

Minutes of Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

Original Agenda was Amended Due to a Clerical Omission

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held Wednesday, August 5, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Video/Audio Conferencing - See Log-in Information Below Under Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law.

I. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Eddie Natera called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Board President conducted a roll call to verify Board Member attendance.

Members Present: Adrian Billings, Rachel Carvajal, Justin Cross, Billy Ray Laxton, Mary McCallister, Eddie Natera, and Joe Portillo

Others Present: Becky McCutchen, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent:

Board President Natera informed board members that due to the meeting being conducted remotely, all votes would be taken by roll call. He asked if there were any objections. There being none, he proceeded with the agenda.

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 30, 2020 at 6:15 p.m.

Per guidance from the school district attorney, the agenda was amended on August 5, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. to include an item for Open Forum, Public Comment, which was a clerical omission in the original agenda.

Video/Audio Conferencing Notice: Pursuant to Governor Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020, this meeting will be conducted via video-conference and/or audio conference, which will be audible to the Board and public and allow for two-way communication. The Board President,

presiding officer or trustees will not be physically present at one location but a quorum will be required for the meeting on the videoconference or phone. The public may access this meeting via the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://edlink18.zoom.us/j/92449491597?pwd=aHNCMWdYKysvbVNDWnJNWXFsUTRkZz09>

Meeting ID: 924 4949 1597

Passcode: 689919

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,92449491597#,,,,,0#,,689919# US (Houston)

+16468769923,,92449491597#,,,,,0#,,689919# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 924 4949 1597

Passcode: 689919

Find your local number: <https://edlink18.zoom.us/u/aD8j1Pzbp>

Join by SIP

92449491597@zoomcrc.com

An electronic copy of the agenda packet may be viewed at the following link: https://www.alpine.esc18.net/79023_3. A recording of the meeting will be available for viewing on the District's website after the meeting.

Board President Eddie Natera read the following statement into the records:

On March 16, Gov. Greg Abbott granted a request by Attorney General Ken Paxton to temporarily suspend a limited number of open meetings laws to the extent necessary to allow telephonic or videoconference meetings in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

In accordance with those suspended rules, we certify the following: Notice of this meeting has been posted online for at least 72 hours.

- 1 Although members of the board are not gathered in a central, physical location, we do have a quorum in attendance at this meeting by videoconference or telephone call.
2. We are meeting by use of Zoom Meetings which allows two-way communication for members of the public.

3. As we would at any in-person meeting, members of the public who have followed the instructions on the meeting notice for registering to speak during the public comment portion will be unmuted for five (5) minutes to speak. If the speaker submitted written comments in advance, the Board President will read the comments into record. If you would like to provide comment at a future meeting conducted by videoconference or telephone call, please follow instructions on the meeting notice.
4. All other meeting procedures will adhere to board-adopted procedures to the extent practicable.
5. A video/audio recording of this meeting is being made and will be available to the public at a later date.
6. This software application allows for numerous individuals to view and interact at a time. We apologize in advance for any unforeseeable difficulties and ask for your patience as we navigate unprecedented conditions.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment

If you wish to address the Board of Trustees on an agenda item, email questions or comments to Board President, Eddie Natera at: enatera@alpineisd.net, prior to the beginning of the meeting. The President or designee will call for public comments at the beginning of the meeting and will state the name of each person who has emailed a question or comment to the Board President. All other public comment rules will be followed. After the close of public comment, the Board will proceed with the rest of the agenda that may be viewed or heard by the public online or on the phone.

Board President called for public comments. There being none, he proceeded with the next agenda item.

VI. Review and Consideration of T-TESS Appraisal Calendar and List of Approved Appraisers for 2020-2021 (Goal 1)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the guidelines, the proposed calendar, and list of approved appraisers.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings to approve the superintendent's recommendation to adopt the T-TESS Calendar and List of Approved Appraisers for 2020-2021, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye

Mary McCallister - aye

Justin Cross - aye

Adrian Billings - aye

Rachel Carvajal - aye

Billy Ray Laxton - aye

Joe Portillo - aye

Motion carried – 7 – 0

VII. Review of T-PESS Appraisal Calendar and List of Approved Appraisers for 2020-2021 - Information Only (Goal 1)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the guidelines, the proposed calendar, and list of approved appraisers. The T-PESS system is the appraisal system for principals and assistant principals. Ms. Fox is currently working on the T-PESS training to become a certified appraiser.

VIII. Review and Consideration of Revisions to 2020-2021 School Calendar (Goal 1, 3)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the recommended changes to the 2020-2021 school calendar. Additional days are needed for professional development due to COVID-19 remote learning trainings.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross to approve the superintendent’s recommendation for revisions to the 2020-2021 school calendar.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye
Mary McCallister - aye
Justin Cross - aye

Adrian Billings - nay
Rachel Carvajal - aye
Billy Ray Laxton - aye
Joe Portillo – aye

Motion carried – 6 – 1 with Adrian Billings casting the dissenting vote

IX. Review and Consideration of 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct (Goal 1)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct and told Board members there were very few changes, since it was not a legislative year. Ms. McCutchen did recommended one revision, changing the word “pocketknife” to “knife” to prohibit any knives from being brought to school.

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Justin Cross to approve the 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct, as presented by the superintendent, with the one revision as recommended.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye
Mary McCallister - aye
Justin Cross - aye

Adrian Billings - aye
Rachel Carvajal - aye
Billy Ray Laxton - aye
Joe Portillo - aye

Motion carried – 7 – 0

X. Review of Alpine ISD Handbooks for 2020-2021 School Year - Information Only (Goal 1)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the handbooks listed below, outlining any changes from previous handbooks.

- A. Student Handbook
- B. Student Random Drug Testing Handbook
- C. Employee Handbook

XI. Review of Handbooks for Student Groups/Extracurricular Activities - Information Only (Goal 1)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the handbooks for Athletics, Band, Cheerleaders, FFA, and National Honor Society, highlighting any changes from previous handbooks. These handbooks are reviewed at the campus level regularly, and could be changed if necessary. Ms. McCutchen told board members that with the current situations, there will be no over-night travel allowed for student groups.

XII. Review and Discussion of Board Self-Evaluation Instrument and Timeline (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the proposed document, Board and Superintendent Team Operations. She requested input from Board members, and the final document will be reviewed at the September meeting.

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

- A. Update on AHS Construction Process

Update was given, reviewing the schedule and process.

- B. Update on Issues Associated with COVID-19

Ms. McCutchen reviewed numerous topics pertaining to COVID-19 and school processes. Topics included: Registration schedules, Public Health Planning Guidance for Re-Openings from TEA, Staff Trainings, District disinfecting processes, mental and emotional support for students, and screening processes. Board members inquired about the staff response to re-opening and returning to campuses, and indicated concerns about the staff mental and emotional well-being, asking Ms. McCutchen to compile a list of resources for the staff. Dr. Billings agreed to provide information about resources.

- C. TASA/TASB Convention - Virtual Event

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the dates, cost, and registration schedule for the conference.

XIV. Review and Consideration of Action to Select Delegate and Alternate for TASB Delegate Assembly (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

A motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Justin Cross, to appoint Rachel Carvajal as delegate to the TASB Delegate Assembly, with Mary McCallister serving as alternate.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye
Mary McCallister - aye
Justin Cross - aye

Adrian Billings - aye
Rachel Carvajal - aye
Billy Ray Laxton - aye
Joe Portillo - aye

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XV. Review and Consideration of Action to Delegate Temporary Hiring Authority to Superintendent for Employment of Personnel Prior to August 26, 2020. (Goal 1)

Ms. McCutchen told board members that with the next regular board meeting scheduled for August 26, and school starting on August 19, there might be a need for someone to be approved for employment, prior to the board meeting.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings, to approve an exception to Board Policy DC(Local), granting temporary hiring authority to the Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye
Mary McCallister - aye
Justin Cross - aye

Adrian Billings - aye
Rachel Carvajal - aye
Billy Ray Laxton - aye
Joe Portillo - aye

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XVI. Closed Session - Pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code §551.074

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:52 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 2020-2021
- B. Real Property - Review of Tax Deeds Submitted for Approval from Texas Communities Group for Property Held in Trust by Alpine ISD. Texas Gov't Code Section 551.072 (Goal 2)
 - 1. Parcel R17115

XVII. Open Session: Consider and take possible action on Closed Session deliberations

The Board reconvened in open session, at 7:56 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 Adrian Billings, seconded by Billy Ray Laxton, to accept the resignation of James Crenshaw as teacher at Alpine High School, effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye	Adrian Billings - aye
Mary McCallister - aye	Rachel Carvajal - aye
Justin Cross - aye	Billy Ray Laxton - aye
	Joe Portillo - aye

Motion carried – 7 – 0

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to accept the resignation of Hugh Morrissey, contingent upon a replacement being hired.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye	Adrian Billings - aye
Mary McCallister - aye	Rachel Carvajal - aye
Justin Cross - aye	Billy Ray Laxton - aye
	Joe Portillo - aye

Motion carried – 7 – 0

2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2020-2021

Ms. McCutchen recommended contracts for the following individuals:

- Sandra Fellows – Dual Assignment/Term Contract
- Robie Golden – Part-time Probationary Contract
- Shay Conwell – One-Year Probationary Contract with Certification Addendum
- Selena Garcia – One-Year Probationary Contract with Certification Addendum

A motion was made by Rachel Carvajal, seconded by Mary McCallister to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer contracts, as proposed.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye
Mary McCallister - aye
Justin Cross - aye

Adrian Billings - aye
Rachel Carvajal - aye
Billy Ray Laxton - aye
Joe Portillo - aye

Motion carried – 7 – 0

B. Real Property - Consideration of Tax Deeds Submitted for Approval from Texas Communities Group for Property Held in Trust by Alpine ISD. Texas Gov't Code Section 551.072 (Goal 2)

1. Parcel R17115

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross to approve the tax deed for sale of Parcel R17115 to Miguel Carias, for the amount of \$2,500.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye
Mary McCallister - aye
Justin Cross - aye

Adrian Billings - aye
Rachel Carvajal - aye
Billy Ray Laxton - aye
Joe Portillo - aye

Motion carried – 7 – 0

XVIII. Schedule Future Meetings

- Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting, will be held in person at the Alpine High School Library.

XIX. Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Billy Ray Laxton at 8:02 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Eddie Natera - aye
Mary McCallister - aye
Justin Cross - aye

Adrian Billings - aye
Rachel Carvajal - aye
Billy Ray Laxton - aye
Joe Portillo - aye

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
Date of Approval: August 26, 2020

Board Secretary