



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

Board Meeting A held on April 5, 2021 via Zoom webinar  
Board Meeting B held on April 12, 2021 via Zoom webinar

## Recognitions

- ❖ Trustees recognized student Levolea Wallace, a Sam Houston HS senior, for being selected as SAISD's first Trinity University Tower Scholarship recipient. As a Trinity Tower scholar, Levolea will be awarded a full, four-year tuition scholarship to Trinity University. Trinity has been named one of the top 100 college and universities in the nation by College Consensus and among the top 50 liberal arts colleges in the nation by the Wall Street Journal. Aside from her academic achievement, Levolea is a leader on her campus. She is the 2021 Valedictorian for her graduating class. She is in the National Honor Society and is serving on the 2020-2021 SAISD Student Advisory Committee. She also played basketball, softball and currently serves as the track manager.
  
- ❖ The Board recognized Kingsley Hernandez, second grade student from Bonham Academy, for being selected as a winner in the 2021 Texas Cavaliers River Parade Art Contest. This contest was open to all public elementary students in the San Antonio area, grades first through fifth. This year's contest theme was "REFLECTIONS 2020" and over 600 students participated. The participating schools are assigned to their corresponding City Council Districts and each Council District is recognized with a winner and a runner-up. Kingsley was named the winner for City Council District 1. The Texas Cavaliers held a press conference on March 3, 2021 at the Southwest School of Art where King Antonio recognized all the 2021 Council District Winners. As a winner, Kingsley received a check for \$3,000 which will go towards the art program at Bonham Academy. Additionally, Kingsley received a scholarship for a weeklong art camp at Southwest School of Art. SAISD also recognized the contributions of the Bonham Academy art teacher, Ms. Morgan Oliver, for her guidance, instruction, and commitment to her students.
  
- ❖ Trustees recognized three SAISD high school students on their successful advancement at the 2021 Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State audition. TMEA sponsors the Texas All-State audition process to promote students' dedication to their musical knowledge and skill, and to encourage educators to support their students' development. All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive. Approximately 1,800 students are selected through a process that begins with over 70,000 high school students from around the state vying for the honor to perform in one of 18 ensembles (bands, orchestras, and choirs). This competitive process begins throughout the state

with auditions hosted by 33 TMEA Regions. Selected regional musicians advance from their region to compete in eight TMEA Area competitions. The highest-ranking musicians, judged at the TMEA area competitions, qualify to perform in a TMEA All-State music group. The TMEA All-State students are as follows:

- Fabien Chavez, Lanier High School, All-State Band - (B flat Clarinet)
- Emiliano Herrera, Burbank High School, All-State Band, (Baritone Saxophone)
- Caroline Evangelista, Young Women's Leadership Academy, All-State Small School Mixed Choir - (Soprano Vocalist)

The SAISD Board and Superintendent congratulated these students on this outstanding award. In addition, the Board also congratulated the Burbank High School Band, under the direction of Hector Trevino and his Assistant Directors Dr. Victor Naranjo, April Lara, and Robert Navarro, who was the featured band at this year's TMEA Conference.

- ❖ The Board recognized Maria Estella Garza, SAISD's Director of Family & Student Support Services, for being named a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Alamo Area Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The Alamo Area Chapter spans 12 Texas counties. Mrs. Garza was selected for her dedication and contributions to the social work field. Mrs. Garza has served as the Homeless and Foster Care Liaison for 28 years, serving countless students and families across generations of SAISD graduates. She oversees the District's McKinney-Vento, Foster Care, and Handle With Care Programs. Mrs. Garza has a passion for advocating for the most vulnerable subpopulations of students. The National Association of Social Workers will hold its annual State Conference from October 8-10, 2021. During this conference, the NASW-TX Board will select a winner amongst all of the Texas regions to move on to the national competition. The SAISD Board and Superintendent congratulates Maria Estella Garza for her hard work and dedication to the District.
- ❖ Resolution in recognition of Campus Educator Month for May 2021. Campus Educator month will honor and recognize the contribution of campus administrators and teachers for the success of students in SAISD, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Response to Ongoing COVID-19 and Associated Expenditures Update](#)

Trustees received an update on SAISD's Response to the Ongoing COVID-19 Crisis and associated expenditures. A report was presented by Pedro Martinez (Superintendent of Schools). Key points presented included District staff vaccines currently being implemented and the potential for community vaccines in the future. Regular scheduled COVID testing will also continue in the District.

## SAISD Proposal to Wallace Foundation Equity-Centered Principal Pipeline Initiative Proposal Approved

The Board approved the SAISD proposal to the Wallace Foundation Equity-Centered Principal Pipeline Initiative as required by the grant's Request for Proposal. If awarded, the Board agrees to support the initiative, participate in grant activities as needed, and provide leadership to the team implementing the work. The Wallace Foundation is a philanthropic organization whose mission is to foster equity and improvements in learning. The five-year grant opportunity seeks to answer the question, "How can large, high need districts, in partnership with their stakeholders, create comprehensive, aligned principal pipelines and other supports that are capable of producing and supporting equity-centered leaders within the district ecosystem?" The initiative includes the development or refinement of leader standards, pre-service preparation programs, selective hiring and placement, evaluation and support, principal supervision, and a leader tracking system in collaboration with two university partners: University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at San Antonio, and the Texas Education Agency.

## Increase the Number of Underwriting Firms in Underwriting Pool for District Bond Program Approved

Trustees approved the increase to the number of Underwriting Firms in the current District Underwriting Pool. The current Underwriting Pool consists of twelve (12) firms that were previously approved by the Board of Trustees on April 8, 2019. A total of nineteen (19) firms did respond to the RFP publicized, which were evaluated and approved on April 8, 2019. The Board of Trustees did grant an approval to the recommended Underwriter Pool of twelve (12) firms for a period of three (3) years from the date of approval, with an ending date of April 7, 2022.

## 2021-2022 Budget Priorities Presentation

Trustees received the second in a series of presentations on the 2021-2022 Budget Priorities. The topic presentation was "Additional School Days" Expanded Instructional Calendar and included a discussion of the initiatives planned in support of student recovery. The Board also received the third in a series of presentations on the 2021-2022 Budget Priorities. The discussion topics for this presentation were the staff compensation proposal, additional investments in PPE, and added funding to support remote learning.

## SAISD School Board Member Training Report

The Board received a presentation on the SAISD School Board Member Training Report for the periods of May 2019 – April 2020 and May 2020 – April 2021. In prior years, the SAISD Board Member Training Report was presented each year during the April Board meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Commissioner Mike Morath extended the Board training requirements for 2019-2021 school year until January 31, 2021. This extension provided Board members additional time to complete their continuing education requirements. State law requires that the continuing education credits be reported at the last regular Board meeting prior to an Election of Trustees. All SAISD trustees have met and exceeded their continuing education requirements. Completing the required continuing education is a basic obligation and expectation of

any sitting board member under the Texas State Board of Education rule. In accordance with the State Board of Education, the Board President also announced the completion of required training credits of each sitting board member during the meeting.

## Board of Trustee Committee Reports

Christina Martinez (Governance Committee), Debra Guerrero (Finance & Audit Committee) and Art Valdez (Student Advisory Committee) provided a report.

## Items Approved

- ❖ Resolution urging the State of Texas to provide Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II and III) funds directly to SAISD.
- ❖ Revisions to Board Policy CL (LOCAL) – Building Grounds, and Equipment Management. Facilities Services has amended CL (LOCAL) to include a recycling policy that will apply to all SAISD campuses and support buildings. Changes to CL (LOCAL) provide the foundation for a successful recycling and waste diversion program as well as a “Green Purchasing” policy.
- ❖ Resolution to nominate SAISD Superintendent Pedro Martinez as the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Superintendent of the Year.
- ❖ Budget amendments for the month of April 2021.
- ❖ Waiver from the Local Designation System Annual Survey and Response Plan Requirement due to COVID-19.
- ❖ Qualified Investment Brokers and Dealers as Required by the Texas Public Funds Investment Act.
- ❖ Permanent Water Easement to the City of San Antonio and San Antonio Water System (SAWS) at Japhet Academy.
- ❖ Classroom Furniture Awards at Young Women’s Leadership Academy (YWLA) Primary at Page, CAST Med High School, Poe Middle School, Ball Academy – Campus #1 and Ball Academy – Campus #2.
- ❖ Minor General Contractor for Minor Cosmetic Renovations at Poe Middle School, Ball Academy – Campus #1 and Ball Academy – Campus #2.

## Contracts Approved

- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Education Service Center, Region 20 and SAISD to provide support for teachers pursuing National Board Certification.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SAISD and the Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio to partner in the implementation of the TX-Academic,

Innovation, and Mentoring (AIM) Grant. The TX-AIM Grant is a Texas Education Agency grant-funded program through the Boys & Girls Clubs to provide extended day small group tutoring services through its partnership with the Sylvan Learning Center. The TX-AIM Grant, under this MOU, is available to 32 K-5th grade students currently enrolled in the Extended Day Challenge Program. Sixteen students each from JT Brackenridge Elementary School and Collins Garden Elementary School will be afforded the opportunity to participate.

- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SAISD and Culturingua to create a virtual cultural exchange program for 9th - 12th grade students at selected SAISD high schools.
- ❖ Contract for annual audit services with the firm Garza/Gonzalez & Associates to conduct the District's annual financial audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, with the option, which may be exercised by the Superintendent, to renew for two additional one-year terms.

**Board of Education**

**Patti Radle, President; Arthur V. Valdez, Vice President;  
Debra A. Guerrero, Secretary; Ed Garza, Member; Steve Lecholop, Member;  
Christina Martinez, Member; Alicia Sebastian-Perry, Member;  
Pedro Martinez, Superintendent**

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