

EYES ON THE BOARD

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CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

Regular MISD School Board Meeting, September 24, 2012

All of the school board members were present.

The new Dean of Instruction at McAllen Memorial High School is Olga Snelling.

In a battle of wills Javier Farias, Danny Vela, and Debbie Alesida insisted on giving Superintendent Ponce a \$35,000 a year raise. Sam Saldivar and Erica de la Garza Lopez were not in favor. Hilda De Shazo, President of the Board, held off until she had to vote. De Shazo finally

did vote NO to raise.

Dr. Caporusso seemed on the side of Saldivar and Lopez, but in the end voted in favor of giving the \$35,000.

We believe this is the most we have ever given a superintendent in one (1) year.

This was one of the most difficult votes I have ever seen.

Saldivar told Farias, Vela, and Alesida that their vote was not legal as the evaluation had not been done legally. We may hear more about this soon. Farias especially seemed very angry.

Farias kept asking

questions of the school district's attorney—Crain.

Race to the Top was presented to the Board.

If the district gets the grant, all teachers evaluations will be tied to student scores on the tests.

The district could get a great deal of money. December will be the decision month from the U.S. Government.

The R. L. Abatement Company was selected to get the contract for the Gym floor at McAllen High School.

A fourth amendment to the Superintendent's employment contract was approved--\$35,000. Ponce's salary is now \$230,000.

Social Security

On Tuesday, September 25, 2012 members from the Texas Labor Council (AFL/CIO) met with Filemon Vela (running for Congress—District 34) in Brownsville.

Mr. Vela filled out a questionnaire saying he would support opening the loop hole so that educational employees can get Social Security (if they qualify) at retirement.

Mr. Vela said he would support opening the loop hole for Texas educational employees to have their social security—every vote counts.

We also spent time with Mr. Vela discussing trade, jobs for all Labor, and the Valley in general. Our time was well spent.



CONTINUED

Special MISD Board Meeting, September 10, 2012 at 3 p.m.

Superintendent's evaluation--nothing is available as to what the Board said about Ponce's evaluation--a personnel matter.

Regular MISD Board Meeting at 6 p.m., September 10, 2012--meeting was over about 9:30 p.m.

Ericka de la Garza Lopez was at the Superintendent's evaluation, but came back later after the regular board meeting started.

Dr. Caporusso went in an out of the regular meeting. Mr. Vela left early from the regular meeting.

The new School Improvement Facilitator for Lincoln Middle School is Elizabeth Gonzalez.

The Board voted 6-0 to go to court--sue the Texas Education Agency--regarding our Step Case. More details when they are available.

Librarians gave a 10-minute presentation concerning their focus for students--various programs for students.

Self-funded Health and Dental Plan Funding, Rates & Benefits for 2012-2013 were presented. Vision was mentioned as a supplemental plan. There are not supposed to be any raise in rates.

The Self-Insured and Fully Insured Health Plan and related services was mentioned.

The PCI Clinic was discussed, and it looks like it will be approved on September 24, 2012. A new Teacher Appraisal System for Travis Middle School was approved. **Approved on September 24, 2012.**

The Legal Services Agreement with Atlas Hall and Rodriguez, L.L.P. was mentioned. (This is the legal firm that represents the school district.)

The Maximum Class Size Waiver Application for 2012-2013 was discussed.

There are 74 classes over by 1 or 2 students in K-4.

Administration continues to ignore packed classes at all levels.

There was no mention of middle school or high school class sizes.

The 2012-2013 Campus and District Performance Objectives were mentioned.

A Facilitator for Gear Up: Ready, Set, College District/Campus Commitment Form was approved 5-0. \$82,000 was approved for this position.

ELECTIONS

You might begin to realize that some voting on MISD district issues are affected by the fact that Farias and Caporusso are running again for their positions in 2013. There will be much to come. Stay tuned.