

MCALLEN AFT EYES ON THE BOARD



A Union of Professionals

KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

September/October 2017

Volume 24 Issue 6

MISD Board Meeting—October 9, 2017

Absent –Danny Vela

McAllen ISD held a public hearing for the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (School First). For the 15th year of School FIRST MISD received a rating of “A” for “Superior”—the best rating you can get.

Recognition(s)/Proclamation(s)

Down Syndrome Awareness Month, Persons with Disabilities History and Awareness Month—October, 2017, Honoring Principals Month, Bullying Prevention Month, Texas Education Resources Day, National School Lunch Week, and National School Bus Safety Week (October 16-20).

Items Approved

Workforce Development Board Child Care Contribution, Memo of Agreement—with Region One—Vector, Phonak’s Roger Digital Modulated System for Student Instruction, and Memo of Understanding with UTRGV for Dual Enrollment.

Self-Funded Health and Dental Plan Funding, Rates and Benefits for 2017-2018

The Board spent about an hour discussing changing rates, and detailed information about the plan. The slides presented were difficult to read. See attached page showing the proposed changes.

Discussion of MISD Board Policy DEC (LOCAL)—Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences (First Reading)—Below is the wording from the agenda—let us know how you feel about this change

Board Policy DEC (Local) was approved by the

Board of Trustees on June 18, 2012. Back in that time-frame, only accumulated Local leave was permitted to be reimbursed upon retirement. Therefore, most employees only used their State leave and saved their Local leave for retirement purposes. The July 1st cutoff was established to limit accumulation to 30 days of Local leave for financial reasons.

The current DEC (LOCAL) policy divides our workforce between those who were hired before and after July 1, 2012. Those hired before July 1st can accumulate unlimited Local leave, and those hired after that date cannot accumulate more than 30 days Local leave. Policy DEC (Local) has since been changed to allow both State and Local leave to accumulate for reimbursement purposes upon retirement, but is capped at 75 days total. We seek this revision to allow all employees to accumulate Local leave equally. Finally, we believe this will help minimize the “use it or lose it” approach to managing leave balances, and encourage our employees to save leave for retirement reimbursement purposes.

McAllen ISD Board Meeting—September 26, 2017

As an observer I am not provided a detailed agenda. Thus, I don’t have all the information.

New School Improvement Facilitator (SIF) for McAllen High School—Ruben Macias

Discussion of College Night—a big success, but De Leon too small to hold the event.

Discussion of high school Exemption Policy—a good back and forth discussion between board members and some of the high school principals. To me there was not a clear cut decision.

Mr. Trevino—a presentation on all new and old

projects. Much discussion regarding sports activities. It looks like baseball fields will be worked on soon. Monies for these projects continues to come from the hail storm insurance. The challenge is how accurate was the hail storm money and exactly how much has been spent.

2017-2018 Maximum Class Size Waiver approved by Board.

2017-2018 Campus Performance Objectives were approved by Board.

Congratulations to Bridgette Vieh on completing her Superintendent's certification.

The Board approved money for a new roof at Garza Elementary School.

The Board approved the last payment for a new roof at Rowe High School.

Then came a discussion on Superintendent's Performance Expectations Appraisal. Last week a board meeting was held in closed session regarding Gonzalez's appraisal. Gonzalez signed his contract last night and board members could talk. Mr. Vela had left the meeting earlier in the meeting. Then Mr. Esparza read a statement regarding his feelings about Gonzalez. The information he shared was not appropriate according to an agreement made by board members after a grievance hearing concerning Gonzalez. The contract was approved 5-1. Esparza voted against.

PRESENTATION TO MCALLEN ISD - BOARD OF EDUCATION September 26, 2017

The McAllen American Federation of Teachers Local 6329 is proud of our professional association with McAllen ISD.

Over the years we have been proud of the scholarship opportunities we have given graduating seniors (children of our members) and our members to go back to school. Over time we have given more than \$30,000 to these individuals.

We have also provided TEA approved training to hundreds of our members and other staff in the district. Over the years we have had ten TEA approved trainers

available to help district employees. Shortly we will be offering Student Debt Clinics covering in a 90-minute session the landscape of free and under-used federal programs that help many student loan borrowers lower their monthly payments and, in some cases, even have their debt forgiven.

In the political world McAllen AFT and the Rio Grande Valley AFL/CIO Central Labor Council are working hard to prepare for the upcoming elections. We are preparing information on candidates, events, and position literature. The Labor Council includes McAllen AFT, Edinburg AFT, PSJA AFT, La Joya AFT, Communication Workers of America, United American Nurses, Office Professionals, Electrical Workers, Iron Workers, United Auto Workers and more.

Lastly we were proud of the First Book Event we hosted with McAllen ISD. The national AFT funded this event at a cost of \$340,000 to provide children in our public schools with books to encourage our students and parents to read. The district allowed us to distribute varied age appropriate books for the children. This event promoted good will in our community.

Thank you—Ruth Butts Skow.

