

MCALLEN AFT EYES ON THE BOARD



A Union of Professionals

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MISD Board Meeting April 23, 2018

Last night the Board meeting was at McAllen High School. I enjoyed sitting with my Lincoln friends. There was great conversation, and concerns. For many months there had been discussion regarding the MISD master plan that includes repurposing campuses and relocating students and staff for 2018-19.

The Board voted 5-2 to approve the plan as follows: Achieve Early College campus will move to Lincoln Middle School. Teachers at Lincoln and Navarro will not lose their jobs. Students at Lincoln will be moved to De Leon, Travis, and Fossum. Students at Navarro Elementary will go to Seguin and Wilson elementary campuses. Navarro will be repurposed to house the district's Head Start program and special education department. A new tuition-based pre-K program announced earlier will be at Navarro. Milam and Gonzalez Elementary campuses will become closed-enrollment. Current transfer students attending Milam and Gonzalez who don't live in the area can remain at the campuses until they finish the last grade level there.

In 2019-20 school year Bonham Elementary will be repurposed and students moved to Escandon, Houston, and Roosevelt. Zones feeding into McAllen High School would also change to take some Fossum students to Rowe instead. The plan is a living document thus can be changed at any time. Transportation is also an issue, but the Superintendent said buses will be provided. More details will unfold.

MISD Board Meeting April 18, 2018

After the Wednesday, April 18, 2018 Board Meeting, the MISD Board will meet on April 23, 2018 to discuss and vote on options to address facility needs and capacity issues at a few campuses.

Navarro will be repurposed to become the Pre-K campus. Present staff will be relocated. Lincoln will be reorganized. Those students at Lincoln that want IB may go to De Leon. The rest of the students will be reorganized to Brown and Travis. Achieve High School will move into the Lincoln Campus. It was also my understanding that Special Education would also move into Lincoln. Bonham is now open to change.

IB will be fenced off for safety and security. Formal decisions for changes will be finalized on Monday.

Also on the agenda Renewal of Employee Contracts of Teachers and other professional personnel for 2018-2019 School Year.

Last year the Superintendent ask me to work on passing a TRE. This will enable all the staff to get a 3% raise for this coming year. If we work together and encourage our fellow McAllen citizens for the sake of our children, we can pass a TRE--a Tax Recertification Election. McAllen is losing revenue because of the state's legislature's failure to fund public education and loss of students to charter schools. This election does not raise taxes it instead gives the public's permission to apply for \$7 million in additional state revenue. THERE IS NO INCREASE IN TAXES. Our district has the opportunity to get additional money from the state, because of the one-time weather-related emergency declaration--the hail storm. The money will continue to come to McAllen for an extended period of years. The 1/2 of the money raised from the tax swap will be given as a raise to all employees. The other half of the money will be used to to repair buildings. The employees would get 1/2 of the raise in September and the other half at Christmas. We are ready to lead block walking, phone banking, and any other activity to achieve the raise.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, APRIL 9, 2018

The McAllen Board of Education gave recognition to the following:

- Battle of the Books Winner
- Exxon Mobile Texas Science and Engineering Fair Participants
- NASA High School Aerospace Scholarship Internship Program Acceptance
- Student Spaceflight Experiment Program Mission 9 Patch Certificate of Flight
- Middle School UIL Academics
- Approval of Proclamation Regarding National Library Week (April 9-13, 2018)
- Recognition of McAllen ISD and the Business Office by the Government Finance Officers Association.

The Superintendent's Recommendation Concerning the Renewal of 2017-2018 Employee Contracts of Teachers and Other Professional Personnel for the 2018-2019 School Year Policy DC (LEGAL) was pulled from the action items. It is not clear when this item will come up again.

The school calendar B for 2018-2019 was approved. Pending and/or Potential Litigation -- the Board directed Attorney Crain to proceed as directed. It was not clear what this means.

The Interlocal Cooperation No. 2017-149--University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Texas PreFreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP) passed. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UTRGV College of Education and P-16 Integration and MISD was approved at no cost to district.

Bert Ogden Motors donated \$5,076 for a Bill Hetrick Memorial at McAllen Memorial High School. There was no discussion of closing schools or movement of students and staff.

MISD Budget Workshop - March 26, 2018

Meeting began at 3:32 p.m. - All board members were present.

2018-2019 Second Budget Workshop.

Discussion began with the Strategic Plan that is aligned with the vision and mission of McAllen ISD.

MISD has the lowest tax rate in Hidalgo county amongst surrounding districts. Charts were shown with the tax rate history since 2010. District is considering a tax swap which will generate additional state revenue. Proposal of the swap will be proposed to the community. Goal is to be transparent with the community. Board was asked to consider the "Tax Swap" and hopefully the community will be open to it. This funding will benefit the students and staff of MISD. Chart details all the information explaining how the tax swap will work.

Discussion on Tuition-Based Pre-K Pilot Program was discussed.

Proposed school sites are:

Castaneda (English Program) with 3 classrooms - each approximately 25 students per class.
Sanchez (Dual Language Program) with 2 classrooms - each approximately 25 students per class.
Proposed tuition will be \$580 per month or \$5,220 per year.

Dismissal will be at 3:30 p.m. - additional time will have an additional fee.

2018-2019 2nd Budget Workshop

Strategic plan - Attract and Retain High Quality Staff. See details on webpage for salary comparison with other districts. 2017-2018 Statewide starting teacher salary (by region) and 2017-2018 average teacher salary (by region).

