hearing to order at 5:40 p.m. to discuss Alpine ISD's Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (Esser II) 2021-2022 Grant Application.

Clay Braden, CFO, discussed the purpose of ESSER-II and allowable use of funds. He said the ESSER-II allotment is \$741,509.00

VII. Adjournment of Public Hearing and Reconvening of Open Meeting

Board President Eddie Natera, adjourned the public hearing and reconvened in open session at 5:42 p.m.

VIII. Hear and Deliberate Regarding Student Level III Grievance Appeal, Including Presentation from Administration and Grievant. Tex. Gov't Code §551.071, §551.074, §551.082, and §551.129 (Goals 1, 2, 3)

Before beginning the Level III Grievance Appeal, Board President Eddie Natera asked if any board members felt the need to recuse themselves from the proceedings. At 5:43 p.m., Board Member Adrian Billings respectfully recused himself from Agenda Items VIII through XX. Dr. Billings asked to be notified prior to consideration of Agenda Item XI.

Board President Natera explained the process, instructing each presenter that they would be allotted 20 minutes, total cumulative time for presentation. Ms. Kalchthaler was designated as the official time keeper.

The following individuals were present for the Level III Grievance Appeal:

Board Members Joe Portillo, Mary McCallister, Eddie Natera, Justin Cross, Nikki Ahrens, and Jimmy Morris. Also present, Dalee Sullivan, grievant, representing herself, Becky McCutchen, Alpine ISD Superintendent, Ms. Sullivan's parents Jason and Shanna Sullivan, and attorney for Alpine ISD Kelly Kalchthaler.

Proceedings began with Ms. Sullivan passing out a summary of her presentation to Board members, and calling for an independent audit of the grades of Alpine High School graduates.

Ms. McCutchen then gave her presentation on behalf of Alpine ISD and Administration, rebutting and clarifying some of the info presented by Ms. Sullivan, as well as her findings into the allegations posed by Ms. Sullivan.

Ms. Sullivan was given an opportunity to rebut information presented by Ms. McCutchen. Additionally, Ms. Sullivan called for transparency and reviewed

her main points of contention, once again calling for an independent third party audit to verify final grades and rankings.

Ms. McCutchen once again rebutted the allegations with facts, highlighting documents provided in the binder provided to Board members.

Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions. In closing, Ms. Kalchthaler asked for clarification from Ms. Sullivan on what remedies she was requesting from the Board. The remedies requested included:

1. An independent audit of final grades and rankings
2. Verification that policy had been followed
3. Concern with policy pertaining to point assignment for AP classes being changed during Ms. Sullivan's senior year, but was not applied to her junior year schedule.

IX. Closed Session - Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code Section 551.071, 551.074, 551.0821, and 551.129 (Goals 1, 2, 3)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:35 p.m.

- A. Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071, 551.0821, and 551.129, Consultation With the District's Legal Counsel Regarding Cause No. CVB21561; Dalee R. Sullivan v. Alpine Independent School District; In the 394th Judicial District Court, Brewster County, Texas.**
- B. Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071, 551.074, 551.0821, and 551.129, Consultation With the District's Legal Counsel and Deliberations Regarding Level III Grievance Pursuant to Board Policy FNG by D. Sullivan.**
- C. Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071, 551.074, 551.0821, and 551.129, Possible Consideration of Portions of Level III Grievance Pursuant to Board Policy FNG by D. Sullivan to Protect Confidential Information Related to Other Students.**

X. Open Session (Goals 1, 2, 3)

The Board reconvened in open session, at 8:07 p.m., taking action on Closed session deliberations as indicated below.

- A. Consider and Possible Action on Level III Grievance Pursuant to Board Policy FNG by D. Sullivan, Including Presentation from Administration and Grievant.**

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to uphold the Level II decision pertaining to Ms. Dalee Sullivan's grievance.

Motion carried – 5 – 1, with Jimmy Morris casting the dissenting vote.

Dr. Adrian Billings rejoined the open meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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

A. Alpine ISD

Paul Kucera reviewed on site activity and the number of workers on site. Additionally, he provided pictures of progress

B. Imperial Construction

Bobby Kelley provided a handout, reviewing timelines, costs, and status updates. He also addressed impacts and delays on project. Frank Patton provided a status of progress on the three-week schedule, as well as upcoming projects.

C. Parkhill

Les Burke reported to the board on the status of submittals to keep the project moving, and reviewed the CCR Log.

XII. Review and Consideration of Change Request #020 - Resized the Exhaust Fan at Kiln Room (Goals 2, 4)

Les Burke reviewed the need for the change request and the cost of \$561.50.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross to approve Change Request #020, resizing the exhaust fan at the kiln room, at a cost of \$ 561.50.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XIII. Review and Consideration of Construction Change Request #022 - Remove and Re-route Water Line at Shop Addition (Goals 2, 4)

Les Burke reviewed the need for the change request and the cost of \$11,133.08. Following discussion, Bobby Kelley and Jon Jones of Imperial Construction, agreed to absorb one-half the cost of the Change Request.

A motion was made by Justin Cross, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve Change Request #022 to remove and re-route water line at the Shop Addition, at a cost of \$5,566.54, contingent upon the remaining half of the cost being absorbed by Imperial Construction.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XIV. Review and Consideration of Construction Change Request #024 Metal Stud Change - Substitute 14 Gauge Studs Instead of 10 Gauge Studs Due to Delivery Timeline (Goals 2, 4)

Les Burke reviewed the need for the change and the options to be considered.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Nikki Ahrens, to approve Change Request #024 for a metal stud change, substituting 14 gauge studs instead of 10 gauge studs due to delivery timeline issues. Change Request # 024 results in a credit of \$10,270.00.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XV. Review and Consideration of Dealer Scoring Sheet and Selection of Furniture Vendor for Alpine High School Project (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Les Burke reviewed the information included in the scoring sheet, committee members, and ranking of the vendors. He recommended PPG, the highest ranked vendor.

A motion was made by Nikki Ahrens, seconded by Mary McCallister, to select PPG as the furniture vendor for the High School project.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XVI. Review and Consideration of District Improvement Plan (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)
Clay Braden, CFO, and Ms. McCutchen reviewed and highlighted the changes and funding information for the District Improvement Plan.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Nikki Ahrens to approve the District Improvement Plan for 2021-2022, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

Board President Eddie Natera called for a 10 minute break at 9:04 p.m. The board reconvened and continued in open session at 9:10 p.m.

XVII. Discussion and Possible Action on HB 547 Which Allows Homeschool Students to Participate in UIL Activities. (Goals 1, 2, 3)

Ms. McCutchen explained HB 547, with Texas UIL allowing school districts to make the decision locally, as to whether or not to allow homeschool students to participate in UIL activities. Ms. McCutchen outlined concerns with funding, discipline/control, and lack of oversight on program requirements.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister , seconded by Nikki Ahrens, to deny participation in UIL activities to home-school students.

Motion carried – 5 – 2, with Adrian Billings and Eddie Natera casting dissenting votes.

XVIII. Campus Data Presentations (Goal 1)

A. Alpine Elementary School

Campus Principal Jessica Murphy reviewed projected enrollment at 313, student/teacher ratios, number of staff per grade level/department, and projected staffing needs.

B. Alpine Middle School

Campus Principal Judith Pardo-Alferez reviewed projected enrollment at 258, student/teacher ratios, current staff numbers, and projected staffing needs.

C. Alpine High School

Campus Principal Lee Sanchez reviewed projected enrollment at 313, student/teacher ratios, and projected staffing needs.

XIX. Review and Consideration of TASB Board Policy Update 117, Affecting Local Policies, as Follows: (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

- **CH(LOCAL): PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION**
- **CV(LOCAL): FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION**
- **DEC(LOCAL): COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS - LEAVES AND ABSENCES**

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the changes, additions, and deletions to each policy.

A motion was made by Justin Cross, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve TASB Board Policy Update 117, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XX. Review and Consideration of Interlocal Agreement for the Provision of Law Enforcement Services with Brewster County (Goals 1, 2, 3)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the agreement and increase in costs, for a total cost of \$175,160.28 for three school resource officers.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Provision of Law Enforcement Services with Brewster County, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXI. Reports (Goal 2)

A. Chief Financial Officer

1. Monthly Report

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

2. Discussion of Financial Topics - None

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

XXIII. Consent Items

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. June 28, 2021 - Special Meeting

2. June 29, 2021 - Regular Meeting

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

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

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXIV. Review and Consideration of Resolutions to Add Clay Braden as an Authorized Representative to Investment Pool Accounts, and Removing Tucker Durham as an Authorized Representative. (Goal 2)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the four investment pool accounts and the need for updating the authorized representatives for each.

A. First Public Lone Star Investment Pool

B. Texas FIT (Fixed Income Trust)

C. TexPool

D. Texas Class (Texas Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System Trust)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Jimmy Morris to approve the Resolutions to add Clay Braden as an authorized representative to Investment Pool accounts, and removing Tucker Durham as an authorized representative, as presented.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXV. Discussion of Board Self-Evaluation and Possible Areas of Improvement (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4) - Information Only

Ms. McCutchen and board members discussed options for the Board Self-Evaluation and possible areas of improvement. Board members agreed for Ms. McCutchen to choose the most important areas, and present a draft in August, with approval in September

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

A. TASA/TASB Convention

Board members were given information about the convention and discussed which board members would be able to attend.

B. Quarterly Goal Update

Ms. McCutchen reviewed progress on goals and objectives.

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

The Board adjourned to executive session at 10:04 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. Superintendent Recommendations for Non-Certified Teacher Contracts for 2021-2022**

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

The Board reconvened in open session, at 10:35 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 2021-2022**

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to offer a Probationary Dual Assignment Contract, with an addendum for certification to Matthew Chavez, and a Probationary Contract, with an addendum for Texas certification to Michelle Minto for 2021-2022.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

3. Superintendent Recommendations for Non-Certified Teacher Contracts for 2021-2022

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to offer one-year Non-Certified Dual Assignment teaching contracts, with certification addendums to Marc Miranda and Selena Garcia, and to offer a Non-Certified teaching contract with certification addendums to Graciela Galindo and Ruby Losoya for 2021-2022.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXIX. Review and Consideration of Compensation Scale for Non-Certified Teachers (Goals 1, 2)

A motion was made by Justin Cross, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to adopt a compensation scale at 75% of the certified teacher scale, with a beginning amount of \$26,392.54, a mid-point of \$ 36, 532.58, and a high point of \$ 43,028.55.

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XXX. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Special Meeting
- Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. – Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room, Regular Meeting

XXXI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Nikki Ahrens to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 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: 8/18/2021