

Board Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Refugio Independent School District was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Office, 212 West Vance Street, Refugio, Texas, with the following members present: President Andy Rocha; Secretary Jorge Jaso, Vice-President Kelley Walker, T. Wayne Price, Ethel Garza, Lorraine Garcia and Eugene Lewis.

Also present: Melissa Gonzales, Superintendent.

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

Others present: Jay Boynton, Roz Keck, Joyce McGuill Dierschke, and Susan Cox.

President Andy Rocha established a quorum of members present, welcomed guests, and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Lorraine Garcia led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Refugio Elementary School – Mrs. Thomas reported October 15th will be Open House from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; October 31st PK-2 grade will participate at the Courthouse Pumpkin Patch; READ Grant provided by Region 3 was an extensive training that several teachers were able to participate in, with five days of professional development in the summer and additional training throughout the year;

Mrs. Thomas also reviewed the Refugio Elementary School state accountability ratings. STAAR scores with an overall rating of “C” will make for improvement in student growth for the coming year, with more hands on activities for the science portion of the test to improve better performance scores.

Mrs. Thomas left the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mrs. Lorraine Garcia to approve and accept the proposed payments to Boynton Williams & Associates totaling \$16,877.15 for fees associated with the rebuild projects. All voted for 7-0.

Mr. Jay Boynton reported to the board the progress of the competition gym and practice gym. The mold and asbestos remediation is completed, and both gyms have new roofs that are completed with a few seams that need to be sealed. Progress on both gyms continues. Completion of the practice gym is scheduled for November and the competition gym completion is set for December.

Roz Keck with the Refugio ISD Educational Foundation presented to the Board a short video clip of how an educational foundation supports the school district staff and students. This foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit tax-exempt philanthropic charitable organization that solicits funding from private and corporate sources. Mrs. Keck reported to the board that the sole passion of the Refugio Education Foundation is to give back to the same school and the communities that help mold each of them into the adults they are today. The foundation will also support the school districts educational plan and provide funding for new programs and activities that are not supported or funded by general operating funds.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mr. T. Wayne Price to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Refugio ISD Education Foundation as presented. All voted for 7-0.

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

- Enrollment update
- Campus reports:
- Accountability Rating

Mr. Duncan reported to the board several athletic events that would be taking place this week; Emilee Cox will have a guest speaker for grades 7-12 on the dangers of vaping, October 14th; Mr. Duncan also reported he attended a Principal's Institute which was very rewarding to have the opportunity to collaborate with other educational leaders;

Mr. Duncan reviewed Refugio Junior High and Refugio High School state accountability ratings. One of the goals for the coming year is to meet progress and focus on student growth. Also, an increased focus will be on the College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR), opportunities for students to obtain industry certifications, and preparing students receiving Special Education services to be workforce ready. A reading interventionist was hired for the 2019-2020 school year to help improve reading scores.

Lisa Herring presented to the board the district's state accountability rating of an overall score of 75.

Financial information was presented by Lisa Herring.

Minutes from August 29, 2019 regular board meeting and September 6, 2019 special meeting were approved by common consent.

NO ACTION TAKEN ON ITEM 6b

NO ACTION TAKEN ON ITEM 6c

NO ACTION TAKEN ON ITEM 6d

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mrs. Lorraine Garcia to approve and accept the proposed pay application for the Gymnasium Renovation Projects in the amount of \$457,482.99 as presented. All voted for 7-0.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Lorraine Garcia to approve the revised substitute pay rate schedule as presented with the Long Term Degreed, Certified Teacher added for \$120.00 per day. All voted for 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Eugene Lewis, second by Mrs. Ethel Garza to approve and name Refugio ISD Board Secretary Jorge Jaso as a signee on Refugio ISD accounts as presented. All voted for 7-0.

NO ACTION TAKEN ON ITEM 6j

NO ACTION TAKEN ON ITEM 6k

Motion by Mr. Jorge Jaso, second by Mr. Eugene Lewis to approve the addendum to the Superintendent contract for the amount of \$7500 as of July 2019 as was discussed at the August meeting. All voted for 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Andy Rocha, Board President

Jorge Jaso, Board Secretary

