

**VICTORIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD ROOM
102 PROFIT DRIVE
VICTORIA, TEXAS**

A G E N D A

Thursday

6:00 p.m.

May 16, 2019

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

II. CALL TO ORDER

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

That this is a regular meeting and that notice of the meeting has been posted in the time and manner required and that there is a quorum present.

IV. OPEN FORUM

Opportunity for citizens to address the Board. Should the citizen's comments include complaints or charges against a VISD officer or employee, the Board may adjourn to closed meeting under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to hear such complaints or charges. This closed meeting may occur at any point during the meeting.

V. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

A. You Make a Difference Award – Mike DiSanto

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Administration Report

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Issue Certificates of Election, Administer Statement of Elected Officer and Oath of Office to Districts 1, 6 and 7 Trustees

B. Reorganization of Board

C. Discuss and take action to submit proposed advocacy resolutions to the Texas Association of School Boards *(two attached)*

D. Discuss and take action on proposed Resolution Concerning Legislation on an Audit and Moratorium of STAAR *(attached)*

E. Consent Agenda

1. Approve Minutes
2. Approve Budget Amendments
3. Approve Donations and Gifts
4. Approve Offers to Purchase Tax Sale Properties

VIII. CLOSED MEETING

The governmental body may go into closed meeting as authorized by V.T.C.A. Government Code, Chapter 551, sub-chapter D as provided in the notice of this meeting. The following items may be discussed in closed meeting:

- A.** The Board may seek the advice of the attorney for the governmental body on matters that are protected by the attorney/client privilege (*TGC 551.071*)
- B.** The Board will discuss resignations and retirement of personnel (*TGC 551.074*)
- C.** The Board will discuss employment of personnel (*TGC 551.074*)
- D.** The Board will discuss the Superintendent's recommendation for the appointment of an administrator to serve as the Athletic Director for the District and subject to future reassignment by the Superintendent (*TGC 551.074*)

IX. BOARD TO RECONVENE FOR OFFICIAL ACTION

The Board will reconvene and take any action deemed necessary based on discussions held in closed meeting.

X. ADJOURN

This facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the Superintendent's office at (361) 576-3131 or FAX (361) 788-9643 for further information.

This notice posted at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2019.



Sheila Garcia

NOTICE OF MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VICTORIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that on the 16th day of May, 2019, the Victoria Independent School District Board of Trustees will hold a meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Building located at 102 Profit Drive, Victoria, Texas. The subjects to be discussed are listed on the agenda that is attached to and made part of this notice.

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, the Board of Trustees should determine that a closed meeting is required, then such closed meeting as authorized by V.T.C.A. Government Code, Chapter 551, subchapter D will be held by the Board of Trustees at the date, hour, and place given in this notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this notice as the Board of Trustees may conveniently meet in such closed meeting concerning any and all subject and for any and all purposes permitted by Chapter 551, subchapter D, inclusive, of said V.T.C.A. Government Code, including, but limited to:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Section 551.071 | For the purpose of private consultation between the Board of Trustees and its attorney when the Board of Trustees seeks the attorney's advice with respect to pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, and matter where the duty of the Board of Trustees' counsel to his client pursuant to the Code of Professional Responsibility of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Open Meetings Act; |
| Section 551.072 | For the purpose of discussion with respect to the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the Board of Trustees in negotiations with a third person; |
| Section 551.073 | For the purpose of deliberation regarding prospective gifts or to deliberate a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the Board of Trustees of the Victoria Independent School District, if the deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect of the position of the Board of Trustees in negotiations with a third person; |
| Section 551.074 | For the purpose of considering appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee, unless such officer or employee requests a public hearing; |
| Section 551.076 | To discuss the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices; |
| Section 551.082 | To deliberate in closed meeting in a case: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Involving discipline of a public school child; or(b) In which a complaint or charge is brought against an employee of the school district by another employee and the complaint or charge directly results in a need for a hearing;(c) The school district may not deliberate in closed meeting if an open hearing is requested in writing by a parent or guardian of the child in discipline cases, or by the employee against whom the complaint or charge is brought. The employee making the charge has no say whether the hearing is open or closed |
| Section 551.084 | To exclude a witness from a hearing during the examination of another witness in the investigation. |

Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the governing body with regard to any matter considered in such closed meeting, then such final action, final decision, or final vote shall be at either:

- (a) the open meeting covered by this notice upon the re-convening of this public meeting; or
- (b) at a subsequent public meeting of the government body upon notice thereof as the government body shall determine.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that this Notice was posted at 5:00 p.m. on the 10th of May, 2019, which is at least 72 hours prior to the date and time of the scheduled meeting.



Sheila Garcia
Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools
Victoria Independent School District Board of Trustees

Advocacy Resolution

Please note:

- Your district may propose a new resolution or a resolution adopted by a previous Delegate Assembly. **Resolutions must be submitted on this form.** Attachments will not be considered.
- Express each proposal as a **short, simple sentence of 25 words or less** stating the position you wish TASB to take regarding a matter of interest to your school district.
- Use copies of this form if submitting more than one resolution.
- Express **in paragraph form** your district's rationale for the proposed resolution in the "statement of reasons" section below.
- The language of the proposal and rationale will be edited for length, style, and clarity. Substantive changes in the language of the proposed resolution or amendment shall be referred to the district for approval by a district representative.
- Similar submissions will be combined, with the consent of the submitting districts. Each district will then appear as a cosponsor of the combined proposal.

Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for when a declared "natural disaster area" is designated by the Governor of the State of Texas, for those districts impacted, they shall not receive an Accountability Rating for the year following and shall not receive a FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) designation for two years following said declaration.

Statement of reasons: Students and staff impacted by a natural disaster lose instructional days. Their achievement and growth will be negatively impacted as a result. A district will show a negative financial position due to slow insurance and FEMA reimbursements needed to restore use of the fund balance to respond to the disaster. Districts should not be penalized through accountability and FIRST designations for a natural disaster.

I hereby certify that the above proposed resolution was approved by our board on **May 16, 2019.**
(Date of meeting)

Board president's signature _____

Name of school district **Victoria Independent School District**

County-district number **235-902**

Please e-mail your board's proposed resolution(s) by June 17, 2019, to Athena Frangeskou with TASB Governmental Relations at athena.frangeskou@tasb.org.

Advocacy Resolution

Please note:

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- Express each proposal as a **short, simple sentence of 25 words or less** stating the position you wish TASB to take regarding a matter of interest to your school district.
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- Similar submissions will be combined, with the consent of the submitting districts. Each district will then appear as a cosponsor of the combined proposal.

Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for resolution supporting an amendment to Texas Tax Code TAX § 26.08 (a) "When increased expenditure of money by a school district is necessary to respond to a disaster...that has impacted a school district and the governor has requested federal disaster assistance...an election is not required under this section to approve the tax rate adopted by the governing body for the year up to but not to exceed two years following the year in which the disaster occurs."

Statement of reasons: Current language requires the ISD to enact the full tax rate increase in the year immediately following the disaster. This comes at a time when: 1) The community will likely still be burdened from the disaster, 2) the ISD will still be working on assessing damages, working with insurance repayments and initiating FEMA recovery funds. Currently, the District may not fully know the extent of need thus enacting a tax increase without justification.

I hereby certify that the above proposed resolution was approved by our board on **May 16, 2019.**
(Date of meeting)

Board president's signature _____

Name of school district Victoria Independent School District

County-district number 235-902

Please e-mail your board's proposed resolution(s) by June 17, 2019, to Athena Frangeskou with TASB Governmental Relations at athena.frangeskou@tasb.org.

Board of Trustees Victoria Independent School District

Resolution Concerning Proposed Legislation on an Audit and Moratorium of STAAR

I. Recitals

Victoria Independent School District (VISD) is committed to the success of every child through real innovation and limitless opportunities for all our students.

VISD joins other districts across the state with concerns over State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) grading errors and concerns over STAAR readability levels. The resulting doubts create a lack of confidence in the state assessments.

VISD opposes the use of assessment items with a readability level higher than the grade tested. State assessments are designed to show whether a student has mastered content solely within the grade level tested.

Three outside studies have been conducted on STAAR Reading passages in grades 3-8:

- 2012 - Susan Szabo and Becky Sinclair, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- 2016 - Michael Lopez and Jodi Pilgrim, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
- 2019 - Susan Szabo and Becky Sinclair, Texas A&M University-Commerce

All three studies found concerns with the readability and text complexity of many of the reading passages.

The State Board of Education conducted a statewide survey in a 2016 entitled “Texans Speak.” In that survey, an overwhelming majority of Texans in all groups (85 percent to 99 percent) agreed that assessments should not contain “trick or developmentally inappropriate” questions. The survey also found that one of the largest areas that needed improvement was ensuring assessments are developmentally appropriate.

In 2018, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) conducted a study “designed to determine a mechanism to provide reading levels that can be matched to text based on the STAAR Reading, English I, and English II results.” TEA has correlated STAAR passing scores and Lexile levels in its Raw Score Conversion tables. The Lexile levels of every STAAR and EOC are far beyond the grade level tested.

Several proposed bills in the 86th Legislative Session address the need to audit and secure a moratorium for the use of high-stakes assessments on our student and schools until all assessments have been verified by an outside entity. VISD believes it is the duty of the Legislature to ensure a deliberate process to safeguard the integrity of the students' educational experience.

VISD believes our state's future prosperity relies on a high-quality education system that prepares students for college and careers, and without such a system Texas' economic competitiveness and ability to attract new business will falter.

II. Resolution

Victoria Independent School District respectfully implores our legislative representatives to take the following actions this legislative session to ensure state assessments more accurately reflect what students know and can do as it relates to the state standards to which they are being held.

VISD is resolved that state assessments shall test only grade level Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and readability standards.

- Each assessment item must be evaluated by an independent group, including qualified educators with Texas teaching experience, for readability within the grade level assessed, and each assessment item of sufficient length must be separately evaluated for readability within the grade level assessed before being field-tested by November 2019. A determination of readability must consider available correlations with other assessments commonly used by Texas school districts, and should be verified by an independent group of qualified educators with Texas teaching experience. The TEA commissioner should hold a public hearing before making a determination as to readability of assessments.
- Negative sanctions cannot be placed on students, campuses, or districts based on the results of the 2018-2019 state assessments.
- State assessments may not be administered during the 2019-2020 or any later school year unless they meet the readability standards outlined above.
- If state assessments do not meet the readability standards, the TEA commissioner must:
 - Request a federal waiver from ESSA requirements; and
 - Correct any and all issues before another testing cycle is initiated.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 16th day of May 2019.

By: _____
Tami Keeling, President
VISD Board of Trustees

By: _____
Kevin VanHook, Vice President
VISD Board of Trustees

By: _____
Margaret Pruett, Secretary
VISD Board of Trustees

By: _____
Bret Baldwin, Member
VISD Board of Trustees

By: _____
Dr. Estella De Los Santos, Member
VISD Board of Trustees

By: _____
Ross Mansker, Member
VISD Board of Trustees

By: _____
Mike Mercer, Member
VISD Board of Trustees