



# Board Meeting H I G H L I G H T S

Regular Board Meeting held on November 13, 2023 at 514 W. Quincy St., San Antonio, Tx. 78212

## Resolution on Facilities Planning and Development Calling for A Study of School Building Capacity Approved

The Board approved a resolution calling to accept the staff's final School Rightsizing Recommendation (Final Recommendation), as well as to direct staff to implement a comprehensive transition plan to support the staff, students and families affected by this decision, convene a panel of citizens supported by staff to make recommendations to the Board on the disposition of vacant facilities, and conduct future facility use studies at least every five years. A final "rightsizing" recommendation was approved for 15 school closures and three mergers.

## Report on the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) Conference and the Network for Public Education (NPE) National Conference

The Board provided key points on the Council of the Great City Schools Conference and the Network for Public Education National Conference. The 67th CGCS Annual Conference was held in San Diego, CA during October 25-29, 2023. This conference provides large urban school districts with a forum to discuss issues and share information and best practices to improve teaching and learning; strengthen leadership, governance, and management. The 10th NPE Anniversary Conference was held in Washington, DC during October 28-29, 2023. This conference connects all those who are passionate about schools – students, parents, teachers and citizens. NPE shares information and research on vital issues that concern the future of public education at a time when it is under attack.

## Amendment to District's Code of Ethics related to Section 1.4 Clarifying Reference to the Board's Operating Procedures Approved

At the October 16, 2023 meeting, the Board discussed the Board's Quarterly Self-Assessment. This last amendment caused concern because of the onerous effect it imposes on all Trustees and especially Trustees who have received political contributions when serving in other elected offices.

An amendment was developed to provide more specificity and reflective of the reality of political contributions while at the same time maintaining and respecting the intent of the amendment.

The proposed amendments to the District's Code of Ethics as they pertain to political contributions. The proposed amendments track certain aspects of the City of San Antonio's Political Contributions Finance Code, but not all. Secondly, the City of San

Antonio is statutorily empowered with certain policing powers that an independent school district does not have.

The proposed language that drafted must by necessity go beyond applicability to sitting trustees but must also include candidates to the position of trustee and political action committees. Otherwise, only trustees would be subject to the rule established by this amendment and leave open and available prohibited political contributions to candidates and political action committees.

The amendments apply to three provisions of the District’s Code of Ethics. The first part is the amend to the section of the District’s Code of Ethics that requires recusal, declaration and abstention by trustees of action taken in support of a pending contract where the proposer has made political contributions to the trustee. It also addresses sanctions if the trustee fails to recuse, declare and abstain, as required by the Code of Ethics, in applicable circumstances. By necessity, this amendment also addresses the conduct of individuals and entities who currently hold a contract or are applying to obtain a contract with the District and the consequences of making prohibited political contributions to sitting trustees, candidates running for election to a seat on the board and to political action committees that make contributions to support or oppose candidates, notwithstanding whether the candidate is an incumbent or one running to challenge and incumbent or to fill a vacant school board seat.

### Selection of the SAISD Board of Trustees to Cast Votes for the Election of Bexar Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 Term

The Board casted votes for a candidate or candidates for the election to the Bexar Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 term. Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, councilwoman for City of San Antonio, was appointed to represent SAISD. As required by Section 6.03(e), Texas Tax Code, the number of votes to which each taxing unit is entitled in this year’s selection process has been calculated. Each taxing unit authorized to vote may do so by Resolution of its governing body, one or more candidate for a position on the Bexar County Appraisal District Board of Directors. SAISD is entitled to cast a total of 425 votes. Votes must be submitted by resolution (attached) no later than December 15, 2023.

### Items Approved

- ❖ Guaranteed Maximum Price related to the 2020 Bond Project at Lanier High School.
  
- ❖ District’s Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023.
  
- ❖ Monthly Budget Reports and Amendments for November 2023.

### Bids, Proposals and Purchases for Goods Approved

- ❖ Portables Makeready for Graebner Elementary School.

**Board of Education**

**Christina Martinez, President; Alicia Sebastian, Vice President;  
Arthur V. Valdez, Secretary; Ed Garza, Member; Stephanie Torres, Member;  
Leticia Ozuna, Member; Sarah Sorensen, Member;  
Dr. Jaime Aquino, Superintendent**

**[www.saisd.net](http://www.saisd.net)**