News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Region One ESC Announces Board Election

Edinburg, TX – The Region One Education Service Center will hold an election for two places on the Region One ESC Board of Directors which will expire on May 31, 2020. The two seats up for election are Place 2 representing Jim Hogg, Starr, and Zapata Counties, currently filled by Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, of Rio Grande City, Texas, and Place 5 representing Cameron County, currently filled by Mr. Ruben Cortez, Jr., of Brownsville, Texas.

Mr. Gutierrez has held his Place 2 seat since 2010 when he was first appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Noe R. Sanchez. He won his subsequent election in 2011. Mr. Cortez was first elected to the Board in June 2011. Board members are elected to a three (3) year term by school board members of the 38 school districts within Region One.

Applications for ballot places may be obtained at the Region One ESC Executive Director’s Office, 1900 West Schunior, Edinburg, Texas, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Notice of filing must be at the headquarters office in person or by certified mail no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

Any citizen of the United States who is at least 18 years of age, a resident in the county area represented by the seat, who is not engaged professionally in education or who is not a member of a school district board of trustees, a county board of trustees, or a board of an institution of higher education, may be elected to the Board of Directors membership.

If additional information is desired, contact Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez, Executive Director at (956) 984-6001.
Membership and Qualifications

The government of the Education Service Center shall be vested in the Board of Directors, consisting of seven members and one Commissioner appointed charter school member.

Eligibility

Any citizen of the United States who is over 18 years of age, a resident of the Region One County area being served by the Center that the candidate is seeking election to at the time of filing, who is not engaged professionally in education or who is a member of a school district Board of Trustees, a County Board of Trustees, or a Board of an institution of higher education that is eligible for membership on the Regional Advisory Committee, may be elected to the Board of Directors membership.

Terms of Office

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for three-year terms. Terms of office shall begin on June 1.

Election Procedures

Candidates to the board of directors shall be elected by the local school district boards in each region. Each local school board member shall be entitled to one vote for each vacancy on the board.

Any eligible person wishing to seek election to membership on the Region One Education Service Center Board shall file at the headquarters office of Region One in person or by certified mail. No filing fee shall be required.

By February 1, notice of the time and place for filing shall be posted in appropriate locations and submitted to appropriate newspapers in the ESC region for publication and to the superintendent of each school district in the ESC region.

A ballot shall be developed and submitted to all local school boards in Region One by March 1. Placement of the ballot shall be determined by drawing. Each local school board member shall have one vote for each vacancy on the Board. Completed ballots shall be returned to the Chairman of the Regional Board of Directors by April 5. The Board of Directors shall canvass the ballots by no later than May 31 and determine the winner by a plurality of the votes cast. In the event of a tie, the names of the candidates shall be resubmitted to local school boards for a subsequent election in conformity with the stated requirements.

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the local school boards in the seven counties of Region One as follows:

- Place 1 - One Board member to represent Hidalgo County
- Place 2 - One Board member to jointly represent Jim Hogg County, Starr County, and Zapata County
- Place 3 - One Board member to represent Webb County
- Place 4 - One Board member to represent Hidalgo County
- Place 5 - One Board member to represent Cameron County
- Place 6 - One Board member to represent Cameron County
- Place 7 - One Board member to represent Willacy County

Board members must be resident of the county or counties he/she is representing.

Vacancies/Resignations - Board of Directors

When a vacancy occurs, a 30-day period shall elapse after notice has been given to the Chairman before the vacancy is filled. Notice of such vacancy shall be given to the authorized representatives of the schools within Region One at the beginning of the 30-day interval. Vacancies for the unexpired term shall be filled through appointment by the remaining members of the Region One Board of Directors in accordance with the qualifications and eligibility requirements.

Resignation of any board members elected shall be in writing to the Region One Board of Directors for their action thereon. In case of the removal of domicile, for whatever reason except enrollment in an institution of higher learning or his/her call to active military service of any board member from the county limits of the area being represented, such removal shall ipso facto be deemed to create a vacancy in his/her place of office.
Region One ESC Board of Directors
2019-2020

Ruben Cortez, Jr., Chairperson
Place 5 – Cameron County

Raul R. Chapa, Vice-Chairperson
Place 7 – Brooks County & Willacy County

Sonia A. Falcon, Secretary
Place 4 – Hidalgo County

Alicia E. Requenez
Place 1 – Hidalgo County

Ricardo Gutierrez
Place 2 – Jim Hogg County, Starr County & Zapata County

Laura A. McCoy
Place 3 – Webb County

Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr.
Place 6 – Cameron County

Roberto Moroles
Charter Schools Representative

Administration

Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez
Executive Director

Dr. Eduardo Cancino
Deputy Director, Instructional Leadership, School Improvement,
& College Readiness Support

Mr. Heriberto Villarreal
Deputy Director, Administrative Leadership, School
& Community Support

Connie Lopez, CPA
Deputy Director, Business, Operations
& Finance Support

Ali Kolahdouz
Chief Technology Officer
Division of Technology for Learning

Election Procedures for Board of Directors