

# MCALLEN AFT EYES ON THE BOARD



A Union of Professionals

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## KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

### **McAllen ISD Regular Meeting, October 24, 2016—6 p.m.**

The McAllen ISD Board meeting convened at 6pm with Tony Forina, John Ball, Sam Saldivar, Marco Suarez, Daniel Vela, Larry Esparza and Conrado Alvarado present.

The District achieved a rating of Superior Achievement getting a perfect score of 100 points under the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (School First) Financial Accountability rating for the 2014-2015 school year.

The McAllen Education Foundation gave grants to teachers across the District totaling over \$30,000.

There was a request for approval of restructuring of Athletic Department. An assistant Athletic Director to aid the Athletic Director Paula Gonzalez in her duties. The proposal would change the current structure of 1 Athletic Director, 1 Athletic Coordinator per each High School. A male and female assistant Athletic Coordinator per high school and 1 Athletic Coordinator for each Middle School. One female assistant Athletic Coordinator position would be eliminated with expected savings for the district of \$65,000. The board approved a new job description for Assistant Athletic Director.

The current Facilities Maintenance & Operations projects are the refurbishing of McHi, Memorial, and Rowe facility huts. The Stadium had handrails added, Jackson Elementary had all asphalt removed. Roofs at DeLeon and Rowe are being finished. The 2016-2017 upcoming projects will see completion of hail damage projects.

Mr. Andres Silva reported on the Employee Benefits under Blue Cross Insurance.. Currently there are three plans under enrollment. The basic costs \$52 with a 70/30, the high costs \$128 with an 80/20, and a State costing \$261 with an 85/15. This is a self-funded plan. The district is considering the possibility of going to a clinical review of higher end medicines with 72 hour controls. Possible step therapy recommendations. This plan would require our members to try out a less expensive drug first. Currently changes to our insurance are made once a year. Considering going to a change every quarter. Some more value added benefits including (KOFE) Knowledge of Financial Education.

The board approved a Citizens Committee for the naming of McAllen Memorial HS auditorium. There were 2 names submitted by each member of the board. Total of 7 member committee. Dr. Gonzalez Highlighting the District for marketing purposes. McAllen uses only registered Nurses.

### **MISD School Board Meeting - October 03, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**

Present: DannyVela, Sam Saldivar, Marco Suarez, Tony Forina,

Approval of Fountas & Pinnell BM assessment system & professional development. 4-0 Dr. Sylvia Ibarra spoke about the 5 year plus investment. Click here for more details on this program. <https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=39446679>

Approval of Sharon Wells Consulting Services & Materials for 2nd through 5th grade. 4 -0 Dr. Ibarra & Mrs. Vieh. Aligned to state standards. Teacher script. What to say and when to say it. More professional development and how to in-

struct. Digital format. Immediate Professional Development Saturday. Click here for more details on this. <https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=39446694>

Application for class size waiver request for 2016 - 2017 approved. 4 - 0 Click here for more information.

Discussion of Texas Principal Evaluation & Support System (T-PESS) Calendar.  
For information only. Goal setting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

### **McAllen ISD Regular Meeting, September 26, 2016—3 p.m.**

The Five-Year Strategic Plan was approved. Approximately seven months have been needed to gather feedback, hold several summits, focus groups, and internet surveys. The Plan is a living document that can be changed. There are four main goals—student achievement and student focus, people development, facility priorities, and financial priorities.

The Design Committee also developed strategies—better job branding the district to communicate its strengths and mission; attracting and retaining qualified staff; engaging and rigorous learning environment; additional goals include a marketing team, promoting academic successes of students and staff; and developing a unified message that attracts families who have left the district. Superintendent Gonzalez will be evaluated according to the Strategic Plan.

In other business the Board discussed making the three comprehensive high schools completely closed campuses by adding fencing all around the schools. The vote will come at a future meeting. If the Board approves then the district would go out for bids and have an order in by October. Cost of the project would come from the general fund. This is a safety issue as students are moving in and out of campuses freely. In another item on the agenda there was a discussion regarding hiring an additional police officer at each high comprehensive high school.



### **McAllen ISD Workshop Meeting, September 21, 2016—3 p.m.**

#### **DISCUSSION OF THE MCALLEN ISD STRATEGIC PLAN**

The goals and plans for the current school year were discussed. All the staff, Board members, and committee members had a draft copy of the plan. I have requested an open records copy. The Strategic Plan is a living document that can be changed as time goes on. Here are some of the ideas that seem important to me.

A new Web Master will be hired and a redo of the McAllen site will be done. The hiring of the Web Master may be as early as Monday, September 26, 2016.

Many meetings have been held to review the district and how it is viewed in the public.

There will be changes in the advertising campaign for the district. Biggest losses of students are at first and sixth grade. The budget was roughly figured on 22,000 students. The district should continue to knock on doors of parents, talk to parents, and review plans to improve communication.

The district should work on incentives to attract staff. HR should visit other areas of Texas to recruit new teachers. Should the district continue to give a skip payment on health insurance in December—we say yes.

Among the staff there is a high absentee rate. This is costing the district a great deal of money.

Stan Crouse in HR is working with new staff members.

Frost Bank is helping with financial literacy for employees.

There was a lengthy discussion, but I did not include everything.

