

MCALLEN AFT EYES ON THE BOARD



A Union of Professionals

KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

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McAllen ISD School Board Meeting— February 26, 2018

The first McAllen ISD Board Meeting started at 4 p.m. The discussion centered on the 2018-2019 Budget. Mrs. Garcia, Assistant Superintendent, discussed students, planning, and finances.

First--students. Staffing is 80% of the budget (salaries of teachers, aides, administrative staff). Thus, if the district continues to lose students to the charter schools there will be a need for fewer teachers, aides, and administrative staff. As I have shared with all our members, across the Valley more than 36,000 have left public schools. IDEA schools have a leader making a million dollars a year in salary. The bad governor pushed and shoved and now got higher rates for health care for our retired teachers. In addition, he now has charter schools building programs funded on the backs of public schools. Thus public schools will get a lot less for new buildings. The bad governor cares nothing for public school employees. In other words, KILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Second--planning. Leaders in MISD need to plan very carefully. Each of you needs to think of ways to keep the Board of Education on their toes. Mrs. Garcia talked about offering pre-school for 3 year olds. She mentioned fewer children being born in McAllen, thus the 3 year old program could encourage parents to leave their children in McAllen for kindergarten and not leave for charters.

For example, the teams from IDEA who visit McAllen homes are trained to say that the IDEA schools are better. Of course, that is not true. The charter does not have to meet the same standards as public schools. Sports, music, art, and highly trained staff is missing from the charters. The charter staff turns over every two (2) years.

Third--finances. Affordable single family homes are in short supply in McAllen. The city commissioners need to review building affordable homes. We need to face the fact that home prices for teachers in McAllen are forcing them to live in apartments. Each of you living in an apartment face the fact that you might not have a good landlord who does preventive maintenance. Payment of taxes has been much slower this year. Employees may not be replaced if someone retires or leaves.

Nothing was discussed about an increase in salaries. Rumors abound across the state of a few districts giving a 1% raise. Most districts are not giving raises. VOTE--THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION IN 50 YEARS.

McAllen ISD School Board Meeting—February 23, 2018

Board approved Go Red Day for February 23, 2018 (American Heart Association--Influence heart health).

A report was given regarding the Delinquent Tax Collections for the Period of October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. There have been 37 lawsuits filed regarding non payment of taxes. In addition, 339 law suits are pending.

Mr. Crane, attorney for the district, said there was no pending and/or potential litigation nor is there any possible real estate acquisition.

There is still no report on the claims audit regarding increases in school district health insurance.

Summer school programs were presented--seems pretty standard information.

The Board spent a great deal of time discussing donations by PTO and other groups to individual

schools. New policies were discussed. I am sorry to say I did not have copies of the policy changes.

A discussion was done regarding repairs to Fine Arts Theater Equipment Improvements for McHi, Memorial, and Rowe. Board member ask for a total figure to do everything--seems as if it would cost \$1 million at least to do the repairs.

Fire alarm upgrades were approved for Lincoln, Alvarez, Lamar Academy, Administration Building, and Human Resources Building.

The MISD Board of Education met on February 5, 2018.

The approval of a new Assistant Principal for Fossum Middle School was tabled.

The Board approved the MISD January Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018.

Ms. Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Business, reported the following budgetary considerations:

	General Fund	Debt Service
Audited Fund Balance	\$86,762,732	\$4,905,627
Revenues	\$235,851,605	\$7,829,851
Expenditures	\$245,298,834	\$9,893,200
Preliminary Ending Fund Balance	\$77,315,503	\$2,842,278

Nothing was mentioned about the claim audit for the insurance plan for employees.

Additional funds and coaches for Power Lifting were approved.

Recognitions & Proclamations

- District Elementary Science Fair Winners
- Arbor Days on February 5 and March 3, 2018
- Career Technical Education Month
- MISD Creative Mind Art
- Cheerleading Competition Team
- National School Counseling Week

City of Palms Athletic Director of the Year
It's Time Texas Community Challenge

Request for Maximum Class Size Waiver Application List Approved
Donation from McAllen High School Baseball Booster Club Approved

McAllen ISD School Board Meeting—January 15, 2018

New Assistant Principal at Rowe High School—Ignacio Alaniz

Public Hearing for 2016-2017 District Texas Academic Performance (TAPR)—very successful for the district.

A Proclamation Regarding The Great Kindness Challenge Week (referring to Bullying) was presented. January is School Board Recognition Month.

A Marquee Project Donation for Gonzalez was presented amounting to \$48,490. The Board will meet on Friday morning at 9 a.m. to complete the donation process and a discussion of how the marquee will be set up.

An Approval of Request for Proposal #2107-083 Website Hosting & Redesign Services was presented. There will be more details soon.

A new track was approved for Brown Middle School. Funds will come from various sources. Mr. Alvarado asked that other middle school tracks be update when funds are available.

There was nothing new about health insurance. We suggest you ask why the claims audit has not been started.

