

Board Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2019

A regular meeting and budget hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Refugio Independent School District was held on Thursday, August 29, 2019, beginning at 12:15 p.m. in the Administration Office, 212 West Vance Street, Refugio, Texas, with the following members present: President Andy Rocha, Vice-President Kelley Walker, Secretary Jorge Jaso, Lorraine Garcia, Ethel Garza, Eugene Lewis, and T. Wayne Price.

Also present: Melissa Gonzales, Superintendent.

Staff present: Brenda Schumann, Brandon Duncan, Twyla Thomas, and Lisa Herring.

Others present: Jay Boynton, Lee Ann Maldonado, and Chris Brzozowski.

President Andy Rocha established a quorum of members present, welcomed guests, and called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Jorge Jaso led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

During the public meeting to discuss the 2019-20 Financial Plan (budget) and proposed tax rate. The proposed tax rate for maintenance and operations is \$.97, and \$0.270 for the payment of principal and interest on debt for a total tax rate of \$1.24.

There were no public comments on the proposed 2019-20 budget and tax rate.

Chris Brzozowski updated the board on the Bond 2015 Projects.

Lee Ann Maldonado updated the board on the gym repairs. The roofs are close to being completed, lacking the metal trim to be added around the top. The practice gym is ready to seal and then paint, while work in the competition gym is continued.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mrs. Ethel Garza to approve and accept the proposed Change Order #011-SD for the 2015 Bond Construction Projects, in the amount of a credit for \$21,536.40. All voted for. 7-0

Motion by Mrs. Lorraine Garcia, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price, to approve and accept the proposed Pay Application #35 and Pay Application #36 for the 2015 Bond Construction Projects in the amount of \$37,157.25. All voted for 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Jorge Jaso, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price, to approve and accept the proposed Pay Application #4 for the Gymnasium Renovation Projects in the amount of \$339,176.59. All voted for 7-0.

Motion by Mr. T. Wayne Price, second by Mrs. Lorraine Garcia to approve payment of invoices to Boynton Williams & Associates for the amount of \$1,518.66 for fees associate with the rebuild projects and inspection. All voted for 7-0.

Lorraine Garcia left the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

During the Superintendent's Report, Mrs. Gonzales discussed the following:

- Beginning of 2019-20 school year enrollment
- Campus Reports:
 - Refugio Elementary School
Mrs. Thomas reported the 2019-2020 Meet/Greet was a success with a good turnout of parents and students; RES staff had training with PAX Behavior Game that was a grant from Region 3. This extensive training provided instructional and behavioral strategies for teachers to use in the classroom to develop and strengthen relationships with the students now and in the future; morning assembly will be held twice a week, Monday and Friday of each week beginning at 7:30 in the Cafetorium.
 - Refugio Junior High School/Junior High School
Mr. Duncan reported that RHS and RJHS were off to a smooth start visiting each grade level in the cafeteria with a reminder of the No Pass, No Play rule; Mr. Duncan also reported the Learning Undefeated will be launching Drop Anywhere Labs, is one of the newest innovations in mobile STEM education. They are custom built shipping containers served as flexible laboratory and classroom space for middle school students. The Launch Event will be held on Monday, September 9, 2019 at the high school with a ribbon cutting at 5:00 p.m.
- Date of September Board meeting – Tuesday, September 25, 2018
- Legislative changes to Open Forum BED (LOCAL) - Mrs. Gonzales discussed with the board HB 2840 which will take effect on September 1, 2019.
- District of Innovation – Mr. Duncan reported to the board several steps that it will take to become a district of innovation:
 - a. Board adopt resolution
 - b. Public hearing held within 30 days
 - c. Board appoints a committee
 - d. Plan posted on district website for 30 days
 - e. Plan sent to commissioner
 - f. Advisory committee passes plan with majority vote at a public meeting
 - g. School board approves plan by 2/3 majority vote

- h. District notifies commissioner along with approved exemptions
- i. Plan posted to district website
- j. Provide copy of plan to TEA no later than 15 days after adopting
- k. Plan is in effect for 5 years.

Mrs. Gonzales reported to the board on the state of the District. Refugio ISD has received \$12 million dollars from the Texas Education Agency from funds appropriated in the last legislative session for Hurricane Harvey remediation. Also, \$1.8 million was received from the insurance agency. With the funds, Refugio ISD will progress towards other building damage that is still in need of repairs.

Nepotism and pecuniary interest provisions – Board members and investment offices – and Conflict of Interest Disclosures.

The following consent agenda items were approved by common consent:

Minutes from previous meetings

- July 2, 2019 special meeting
 - July 25, 2019 regular meeting
 - August 13, 2019 special meeting
 - August 22, 2019 special meeting
- b. Appraisal calendar for 2019-2020
 - c. Teacher appraisers for 2019-2020

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mr. Jorge Jaso to approve the Superintendent's request for compensation schedules for all at-will employees. All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mrs. Ethel Garza to approve the proposed substitute pay schedule as presented for the 2019-2020 school year.

- Degreed, Certified Teacher - \$110.00 per day
- Bachelor's Degree (not certified as a teacher) \$70.00 per day
- Non-degree Substitute - \$60.00 per day

All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mr. Eugene Lewis to approve the adult meal prices as presented.

- Adult Staff - \$4.00
- Adult visitors - \$4.50
- Adult breakfast - \$2.40

All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mr. T. Wayne Price, second by Mr. Eugene Lewis to approve the Non-Athletic stipends for the 2019-2020 school year as presented and amended on page 2, remove Longevity stipend from the elementary campus. All voted for 6-0.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ITEM 8J

Lisa Herring reported on the final budget amendments for the 2018-2019 fiscal year with an increase of \$197,000 and a decrease of \$50,000 with the board adopted a final budget amendment in the amount of \$147,000.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price to approve the final 2018-2019 budget amendments as presented. All voted for 6-0.

Lisa Herring proposed an expenditure budget in the amount of \$8,943,907 being presented for adoption. The proposed tax rate for maintenance and operations is \$.97, and \$0.27 for the payment of principal and interest on debt for a total tax rate of \$1.24.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price to approve the 2019-2020 Refugio operational budget as presented in the amount of \$8,943, 907. All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mrs. Ethel Garza to move that Refugio ISD adopt a tax rate of \$0.97 for the purpose of maintenance and operations and \$0.2700 for the payment of principal and interest on debt of the school district by written ordinance, for a total tax rate of \$1.2400. All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mrs. Ethel Garza to approve the Superintendent's request to establish the local School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) for the 2019-2020 school year as presented. All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Jorge Jaso, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price to approve the Superintendent's request to implement the Acceptable Use Policy as the district's cybersecurity framework for the 2019-2020 school year as presented. All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mr. Eugene Lewis to approve the Adjunct Faculty Agreement naming Candace Moeller, AgriLife Extension Service, Refugio County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Boogie Barber, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as an adjunct faculty member of the Refugio ISD as presented. All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price to adopt resolution recognizing Refugio County, Texas 4-H Organization as approved for recognition and eligible for

extracurricular status consideration under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 76.1, pertaining to extracurricular activities as presented. All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price to approve the Gifted and Talented Plan for 2019-20 as presented, and as amended from prior year's Gifted and Talented Plan. All voted for. 6-0

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price to approve the distribution of GSEC Special Ed Cooperative fiscal agent funds as presented for additional work involved with serving as fiscal agent of the GSEC Special Ed Cooperative in the amount of \$34,059 as presented. All voted for. 6-0

The Board entered closed session beginning at 2:10 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act Texas Govt. Code Sections 551.071, 551.074 and 551.075: deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints against an officer or employee; to confer with employees of the school district to receive information or to ask questions; employment of probationary contract employee(s) of the GSEC Special Education Cooperative for the 2019-20 school year; employment of probationary contract employee(s) for the 2019-20 school year.

The Board returned to open session at 2:23 p.m. having taken no action.

Motion by Mr. T. Wayne Price, second by Mr. Jorge Jaso to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for a one-year Non-Chapter 21 probationary contract for Kaitlyn Hill for the 2019-2020 school year for the GSEC Goliad Special Education Cooperative professional personnel, subject to assignment. All voted for 6-0.

Items for future Board agendas.

The Board expressed a desire to give the Superintendent Melissa Gonzales an increase in pay effective August 9, 2019.

Motion by Mr. Jorge Jaso, second by Mr. Eugene Lewis to give Superintendent Melissa Gonzales a pay increase of \$7500 effective August 9, 2019. All voted for 6-0.

Addendum to the Superintendent contract will be presented during the September 24th board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Andy Rocha, Board President

Jorge Jaso, Board Secretary