



BOARD UPDATE

April 21, 2020

Action Items

The Board of Directors took action on the following:

- Approved Canvassing of Ballots for Place 2, and 5 of the Region One ESC Board of Directors,
- Approved Minutes of the February 25, 2020, Board of Directors Meeting *
- Approved Budget Amendments for February and March 2020,*
- Approved Expenditure Reports as of February 29, 2020,*
- Approved Quarterly Investment Report,*
- Approved Dell Financial Services Agreement to Lease Equipment,*
- Approved COVID-19 Resolution.

*Consent Agenda Items

Region One ESC Announces Results of Board Election



Ricardo Gutierrez
Place 2



Ruben Cortez, Jr.
Place 5



Roberto Moroles
Charter School Rep.

The Region One ESC Board of Directors canvassed the votes of the latest election of the Region One Board of Director during the scheduled meeting on April 21, 2020. Two seats were up for election including Place 2 representing Jim Hogg, Starr, and Zapata Counties and Place 5 representing Cameron County.

In the Place 2 race, incumbent Ricardo Gutierrez ran unopposed but still captured 123 votes. Gutierrez has served on the Region One Board since 2010. In the Place 5 race, incumbent Ruben Cortez, Jr. was challenged by David Antonio Garcia. Cortez received 118 votes to Garcia's 28 votes to retain his seat on the Board which he has held since 2011. Mr. Roberto Moroles who holds the seat for Charter School Representative, a position appointed by the Texas Education Commissioner, was re-appointed to serve another three-year term.

Region One ESC Board of Directors are elected by the board members of the 38 public school districts in Region One. Each public school district board member is allowed one vote with the exception of the 21 member board of South Texas ISD which is allowed 7 votes (Region One Board Policy BBB (LOCAL)). ❖

Board Approves COVID-19 Resolution

Includes One-Time Payment to SubHub Employees

The Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution to join the global, state, and local effort to combat the spread of COVID-19. The resolution lays out an action plan addressing the virus. The plan assures that safety precautions are in place to aid in the safety of Region One employees, puts into place a density reduction program in the workplace, and authorizes a one-time payment to furloughed SubHub employees.

The one-time payment to SubHub employees will be for 30% of their average 2020 salary. Recipients should be receiving their checks, along with the April payroll, according to Connie Lopez, CPA, Deputy Director for Business Operations and Finance Support. ❖



Executive Director's Report

Dr. Gonzalez reported on the following items in his Executive Directors Report:

- Dr. Gonzalez invited the Region One STEM Center of South Texas to share how the program is encouraging Computer Science and Coding to students and educators within Region One schools. Sylvia Escobar, LRI/STEM Specialist, shared with the Board that new legislation, Texas Senate Bill 2180, instructs the Texas Education Agency to create a strategic plan for K-12 Computer Sciences, as well as review and modify the K-8 TEKS to include coding and computational thinking.
- Escobar provided a review of the job market for those with a Computer Science background reporting that the number of open computing jobs in Texas (65,966) far exceeds the number of computer science graduates (4,697). With that information in mind, she says school districts are providing opportunities for students to be exposed to the computer science field through class electives, school activities, and clubs.
- Through Region One LRI/STEM Center numerous professional development opportunities have been offered. In the past two years, Escobar reports, 20 workshops in coding and robotics have been attended by over 593 PK-12 grade teachers. In addition, special coding events for teachers, students and the community have been held at different times throughout the year.
- Dr. Gonzalez invited Juan Mujica, Gignac Architects, to provide a construction update on the two on-going projects. The Laredo Construction Project is 85% complete with a scheduled completion date of mid to late May. The Region One Edinburg Construction Project is nearing 40% completion with a scheduled completion date of November 2020.
- Dr. Gonzalez reported that the Region One ESC staff responded quickly to the transition to online and virtual professional development offerings. He reported that over 11-thousand teachers have taken advantage of this new method of learning. Moving forward, Dr. Gonzalez added that programs are looking for ways to adapt their scheduled traditional conferences to virtual conference settings.
- Dr. Gonzalez announced that in line with the Governor's recent Executive Order regarding school closures for the remainder of the school year, Region One ESC will follow suit and extend the office closure until the end of May. Despite the physical closing of ESC facilities, Dr. Gonzalez assured the Board that staff members are working remotely from home to provide services to school districts and educators and continue to support the needs of the school districts and charter schools of the region.
- Dr. Gonzalez shared with Board Members a schedule of Board Meetings for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Dr. Gonzalez reported on the following New Additions/Changes/Resignations during his Personnel Matters Report: New Additions: Jennifer Avelar, *Transition Facilitator (Family Advocate), Office of College, Career, and Life Readiness*; Leah Cottrell, *Speech Language Pathologist, Office of Early Childhood Intervention Program*; Ivan A. Martinez-Berrones, *Specialist-Reporting Analyst, Office of Information Technology*; and Lillian Mendoza, *Speech Language Pathologist, Office of Early Childhood Intervention*. New Changes: Dr. Eliza Alvarado has been named *Director-Partnership and Career Pathway Development, Office of College, Career, and Life Readiness* and Esperanza Rodriguez has been named *Specialist in the Office of College, Career, and Life Readiness*. Resignations: Pam Blakenship Palacios, *Physical Therapist, Office of Early Childhood Intervention Program*; Edith Y. Trevino, *Specialist, Bilingual/ESL, Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*.

Board of Directors 2019-2020

Ruben Cortez, Jr., Chairperson
Place 5 – Cameron County

Raul R. Chapa, Vice-Chairperson
Place 7 – Brooks County & Willacy County

Sonia A. Falcon, Secretary
Place 4 – Hidalgo County

Alicia E. Requenez
Place 1 – Hidalgo County

Ricardo Gutierrez
Place 2 – Jim Hogg County, Starr County & Zapata County

Laura A. McCoy
Place 3 – Webb County

Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr.
Place 6 – Cameron County

Roberto Moroles
Charter Schools Representative

Administration

Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez
Executive Director

Dr. Eduardo Cancino
Deputy Director, Instructional Leadership,
School Improvement, & College Readiness
Support

Mr. Heriberto Villarreal
Deputy Director, Administrative Leadership,
School & Community Support

Connie Lopez, CPA
Deputy Director, Business,
Operations & Finance Support

Ali Kolahdouz
Chief Technology Officer
Division of Technology for Learning



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