



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Minutes of Special Called Meeting

The Board of Trustees South San Antonio ISD

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of South San Antonio ISD was held Tuesday, May 28, 2013, beginning at 6:00 PM in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call			
Member	In Attendance	Absent	Late Arrival
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. Carlos G. Longoria	X		
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez	X		
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X		
Ms. Helen Madla	X		

Staff Present	Staff Present	Staff Present	Staff Present
Rebecca Robinson	Jenny Hall	Sheila Collazo	David Landeros
Jeri George	Chief Tovar	Kriesti Bunch	Dianne Trevino
Loretta Martinez	Rodney Bunsen	Jenny Arredondo	Terron Spears
Paul Briseno	Pete Alaniz	Eusebio Vega	Robert Zamora
S. Molina	Angel Aguilar	Diane Morales	Sandra Hernandez
Roland Villanueva	Joe Williamson	Jill Gable	Ben Davis

DISCUSSION/POSIBLE ACTION

1. Discussion and possible action to reorganize the officers of the Board of Trustees.

Upon substitute motion by Mr. Mata, seconded by Ms. Madla, the Board of Trustees move to reorganize the Board of Trustees as follows: Connie Prado as President, Carlos Longoria as Vice President and Julie Ponce as Secretary. 2/5 Motion failed.

Roll Call Vote:	Yes	No
Mr. Carlos G. Longoria		X
Ms. Julie Ponce		X
Mr. JoeJo Savage		X
Ms. Connie Prado		X
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez		X
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X	
Ms. Helen Madla	X	

Upon motion by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Savage, the Board of Trustees move to reorganize the officers of the Board of Trustees of the South San Antonio ISD by electing Rose Martinez as President, Carlos Longoria as Vice President and JoeJo Savage as Secretary. 5/2 Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:	Yes	No
Mr. Carlos G. Longoria	X	
Ms. Julie Ponce	X	
Mr. JoeJo Savage	X	
Ms. Connie Prado	X	
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez	X	
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata		X
Ms. Helen Madla		X

Ms. Madla called for a 10 minute recess at 6:03 p.m.

Ms. Martinez assumed her role as President and Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

Ms. Prado asked for the floor as a point of personal privileges and stated the following:

Yesterday, we observed a national holiday honoring those men and women who have given their lives for a democracy. A democracy that is practiced here in our board room and in our elections. Let us not forget that some of these brave individuals were South San graduates. And they did so to protect the constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Our high school students are taught in their government class that one of the basic tenants of our democracy is the Bill of Rights. Among those are the freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and yes, freedom of the press. But our founding fathers, I am certain, did not mean for our free press to publish distortions, half-truths or innuendos. I also believe they did not want the free press to be biased or operate with a hidden agenda. There is a local newspaper in central Texas, which I believe still exists, whose name is The Temple Daily Telegram. And in its front page, preamble they say and I quote, "We are politically independent, placing the public welfare above the interest of any party. Truth and decency are our guiding principles and our daily determination is to print the news without fear or favor." - end of quote. In fact the society of professional journalists proclaims, and I quote, "The duty of the journalist is to further those ends by seeking truth and providing a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues. Conscientious

journalists from all media and specialties strive to serve the public with thoroughness and honesty. Professional integrity is the cornerstone of a journalist's credibility." – end of quote. By the way sensationalism or selling newspapers were not listed as ethical standards. Some of you may have read a recent editorial in the local newspaper. The editorial proclaims several allegations. One of which was dispelled just a few minutes ago. And I submit the other allegations will fall by the wayside in the very near future. Then that editorial will be as hollow as it was written. I have been on our school board for fourteen years and have never felt the need to respond to the press. But enough is enough, so tonight I am compelled to speak on behalf of our students, their teachers and their parents. Because they are innocent bystanders who continue to be used as pawns as the local newspaper executes their hidden agenda. Their attack on the entire board, individual board members and employees based on innuendo and half-truths cast a cloud on the accomplishments and successes realized by our educational family. The newspaper is determined to impose their will on our school district at all costs. If this is what they truly want, the members of their editorial board should take up residence in our district, run for the school board, win, if they can, and then govern as they see fit. In the mean time I say to them, do not underestimate the sophistication of our voters. They get to determine which board members are doing their job and which ones are not. They also know how to read in between the lines and make up their own minds. Our students and teachers do not deserve to be held captive in a world of hypocrisy. The newspaper reports through their warped prism that our school district is dysfunctional. Never mind that we have two graduating students who were awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Never mind that we have the state's top librarian. Never mind that our drama department won first place in district competition. And never mind that our student performance continues to improve. There is an old saying that one cannot beat the newspaper because they have tons of paper and gallons of ink. I say we can. With a little paper and small amounts of ink. We can and we should print the truths and the facts. We should say we will not go quietly into the night. We should say we have an obligation to protect our students when the facts and the truths are ignored. We should say we will not be intimidated. Thank you.

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Closed session began at 6:14 p.m.

Returned to Open Session at 6:58 p.m.

NOTICE: The Board of Trustees may elect to go into Closed Meeting any time during the meeting to discuss matters listed on the Agenda when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Board of Trustees elects to go into Closed Meeting regarding an Agenda Item, the Board of Trustees will hold a Closed Meeting to discuss individual personnel matters including termination, litigation and other matters the Board deems necessary. Upon completion of Closed Meeting, the Board of Trustees may, in the open session, take such action as appropriate on items discussed in a Closed Meeting. If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item listed on the agenda should be held in Closed Meeting, the Board will convene in such Closed Meeting in accordance with Texas Government Code Sections 551.001 - 551.088. The Board members may take action in the open portion of the meeting on items discussed in the Closed Meeting but no

action will be taken in closed session. The Board will consider and discuss, the following items:

Closed Meeting pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code § 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.0821

1. Consultation with the Attorney regarding content of a media report, assigning responsibility, ascertaining damages and discussion of possible options available to the board. (Texas Government Code § 551.071)

Upon motion by Ms. Prado, seconded by Mr. Longoria, the Board of Trustees move to authorize the board president to send a letter to all of the district school teachers as discussed in executive session and further direct the superintendent to assist the board president in completing this task. 7/0 Motion carried.

2. Consultation with the Attorney regarding circumstances related to the Open Meetings Act; Esperanza Peace and Justice Center v. City of San Antonio (WD Texas 2001) as they pertain to the school district and legal clarification and ramifications thereof. (Texas Government Code § 551.071)

No action taken.

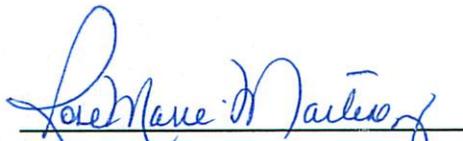
3. Consultation with the Attorney regarding circumstances related to Board Policy BJA (Local) and legal clarification and ramifications thereof. (Texas Government Code § 551.071 and 551.074)

No action taken.

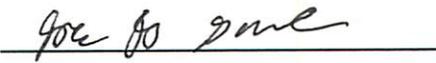
ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Mata, seconded by Mr. Longoria, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

ATTEST



Rose Marie Martinez, President



Joe Jo Savage, Secretary