

MCALLEN AFT EYES ON THE BOARD



A Union of Professionals

KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

November/December 2017

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McAllen Board of Education Meeting December 11, 2017

The Rowe Tuba group performed a Mini Christmas Concert. The audience really enjoyed it.

Absent was Sam Saldivar.

Recognitions/Proclamations

Recognition of Lamar Academy Career Technical Education Audio Video Student Ramirez
Recognition of Award for the Migrant Data Clerk of Texas for 2017 Veronica Montemayor (Rowe High School)

Recognition of UIL Pigskin Jubilee Marching Band Contest Superior Ratings for McHI, Memorial, and Rowe High School Bands

Recognition of High Schools Drill Team Members at Macy's Day Parade in NYC

Recognition of Rowe Varsity Volleyball Team
Recognition of Memorial Varsity Volleyball Team

Recognition of Memorial High School Varsity Football Team

Recognition of McAllen ISD and Business Services by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Finance and Debt Obligations Awards

Report regarding Facilities, Maintenance & Operations Monthly Projects. Bids for projects appeared in the Monitor on December 13, 2017.

Report regarding the monthly Financial and Investment Report for October 2017 was presented.

NO REPORT WAS GIVEN ON THE HEALTH PLAN.

The 2017-2018 List of Certified Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System was approved. Approved final payment to Central Air & Heat-

ing Service Inc. for the Competitive Sealed Proposal 2017-134--McHi camera upgrade.

A report was made regarding Board Member Training Hours--all Board members are up-to-date on their required training--congratulations.

MISD Board Meeting, November 27, 2017

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. and was completed at 6:30 p.m. The discussion focused on MGT Consulting Facilities Review. The firm was hired to evaluate all facilities as to condition of the buildings, age of the buildings, number of students attending the school, condition of the grounds, playground conditions, traffic surrounding the buildings, and any other information to make an accurate evaluation of the facility. With this information the MISD Board of Education can make decisions regarding what needs to be repaired first.

The Board members are anxious to make the best study of the district and focus on what is required. Marco Suarez and Sam Saldivar spoke of including changes in the membership of citizens on the previous committee working on the MGT Facilities Review. In addition--parents, teachers, the McAllen City Council, realtors, and any other interested groups should be included. Another workshop will be planned to make decisions such as how to plan because of dropping enrollment. As many of you know, 36,000 students have dropped from public schools in the Valley to enroll in charter schools. The drop in funding these students has made a big difference in public school budgets and raises for employees in all school districts. The Texas governor has been pushing charter schools over public schools. He is not interested in public schools, only charter.

Ruth Skow's meeting with Todd Miller (Human Resources) and Andy Silva (Risk Management) on November 17, 2017

I met with Miller and Silva on Friday November 17, 2017 for nearly 2 (two) hours. Mr. Silva presented the PowerPoint presentation he is showing each school staff in the district. At that point, Mr. Silva had not met with all the school faculties. On January 1, 2018 employees will have a change in their health insurance—using out of network facilities and health providers will cost a great deal more.

On January 1, 2019 employees may have an increase in premiums. The Board of Education has not talked at length about any increases. I told Mr. Miller that if premiums go up then salaries need to go up for employees. It seems very odd that your reserve fund would go from \$9 million to \$500,000. The salary raise should be a really good one—not just what is left over—such as \$3,000 for teachers and \$2,000 for all others. In our talks I did not mention amounts of money, but that is what I see is badly needed. The audit of claims has not been done yet. The district is getting ready to advertise for bids and with that perhaps more information will become available.

McAllen ISD Regular Board Meeting--November 13, 2017

Absent from the meeting were Tony Forina and Daniel Vela.

Recognition was given for American Legion Boys and Girls State; Parent Involvement Day, Tennis Team for McAllen High; Tennis Team for Memorial High; Cross Country Regional Qualifier at McAllen High; Cross Country Regional Qualifier at McAllen High; Boys Cross Country Team at Memorial High School; Girls Cross Country Team Memorial High School; Rowe Girls Cross Country Team; Go Blue for Diabetes for November 14, 2017; McAllen ISD and Business Services by the Association of School Business Officials; Purchasing Services by the National Procurement Institute.

Other items are approval of Max Class Size Waiver Application for 2017-2018; raised rates for RSD; approved Walgreens Pharmacy's and McAllen ISD's Career Technical Education Program; did not approve Rio Grande Valley College and MISD LVN program.

Approved Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2017; approved October

Budget Amendment for July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018; approval of 2017 MISD Tax Roll.

The Audit has not been done for health insurance—bids will be advertised.

PRESENTATION TO THE MCALLEN ISD BOARD OF EDUCATION—NOVEMBER 13, 2017 6:15 P.M. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

During the last few days the district made presentations at various schools about the districts health insurance plan. Employees were told that the plan was broken, and benefits would go down in quality and premiums would go up in cost to employees.

My members wonder the following:

- Why have you waited so long to tell the employees?
- How could the plan have gone from 9 million in reserves to \$500,000? Who made this bad decision? Did the outside advisor hired by the district give bad advice? Did the department in charge of insurance within the District not catch mistakes?
- Why was a skip payment of \$500,000 at Christmas given? There were two (2) skips and the total was \$1 million dollars. It is obvious that the plan could not afford the skips.
- Why have you not presented the audit so often talked about?

Teaching in McAllen is like being a nuclear engineer—you never know when something is going to blow up. Our other employees—administrators, aides, FMO, bus drivers and food services face many challenges also.

Now the administration needs to work through the holiday period—Thanksgiving—and come up with the truth and a REASONABLE PLAN to present to the Board. You know this kind of happening is very difficult for employees to budget for.

