

Board Meeting Minutes August 31, 2020

A regular meeting and budget hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Refugio Independent School District was held on Monday, August 31, 2020, beginning at 5:30 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, and Ethel Garza. Attending by ZOOM: Lorraine Garcia. Absent: Eugene Lewis, and T. Wayne Price.

Also present: Melissa Gonzales, Superintendent.

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

Others present: Jay Boynton, Gary Hafernick

Participating by ZOOM: Cindy Clendennen, Margaret Soderholtz, Ari Rivera, Ryan Linney, Jeff Osborne, Telecia Howard, Megan Shaw, Alexa Deal, Allie Upton, Olivia DeLeon, Rita Ramirez, Meaghan Hunt, and Kelley Solomon.

President Andy Rocha established a quorum of members present, welcomed guests, and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Mrs. Kelley Walker led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

During the public meeting, Lisa Herring, Director of Finance and Accountability discussed the 2020-2021 Financial Plan (budget) and proposed a deficit budget of \$457,758. The proposed tax rate for maintenance and operations is \$.9664, and \$0.3200 for the payment of principal and interest on debt for a total tax rate of \$1.2864. This includes a fifth golden penny.

There were no public comments on the proposed 2020-21 budget and tax rate.

Jay Boynton with Boynton Williams and Associates updated the board on several projects that are still in process:

- Gyms – working on punch list
- Science wing – working on punch list with few minor adjustments
- Distance Learning Center and Administration Building – still working on the exterior; punch list in progress on the interior.
- Metal/Wood Shop and Auto Shop – completion date for the end of September
- Metal Canopies will also be completed at the end of September
- Library- Requesting construction bids
- Football Stadium - Start of design for an aluminum stadium could take up to 4 months to design; 6 ½ months before construction could start; looking at the year 2021-2022 for the first game to be held at the stadium.

Mrs. Thomas reported that preparations for remote learning are underway at RES. Teachers and students have had technical issues, but they will be resolved. A meet and greet parade was held for the students; The Refugio ISD Education Foundation provided a BBQ luncheon for the faculty and staff; HEB delivered goodies to the faculty and staff. Transition plans for small groups of RES students to come to campus by grade level starting September 10, 2020.

Mrs. Hawthorne reported a successful first week of school; teachers are contacting students that have not attended virtual classes; JH orientation will be held September 2 and September 3.

Mr. Duncan reported technical issues with wifi and connectivity; Coach Cox has been calling students that have not logged on to any of their classes.

Mrs. Hawthorne reviewed the 2020-2021 student handbook with the board.

The following consent agenda items were approved by common consent:

- a. **July 23, 2020 regular meeting minutes**
August 3, 2020 special meeting minutes
August 13, 2020 special meeting minutes
- b. Hourly employee appraisal calendar for 20-21
- c. T-TESS appraisal calendar for 20-21
- d. Teacher appraisers for 20-21
- e. T-PESS appraisal calendar for 20-21

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve the Superintendent's request for a two percent salary increase for administrators for the 20-21 school year as presented. All voted for 5-0.

Lisa Herring requested final budget amendments in the amount of \$240,000.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mr. Jorge Jaso to approve the final 2019-2020 budget amendments as presented in the amount of \$240,000. All voted for 5-0.

Lisa Herring proposed an expenditure budget in the amount of \$8,652,406 being presented for adoption. The proposed tax rate for maintenance and operations is \$.9664, and \$0.32 for the payment of principal and interest on debt for a total tax rate of \$1.2864.

Motion by Mr. Jorge Jaso, second by Mrs. Ethel Garza to approve the 2020-2021 Refugio operational budget as presented in the amount of \$8,652,406. All voted for 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Jorge Jaso, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to adopt a tax rate of \$0.9664 for the purpose of maintenance and operations and \$0.3200 for the payment of principal and interest on debt of the school district by written ordinance, for a total tax rate of \$1.2864. All voted for 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve payment of invoices to Boynton Williams & Associates for the amount of \$77,481.59 as presented. All voted for 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Jorge Jaso, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker, to approve and accept the proposed Change Order #15SD for the amount of \$31,598.06 for the 2015 Bond Construction Projects as presented. All voted for 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve Pay Application #39 for the 2015 Bond Construction Project for the amount of \$143,632.07 as presented. All voted for 5-0

NO ACTION TAKEN ON 8G – Discuss and approve Proposed Change Order for the Gymnasium Repair Projects.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve the Superintendent's request to approve the Proposed Pay Application #16 for the Gymnasium Repair Projects for the amount of \$70,406.95 as presented. All voted for 5-0.

NO ACTION TAKEN ON 8I – Discuss and approve Proposed Change Order for the Refugio ISD Distance Learning Center Project.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve Proposed Pay Application #8 for the amount of \$332,851.51 for the Refugio ISD Distance Learning Center Project as presented. All voted for 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve the Proposed Change Order #2 for the Metal/Wood Shop and Auto Shop projects for the amount of \$1,105.75 as presented. All voted for 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve the Superintendent's request for the Proposed Pay Application #3 for the Metal/Wood Shop and Auto Shop projects for the amount of \$431,915.60 as presented. All voted for 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Kelley Walker, second by Mr. Jorge Jaso of the execution for the Shared Services Arrangement with GSEC Special Education Cooperative as presented. All voted for 5-0.

Motion by Mrs. Kelley Walker, second by Mr. Jorge Jaso to approve the Superintendent's request to establish the local School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) for the 20-21 school year as presented. All voted for 5-0.

NO ACTION TAKEN ON 8O – Consider and approve the Gifted and Talented Plan for the 20-21 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve the Non-Athletic Stipend Schedule for the 20-21 school year as presented. All voted for 5-0.

The Board entered closed session beginning at 7:37 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act Texas Govt. Code Sections 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 20-21 school year;
employment of probationary contract employee(s) for the 20-21 school year.

The Board returned to open session at 7:48 p.m. having taken no action.

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Garza, second by Mrs. Kelley Walker to approve the Superintendent's request for distribution of GSEC Special Education Cooperative fiscal fund as presented for the 20-21 school year as presented. All voted for 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Andy Rocha, Board President

Jorge Jaso, Board Secretary