Action Items

- Approved the minutes of the June 23, 2015, Board of Directors Meeting
- Approved Budget Amendments for June, July, and August 2015
- Approved Expenditure Reports as of July 31, 2015
- Approved Quarterly Investment Report
- Approved Resolution for Review of Public Funds Investment Policy and Strategies
- Approved Resolution to Update Individuals Authorized to Initiate Banking Transactions at Lone Star National Bank
- Approved Region One ESC Employer Contribution to TRS Active Care for 2015-2016 for SubHub Temporary Teachers
- Approved Region One ESC Delegate and Alternate Appointment to TASB 2015 Delegate Assembly
- Approved Resolution to Commit Fund Balance for Construction
- Approved Additional Position Titles to the 2015-2016 Salary Schedules & Part-time Salary
- Approved 2015-2016 Official Budget-General Fund Only
- Approved Energy Center Aggregation and Consultant Services, Proposal 15-10-01

Executive Session Items:

- Took no action on deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property
- Took no action on pending litigation: Cause No. C-1359-15; Region One ESC as Administrative Agent of Texas Energy Center v. Van Brunt & Associates, Inc.
- Approved the cancellation of Texas Energy Center Standby Agreements.

Region One Holds Annual Public Hearing

As required each year by the Texas Education Code, Region One ESC hosted its public hearing to announce the academic and financial performance of Region One ESC area school districts and charter schools during the regularly called Board of Directors meeting. In attendance at the meeting were school district superintendents, personnel, and charter school representatives. Region One ESC Board Chairperson, Raul R. Chapa presided over the meeting welcoming all in attendance and congratulating school superintendents and charter school leaders for a successful year.

Accountability Ratings

Reporting on the region’s overall performance, Dr. Eduardo Cancino, Deputy Director for Instructional Support Services, provided an overview of the state performance system. Dr. Cancino explained that Texas’ accountability system uses multiple indexes to provide an overview of student academic performance, academic growth, and a student’s readiness for college and careers:

- **Index 1: Student Achievement** - is a snapshot of performance across subjects, on both general and alternative assessments, at the satisfactory performance standard.
- **Index 2: Student Progress** - measures student progress and provides an opportunity for districts and campuses to receive credit for improving student performance independent of overall student achievement.
- **Index 3: Closing Performance Gaps** - emphasizes advanced academic achievement of the economically disadvantaged student group and the lowest performing racial/ethnic student groups at each campus and district.
- **Index 4: Postsecondary Readiness** - emphasizes the role of elementary and middle schools in preparing students for the rigors of high school, and the importance of earning a high school diploma that prepares students for success in college, the workforce, job training programs, or the military. The index includes test performance for high schools and grades 3-8 at the Postsecondary Readiness Standard.

Districts, campuses and charters could receive one of three ratings under the accountability system: Met Standard or Improvement Required. Charter School districts that are evaluated by an Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) provisions are also eligible for a “Met Alternative Standard” rating, according to the Texas Education Agency 2015 Accountability Manual.

To receive a “Met Standard” rating, school districts must meet 3 out of the 4 indices, i.e.: Index 1 or 2, Index 3 and Index 4. Not taken into account this year are the results from the STAAR mathematics tests; STAAR Alternate 2 and STAAR A. Texas Education Commissioner Michael Williams took action earlier this year to exclude those tests.
Dr. Cancino reported that Region One school districts and charters schools are not only performing well, but in many cases, students are surpassing the performance of students across the state, as evidenced by the release 2015 Accountability Ratings by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). In the Region One area, 100 percent of school districts and charter schools achieved the “Met Standard” rating. In comparison to other ESCs, Region One school districts are at the top of the list when looking at percentage of campuses that achieved the “Met Standard” rating.

Region One school districts and charter schools surpassed the state in Index 2: Student Progress by 2 percent (39% to 37%) and Index 4: Postsecondary Readiness (81% to 75%) by 6 percent. Examining Index 3: Closing Performance Gaps, the region’s students are in line with the state, both at 40 percent. Regarding Index 1: Student Achievement, the state holds a slim 4 percent over the region.
School districts that receive the “Met Standard” rating are also eligible for additional accolades called “Distinctions”. There are 7 possible areas in which a campus could receive these honors: Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts, Academic Achievement in Mathematics, Academic Achievement in Science, Academic Achievement in Social Studies, Top 25 percent student progress, Top 25 percent Closing Achievement Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness.

Of the 8,600 campuses across the state, 153 campuses earned all seven distinctions. Included in that elite group are 17 Region One campuses including Pace High School, Veterans Memorial High School (Brownsville ISD), IDEA Quest College Preparatory-Edinburg, IDEA Frontier College Preparatory-Brownsville, IDEA McAllen College Preparatory-McAllen, and IDEA Brownsville College Preparatory-Brownsville, IDEA Carver College Preparatory (IDEA Public Schools); Los Cuates Middle School, (Los Fresnos CISD), Cathey Middle School (McAllen ISD), Rio Grande City High School (Rio Grande City CISD), Sharyland High School, B.L. Gray Junior High School (Sharyland ISD), South Texas Business, Education & Technology Academy; South Texas Academy for Medical Professions; South Texas Preparatory Academy (South Texas ISD), and Valley View High School (Valley View ISD), and Vanguard Academy.

Of the 24 school districts and charter statewide that earned a Postsecondary Distinction, 5 of those are in the Region One area: Los Fresnos CISD, Sharyland ISD, South Texas ISD, Valley View ISD, Vanguard Academy. This is the second consecutive year that Los Fresnos CISD, Sharyland ISD, South Texas ISD, and Valley View ISD earn postsecondary readiness distinction. Again, Region One outpaced the other ESCs across the state in the number of districts achieving the Post-Secondary Readiness distinction.

**FIRST Ratings**

The preliminary regional results of FIRST, the state’s financial accountability system, were reported by Frances Guzman, Region One ESC Deputy Director for Business, Operations & Finance Support. Frances Guzman reviewed the 2014-2015 FIRST preliminary ratings, based on the 2013-2014 school year. Guzman explained that school districts were rated on 7 indicators and received either a pass/fail adding that the pass/fail rating system will only be in effect this school year. Highlights of the FIRST Ratings report include the following notables:

- 36 of the 37 school districts received an overall “Pass” rating
- All charter schools received an overall “Pass” rating (charters are scored under the same rating system as school districts)
- 22 school districts and 1 charter school received a “Perfect Score”
- There were only 12 districts in the state that did not pass
- The state “Pass” rating was 98.73% while the region reflected a 94.5% rate of passing
- There were fewer indicators this year; only 7 indicators this year because it is a transition year.

Ms. Guzman reported that this year there were 4 critical indicators in the analysis of the FIRST ratings:

- **Indicator 1: Timely filing of the AFR**
- **Indicator 2: Unmodified auditor opinion for the AFR**
- **Indicator 3: Compliance with Debt Agreements**
- **Indicator 4: Total unrestricted net asset balance (Net of accrued interest on capital appreciation bonds) greater than zero**

Next year, Ms. Guzman advised there will be 15 indicators and will be applied to 2014-2015 data.

**Evaluation of Services**

An overview of the Survey of Region One ESC Evaluation of Services was presented by Dr. Tony Lara, Deputy Director for Administrative Leadership, Community, & School Support. The statewide survey, conducted by the Texas Education Agency and administered by the University of Texas Organizational Excellence Group, analyzed the satisfaction of Superintendents and Charter School Directors with the regional education service centers. The survey measured satisfaction in three main areas: support of regular education programs, support of programs for special populations, and with other ESC services.

Dr. Alda Benavides, Chairperson of the Regional Advisory Council of Superintendents, provided an overview of the Region One ESC Client Satisfaction Survey distributed to all users of Region One ESC services. Overall, Benavides reported that school districts and their superintendents were pleased with the level of service and support provided to them by their education service center.
Executive Director’s Report

Under his Executive Report, Dr. Gonzalez reported on the following items:

• Dr. Gonzalez provided an update of the Extension Service Offices in the Laredo and Brownsville area. He explained the Laredo Extension Office was opened in April 1999 to provide services and professional development offerings to school districts in the Webb, Jim Hogg, and Zapata County areas. Today, Dr. Gonzalez reports, the Laredo Extension Office houses 1 Director, 6 Specialists and 2 Program Assistants and it is a self sustaining office. Similar to the beginnings of the Laredo Extension Office, the Brownsville Extension Office was created to meet the needs of Region One clients in the Cameron County area. In its second year of operation, the Brownsville Extension houses 3 specialists and a Director.

• Under his Personnel Matter Report, Dr. Gonzalez reported on the following Additions: Melanie Chapa, Office of Early Learning, Speech Language Pathologist; Asenette Ramirez, Office of Early Learning, Speech Language Pathologist; Lisette Hernandez, Office of Early Learning, Speech Language Pathologist. Dr. Gonzalez also reported on the following Resignations: Norma Alecia Castillo, Office of Leadership Development and Alternative Certification, Supervisor; Martin Cuellar, Office of Adult Education, Supervisor; Ida De La Garza, Laredo Extension Office, Specialist; Elizabeth Flores, Office of Adult Education, PT Instructor; Melissa Guevara, Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Specialist; Monica R. Garcia, Office of Early Learning, Case Manager; Cynthia Quintanilla, Office of Early Learning, ECI Case Manager; Charlotte Marie Smith, Brownsville Extension Office, Specialist; and Lucy A. Villarreal, Office of Leadership Development and Alternative Certification.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Gonzalez announced the following upcoming events:

• September 14-15, 2015 Executive Director’s CCRS Meeting
• September 17, 2015 RAC Meeting
• September 22, 2015 Region One Board of Directors’ Meeting
• October 2-4, 2015 TASA/TASB Conference