

Big Brother creeps into effort to reform welfare

Gov. Bush believes that government should stay out of how families manage their lives. However, the administration sees no problem in becoming the overseer for how poor people should live. It does not sound much different from how communist governments tried to order the lives of citizens.

One of the things conservatives have always raged against is the increase in government interference in the family.

Of course, they generally blame this on the liberals. However, it seems that both sides like having Big Brother in their back pocket once they get into office.

Maybe you haven't noticed it, but Big Brother has crept into welfare reform.

While there are a number of things to question about recent reforms, the most troubling aspect of the new welfare reform is something called the Personal Responsibility Agreement, developed by Gov. George Bush's administration shortly after he came into office.

It is a voluntary agreement,



ARNOLDO MATA

COMMENTARY

according to Texas Department of Human Services staff. However, if you do not sign it, you don't get services. The form itself sounds as if it were created with good intentions. It has eight requirements for welfare recipients: 1. keep their kids in school; 2. get their kids immunized; 3. cooperate with child support; 4. participate in job training or education; 5. not voluntarily quit a job; 6. not abuse alcohol or drugs; 7. have their kids get health screenings; and 8. attending parenting sessions.

How DHS considers this to be a voluntary agreement is beyond the definition of the word. Voluntary means you have a choice. But, if it's a requirement for receiving services, then it's not voluntary. When you apply for a driver's license, you have a choice about becoming an organ donor. There is neither a reward nor a penalty if you choose to become an organ donor or not. That's voluntary.

This "voluntary agreement" comes from an administration that

campaigns to eliminate government meddling in the family. Gov. Bush believes that government should stay out of how families manage their lives. However, the administration sees no problem in becoming the overseer for how poor people should live. It does not sound much different from how communist governments tried to order the lives of citizens.

There is no point in having people sign the agreement if there is no way or intention to keep track of the smallest details of a family's activities. One only has to imagine the police-state mentality of

reporting and spying that Texas would have to set up to monitor welfare families for all of this. DHS already has staff who investigate applicants. Soon they'll need badges, guns, search warrants, SWAT teams, wire taps and paid informants to keep track of your neighbors.

But once the spy network is set up, it is a very short step toward forcing everyone subject to this "voluntary agreement." Want to get a drivers's license? Sign the agreement. Want your son or daughter enrolled in school? Sign the agreement. Want to get married? Sign the agreement.

Actually, if there is ever a time for the state to interfere, it is when families first get started, at marriage. It won't be long before you're thoroughly investigated to get a marriage license. The U.S. Senate confirmation hearings for Robert Bork will be nothing compared to getting permission from the state to get married.

The fact that a family receives government assistance does not make them lesser citizens, though it appears that was exactly the result the state achieved. The state's interest in making sure that some families are forced to comply with a certain code of conduct applies to all families. There is no valid reason why it should apply only to families that receive welfare. For example, the state's interest in having kids attend school is the same for each and every family in the state. The state's interest in having people be good parents is equal for all families.

No one seems to have asked a simple question: Just because the

state has the power to force families to sign this agreement, it is the right thing to do? Good leaders model what they ask their constituents to do. As good leaders, the governor and everyone at the top who pushed for this requirement should have "volunteered" to be the first to sign. Perhaps it should be a "voluntary agreement" in order to run for state office. Of course, it would be their choice: sign or don't run.

There is nothing inherent in receiving food stamps that make families more subject to government interference and surveillance. If it applies to them, it applies to all. Perhaps the state believes that "all men and created equal" and not that all families are created equal. Perhaps some families are less equal than others, maybe — at some time in the future — even yours.

Arnoldo Mata is a freelance writer living in McAllen.

□ A LOCAL ANGLE

Hispanics, South Texas eliminated from presidential primaries

When Bob Dole effectively wrapped up the Republican nomination the week before Super Tuesday, it signaled more than the end of the primary fight. It signaled the end of Hispanic influence in the U.S.

presidential nomination process and, by extension, the end of South

Texas influence in that process.

After the end of brokered conventions, primaries were supposed to open up the parties to more participation, especially at the state level. Brokered conventions



**ARNOLDO
MATA**

COMMENTARY

favoring the party establishment and party insiders. When Texas moved its primary elections to March to join the other Southern states in Super Tuesday, the hope was that this would give Texas greater influence in the process.

With the focus now on primaries for delegate counts, candidates work to deliver big wins in the early primaries to scare off opponents and win support among big-money donors. Smaller states take a disproportionately larger role in the primaries. Iowa and New Hampshire can effectively narrow the field, if not outright anoint a candidate.

It became all too clear by the end of February that the Republican Party was closing ranks behind Dole. As the other candidates folded, it became clear that Super Tuesday was strictly a

rubber stamp on the Dole candidacy. Fewer than 10 states decided the nominee. The other 40 states essentially played no role.

What the Democrats learned from the 1988 election and the Republicans from the 1992 election is that party unity is infinitely more important than who the nominee is. In 1992, Democrats kept party infighting to a minimum and built a steamroller behind Bill Clinton as quickly as they could, leaving Super Tuesday a pale semblance of itself. This is exactly what the Republicans did this year for Bob Dole even before the balloting was under way.

The party establishment pressured the other candidates to give up once it was clear that Dole could not be stopped.

By eliminating the bulk of the

Southwest, the primaries effectively cut out Hispanics from the process.

Back in the good old days, when Texas was a decent, respectable Democratic state, Hispanics had an opportunity to serve as a swing vote in Texas, Florida, New York and California. During the late 1970s and 1980s, the Mexican American Democrats (MAD) of Texas played a pivotal role in several presidential campaigns, including Jim Carter's.

For their support, South Texas Hispanics were rewarded with some plum positions political, including posts on the National Democratic Committee and State Democratic Committee. Hispanics also landed posts in federal and state agencies where they could have some influence. (Though I really wouldn't go as far as saying that Hispanics have ever really

carried significant influence in any administration.) Funding from D.C. and Austin also flowed to the area. More South Texas issues made it to the front burner.

Certainly, not all of this attention was due to MAD. Local leaders, Hispanic and Anglo alike, played a key role in bringing more attention to South Texas issues.

Still, reducing the impact of Hispanics on the nomination process effectively reduces the South Texas political role in the development of issues. Even worse, the Clinton campaign, having lost Texas in 1992 and now facing a popular Republican governor whipping up support for Dole, may give up Texas as a lost cause. Clinton may offer a token campaign in Texas, further limiting the South Texas influence as a swing vote in November.

On the Republican side, with Texas an assumed check mark, Dole may also ignore the state. Additionally, with the absence of an effective Hispanic coalition or advocacy group in the Republican Party, there will be little internal pressure for Dole to court Hispanic voters and South Texas.

South Texas reverts, to some extent, to its sideline role in national politics. The winner-take-all electoral college vote seems to be working against South Texas and Hispanics in general.

For South Texas political leaders to keep South Texas in the national spotlight, they will have to work harder. But, isn't that what they've always had to do?

Arnaldo Mata is a freelance writer based in McAllen.

family



The Magical Season

ARNOLDO MATA

It was The Magical Season.

During the World Series, I always remember it. That is how I think of it.

It was the second year my son, Juan (Kiki), played T-ball. That season must be understood in context. The first year, they were 9-3 – a solid record.

But the second year ... ah ... a different story: Our head coach left to follow his son to a new age bracket; several key players moved on; new players were added – players who could not catch. They were more interested in chasing each other than the ball.

It looked bleak. And then more bad news: A week of rain interrupted practice.

Then the uniforms came. The previous year they had been the Colorado Rockies. There had been Yankees, Dodgers and so on. That second year, there were no such legendary names to inspire small bodies, only the title of a law office who sponsored our team. To their credit, the kids remembered that they had been the Rockies. They called themselves the Rockies. There were the Rockies.

It was in the first game when I first felt the magic. Freddy Solis, the lead-off hitter, swung firmly across, the twang of an aluminum bat echoed in the park. The ball flew in a slow, perfect arc, a smooth, graceful flight. Others followed. Once in a while, there was the classic home run stance, the image of a small Mickey Mantle. In the soft spring nights, even the smallest dreams seemed possible.

For me, the magic was in my son, too. The previous year, Kiki had been exposed to baseball for the first time. In practice, he did not listen well. In the games, he wandered in the outfield, sometimes wearing his glove on his head. And the best moment, tossing his glove in the air to try and stop a ball. The ingenuity astounded me. Even Willie Mays never got that technique right.

The second year, Kiki had matured, his arm surer, a strong hitter. He started out at rover, now catching balls he had missed before, but he was put back in right field. He languished there, bored, disappointed that he had been moved to make way for a coach's son.

"When I'm going to not play outfield, Dad?" he asked. There was genuine hurt there, for even the magic had its limits. Human imperfections can subvert about anything.

The victories added up. Emotions in the stands ran higher. But on the field and in the dugout, the magic held the team. The players seemed oblivious to the dynasty they were setting. The biggest thrill seemed to be after the game when they stampeded to get their hot dog and soda and run around like kids once more.

The magic revealed itself for all to see. Freddy had trouble catching pop flies all season. He dreaded the ball being hit to him. During the San Juan tournament, a fly came barreling down straight at him. Freddy nervously stuck out his hand.

There was a look of complete astonishment on his face as he realized that he had caught the ball. The Rockies swept the tournament. Later, Freddy's parents reported that as he was being carried to bed half-asleep that night, he stretched out his arm and mumbled, "I caught the ball, Dad."

My son rekindled the spirit of the game for me. He was pulled out of one game because of a nosebleed. He wanted to stay and play. He cried because he was not on the field. I held him as he sobbed, struck by his need to play.

That is how the game should be, that it should hurt somewhere in your heart when you cannot play. For these players, there is some hurt when they sit on the bench. For them, victory is a fleeting idea. The next day, they forget if they won or lost. They return because they can play and not because they can win.

Little boys and girls endured the magic, remained undefeated, received their trophies and celebrated by playing some more at Peter Piper Pizza in the ball pit, slugging quarters into video games.

Kiki and his friends may forget that season. But I hope I never do.

It was The Magical Season.

Arnaldo Mata is a free-lance writer from Pharr. Send comments to LRGroupCen@aol.com.

family



Mockingbird teaches son noble lesson

Arnoldo Mata

The most effective lessons in life are learned through experience. Those learned at an early age, too, are the best remembered.

There are times when parents need to step back and let children learn, no matter how painful the experience might seem at the time.

Last month, a mockingbird made its nest in a small tree just outside my son's window. Kiki was fascinated with the bird as it worked hard building the nest. Being a third-grader, he is naturally curious about all kinds of creatures.

Once the bird laid the eggs, it became a daily ritual that Kiki had to perch on a stool to get a look at the three eggs. He and his friends were fascinated by the three eggs. The eggs were speckled and about the size of my thumb. The mockingbird, of course, did not appreciate the attention. Every once in a while, she would fly at us and chirp angrily from a safe distance.

After a while, it seemed that she kind of got used to us. She stopped flying at us, but still lectured us from the rooftop or a nearby tree.

Although we had lectured the kids about picking up the eggs, I knew the temptation was great. I knew Kiki and his friends touched the eggs and probably held them when we weren't looking. An inquisitive 9-year-old who routinely catches bugs, lizards and snakes, Kiki was not about to let this opportunity pass to hold the bird eggs.

One day, I saw Kiki rush into the kitchen, open the refrigerator and then rush back out. I heard my wife stop him at the back door.

"What on earth are you doing with that egg?" asked my wife. "It's raw."

I immediately had visions of some plan concocted by Kiki and his friends to egg some other kids as a prank.

"I need it," was all Kiki could say as he tried to get past his mother.

"What do you need a raw egg for?"

"I just need it!"

It became pretty obvious that my wife was not letting him out of the house with the raw egg. The culprits soon spilled the beans. It

seems that the kids had been "just looking" at the mockingbird eggs, and one of the eggs fell out of the nest "by accident" and "spilled all over the place."

So, what was the plan for the raw egg from our refrigerator?

"I want to put it in the nest so the mother mockingbird won't be sad because one of the eggs broke and she can raise this one like one of her own and she won't know that the other egg broke and then she can be happy and then the other two little birdies will still have another brother or sister bird and they won't be lonely," Kiki blurted out.

After I stopped laughing, I realized that Kiki had taken an important step. Unintentionally, he and his friends had done something wrong. Kiki understood that their actions meant that a little bird had been killed and that it would cause pain to the mother bird. He also saw the need to try to correct his actions, to try to make up for what had been done.

He understood the idea of causing pain to others, even if they are just animals, and the need to do the right thing, to make amends for his actions. He also understood the idea of loss, even to those two other birds who would never know that they had lost a sibling. The realization was immediate, as was the response.

I don't know if he understood the importance of such lessons. But, I hope he does not lose the understanding of how we can hurt others, and the importance of atoning for our deeds. It may be just a natural reaction that most children have, an innate understanding of what is right and wrong. I would hope that part of it came from how we have raised him.

The nest is empty now. One of the birds fell out of the tree trying to learn to fly and was eaten by the dog. Another fluttered away into the tall grasses. We never knew if that bird flew to safety.

Will this lesson remain with Kiki? I hope so. We probably won't know until our "nest" is empty, and he has his own family. Will he teach his children the same lesson he learned? It was a painful lesson for him.

But some pain should not be forgotten. We should always remember some painful events, if only to help keep us from hurting others. More importantly, like Kiki with the refrigerator egg, the pain tells us we also have an obligation to make amends. Only in a child's world could life be so simple; pain is as easy to heal as putting a chicken egg in a mockingbird's nest.

—
Arnoldo Mata is a free-lance writer based in McAllen. Comments can be forwarded to him at P.O. Box 720120, McAllen, Texas 78504-0120 or by e-mail at Irgroupcen@AOL.COM.

family



The saddest sound I know

ARNOLDO MATA

Think for a moment. What is the saddest sound you have ever heard?

Look deep into your heart. Think back to all the sorrow and pain you have witnessed. What is the saddest sound you know?

For me, the saddest, loneliest, most desolate sound I have heard is the sound of a child crying. To hear a child cry is to listen to the very darkest despair humanity has ever known. Whether it is from a child who is sick, lost, hurt, afraid, alone, abandoned or abused. You parents know this. In the middle of the night, when one of your children is sick and crying and there is nothing you can do to stop the pain, that sound can tear your heart to pieces. No person can listen to that sound and be unmoved. Children express such raw pain and emotion that it reminds us of our own childhood at its worst, a child's cry can be painful to hear, unbearable and reverberating to the depths of our hearts.

April is child Abuse Prevention Month. Of course, it should be Child Abuse Prevention Month every month. I am no expert in child abuse. But I do know that the people who work to stop it and heal the victims pay a horrible toll upon their souls. Soldiers returning from war speak of the horror they cannot get over. Though not as much in the media, child protection workers, teachers, social workers, police officers and volunteers face a similar horror: the neglect, abuse, torture, mutilation and murder of our children.

Each of these people has at least one case to remember and mourn. I suspect that some of them awaken at night, startled by some noise in the darkness, only to realize that it is the distant echo of the one child whose crying never stopped.

But think for a moment. What is the happiest sound you have ever heard?

I can only think of one sound, the sound of a child laughing. The sound of children laughing can gladden at times even the hardest heart. At any elementary school, you can hear that sound exploding like a bright sun on a soft spring morning. It is often lyrical, giddy, uncontrolled, charged – feeding off itself.

It is the most fascinating thing to watch. Parents can spend hours, as my wife and I often do, just watching and listening as their children laugh and play. It can be a pure release of joy. To listen to the sound of a child laughing is to listen to the sound of birth, joy and creation all rolled up into one.

In some cases, though far too few, these workers do turn children's crying into laughter. Too often, they are the ones who pull children out of certain death. Speak to any of them and you will find that the reward they seek the most is to hear that laughter, a sound more moving and more profound than any symphony.

I know that I could not face such heinous cases. I appreciate these people. I am grateful that I have had an opportunity to work with some of them at the state's Child Protective Services and at private agencies like Buckner Children and Family Services. These are two of many agencies that work to heal children and families.

This month as you hear the announcements about child abuse prevention, see what you can do to learn about child abuse and its prevention. But, also keep in mind the people who face this every day, not just in April.

The two sounds which touch me the most come from the same source. It is a irony which always troubles me. Those two sounds strike so keenly into the depths of my heart that I can often be hypnotized by them.

If there is one thing by which to define ourselves, our communities, our schools, our churches, our country, it would be by this: How often do we turn our children's crying to joyous laughter?

Arnoldo Mata is a free-lance writer based in McAllen.

Welfare reform: Old poverty with new, improved packaging

This is a "doom and gloom" commentary. Make no mistake about that.

I generally have a very optimistic outlook on the future and am not given to gloom-and-doom predictions.

However, when the welfare legislation was being

developed, red

flags started popping up and sirens began to wail in the social service community.

For the last year, the social service community has been frantically trying to get people of good sense, and even politicians, to understand the tremendous impact the welfare reform will have. Their pleas have largely fallen on deaf ears.

Faced with a mounting deficit, Republicans and Democrats had



**ARNALDO
MATA**

COMMENTARY

several options: raise taxes (a definite re-election bomb), find the waste and eliminate it (a hard job that wins no elections) or cut people off programs without really affecting the budget. Given that the bulk of the budget is tied up in defense and the big entitlement programs (Social Security and Medicare), the welfare cuts will hardly register on the budget.

With the reports of fraud in farm subsidy programs, defense spending and congressional salaries, real savings could have been gleaned from those. Still, that would have entailed hard work and braving the wrath of powerful lobbies. Better to hurt poor people who don't have powerful lobbyists. Throw them off food stamps. They don't vote anyway.

Nonetheless, the impact is starting to show up.

The potential for South Texas is enormous. Welfare reform has the potential of being worse than the peso devaluations. Unlike a peso devaluation where the shoppers eventually come back once the exchange rate stabilizes, food

stamp dollars once lost do not come back.

The Texas Department of Human Services estimates that the cut in food stamps will mean a loss of approximately \$47,221,418 in the four-county area. Hidalgo County will take the largest hit, with \$27,693,948 to be lost.

This is only a look at one program. DHS has not provided data on how much other cuts will cost the area economy. According to DHS, 322,316 people in the four-county area receive food stamps. Legal permanent residents are 55,280 of the total receiving food stamps, or 17 percent of the total.

The majority of people being kicked off food stamps are LPRs. Starr County has the highest percentage of LPRs at 25 percent, with Willacy the lowest at 9 percent. Hidalgo County rolls include 17 percent LPRs and Cameron County food stamp rolls includes 15 percent LPRs. In all, the four counties receive \$267,655,833 in food stamp money.

Most people think off food stamp reductions as something that won't affect them. Think again. Any time money stops coming into the regional economy, regardless of its source, it will affect you. It will affect everyone in the area. The welfare reform means an economic downturn for the Valley.

If it is true, as the economic development people claim, that each dollar spent gets multiplied seven times in the local economy, then the \$47-plus million in food stamps is really of third of a billion dollars for the local economy. What will happen when we start to lose one third of a billion dollars from our economy?

Some will argue that people will still need to eat. True. But for poor families, having the need to eat is not the same thing as having the means to buy food. Once those \$330-plus million are pulled out of the economy, no one else is going to step in with more money. If the poor don't have the money today, they aren't going to magically find it next year.

The first to feel it will be the

grocery stores. The current boom in new grocery stores will come to a slow halt. Many of the smaller stores will begin to shut down as competition will become tighter for fewer grocery dollars. The major chains will start to trim back. As jobs start to disappear in the grocery stores, other industries will start to cut back, too.

DHS faces its own mortality here. With a 17 percent cutback in the number of people who are eligible to receive benefits, expect at least a 20 percent-25 percent cut in DHS workers at some point in the future. The same holds true for other agencies.

Like it or not, social services are an important part of our economy. Welfare recipients — and the industries that serve them — are merely conduits for money. People don't eat the money they get from the government. They spend it. They spend it buying goods and services. Poor people just have less to spend. However, the economy reacts the same to the loss of money flowing in, whether it is from a freeze, a peso devaluation

or a food stamp reduction.

Some will say, "I'm willing to suffer a little to cut taxes and the deficit." That's a noble thought until it's your job being cut or your company seeing a drop in revenues.

One of the harder truths to face is that the welfare reform cuts will have very little impact on the budget or the deficit. The cuts will not decrease your taxes or the deficit. With the demands for a new missile system, the savings will be absorbed by the Pentagon. The hardest truth to face will be the human impact.

In an election year, welfare reform took a life of its own. The promise to end welfare as we know it should have really been a promise to end poverty as we know it. Welfare reform erases the effects of poverty off the national budget, not the cause of poverty. For thousands of families in South Texas, all the promises from the Republicans and Democrats are as trustworthy as the peso.

Arnoldo Mata is a freelance writer based in McAllen.

EDUCATION

McAllen ISD Board Votes Down 2% Teacher Pay Raise Proposal After Extended Discussion, Approves \$1,000 Increase For Teachers

JUN 24, 2026



Share



McAllen ISD, Board of Trustees, Compensation Plan, Teacher Pay, Budget, McAllen TX Staff Report

Arnoldo Mata

McAllen TX - The McAllen Independent School District Board of Trustees rejected proposal Tuesday night to increase teacher salaries by 2% before ultimately approving

the administration's recommended 1.5% raise, equivalent to \$1,000 for all teachers, after an extended debate that stretched through closed session and into the night.

The exchange produced the meeting's most spirited discussion and revealed a board divided between its desire to do more for employees and its concerns about long-term fiscal sustainability.

The Proposal

Trustee Erica de la Garza-Lopez opened the debate by delivering a lengthy prepared statement calling for a higher investment in district employees, moving to approve 2% salary increase for teachers, a 3% increase for support staff, and a 1% increase for administrators, at a total cost of approximately \$5.8 million, \$1.6 million more than administration's recommended \$4.2 million compensation plan.

"Our McAllen ISD employees are the backbone of this district," Garza-Lopez said. "Every achievement we celebrate, every student success story, every academic gain, every championship, every scholarship, and every graduation that we all celebrated this month begins with the dedicated work of the people serving our students every day."

She acknowledged the district's structural deficit but argued the board has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to manage through budget amendments and address financial realities as they arise. "If we have ways to cover expenditures beyond our adopted budget in recent years, then I have faith that we can find a way to invest an additional 1.6 million in the people who directly impact our student success every day."

The trustee also pointed to the district's recent \$335 million bond approval as evidence of community confidence. "Our community sent a clear message when they approved this bond. They believe in McAllen ISD. They believe in investing in our future. And now we have an opportunity to invest in the people who make that future possible every single day," she said.

Garza-Lopez closed the statement with an appeal to the board. “Our buildings don’t educate our children. Our people do. And our community just approved \$335 million to invest in our facilities. Tonight, I ask that we make a stronger investment in the teachers and the staff who bring those facilities to life.”

Trustee Sophia Pena seconded the motion.

The Concern

Trustee Roberto A. Haddad expressed support for higher pay in principle but immediately raised fiscal concerns. “I couldn’t agree more with everything you said and I believe our teachers deserve a 35% raise,” Haddad said. “But I do have concern because a \$1.6 million is not a one-year hit. It’s a pay raise. It’s a structural deficit and we’re already at a \$2.9 million structural deficit.”

Haddad asked Deputy Superintendent Lorena Garcia to confirm the impact of several compounding financial obligations heading into the next fiscal year, including the loss of maintenance tax note interest earnings used to cover a \$2 million payment this year and a \$2 million health plan reserve. “So we’re looking at five, six, seven, eight, nine million potential structural deficit without any changes going into next year,” Haddad said.

Procedural Question and Tabling

Deputy Superintendent Garcia raised a procedural concern, noting the district had already completed required budget postings and a public hearing. She suggested that if the board wanted to increase teacher pay beyond the recommended amount, the cleaner approach would be to adopt the budget as presented and bring the increase back as an amendment in August, when teachers would not yet have seen the pay reflected in their checks regardless.

Superintendent Dr. Rene Gutierrez added, “The teachers will not see this raise until their September check,” Garcia noted.

Gutierrez then asked legal counsel whether the discussion could be taken to closed session for guidance from legal counsel. The board agreed, and Garza-Lopez rescinded the motion before the board voted to table items 7C4 and 7C5 and enter closed session.

Post-Closed Session Vote

When the board returned to open session, Garza-Lopez renewed the motion. “Madam Chair, I move that we approve a 2% salary increase for teachers, a 3% salary increase for support staff, and a 1% salary increase for administrators at a total cost of approximately \$5.8 million. The difference between the recommendation and this proposal is approximately \$1.6 million.”

Trustee Pena seconded the motion again.

Trustee Robert J. Carreon expressed admiration for the proposal but said it could not yet support it without a concrete plan showing how the additional cost would be sustained. “I have reservations about increasing the fund balance access for an additional increase without clarity for how we will make that sustainable in the long term,” Carreon said. “I can get to that place if I could see, over the course of the next month, the next six weeks, the next eight weeks, some plan that would show how through a reduction through attrition, we may be able to make up the difference of that additional cost in a way that does not encumber the district for the long term.”

Carreon then praised Garza-Lopez’s approach. “I love the idea. I love the thinking that you put into this. I love the way that you have sparked this conversation among us as a way of showing to our staff and our team our appreciation. I’m just trying to balance that with the fiduciary responsibility of tight budgets in public school districts.”

Haddad echoed that position, asking whether the 2% raise would automatically trigger increases to the equity pay adjustments for counselors and librarians previously discussed. After administration confirmed it would, Board President Lucia Regalado

said she could revisit the question with a concrete plan in hand. “I would like to see concrete plan with measurables so that we can know that when we make these decisions, we’re doing so responsibly,”

Trustee Pena said. “I think that we also need to make known that trying to get there and give more might mean that we have to tighten our belts come Christmas time, come the future, maybe no raises next year.”

Garza-Lopez then pointed to the dramatic rise in inflation that is affecting all staff. “There’s been what we have right now 4% as of April inflation rate, half of that half percent of that was just since May. We’ve seen the increase in gasoline and energy cost, and that half percent makes makes a difference for families. It’s not like it’s a one-time retention payment that we do in Christmas. Maybe that’s something that reconsider and we don’t do that, but I think that our teachers and our staff need relief now, They need it consistently in their paychecks, not just \$500 at Christmas.”

Trustee Aaron D. Rivera expressed full support for the 2% proposal. “Right now it doesn’t seem tough because you’re trimming, trimming, trimming, but hey, you’ve done it before and we trust you,” he said.

The vote on the amended 2% motion failed 3-4.

Carreon then moved to approve the compensation plan as originally presented by administration, including the \$1,000 raise for all teachers, 3% for hourly employees, and 1% for administrators. The motion passed 7-0.

[← Previous](#)

[Next →](#)

Discussion about this post

[Comments](#) [Restacks](#)



Write a comment...

© 2026 McAllen News Tribune · [Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Collection notice](#)
[Substack](#) is the home for great culture

EDUCATION

McAllen ISD Trustees Hear Concerns Over Recess, School Nutrition, Student Wellness and Employee Morale

MAY 18, 2026



Share

**Arnoldo Mata**

McAllen, TX - While much of last week's McAllen ISD Board of Trustees meeting focused on the district's newly approved bond program, several other agenda items revealed growing community concerns about elementary school culture, student wellness, campus safety and employee satisfaction across the district.

Parents, medical professionals, district administrators and trustees spent significant time discussing recess policies, silent lunches, nutrition concerns, vaping prevention

and employee morale, offering a detailed look at the pressures facing one of the Rio Grande Valley's largest school districts.

Parents push back on “silent lunches” and recess restrictions

The meeting's public comment section was dominated by parents criticizing elementary school lunch and recess practices, particularly structured seating arrangements, reduced playtime and the use of recess as discipline.

Chelsea Gossett, a parent of three McAllen ISD students, argued that students are spending too much time sedentary during the school day.

“Eight hours out of the day, our kids are only receiving 20 minutes of recess,” Gossett told trustees. “I would like no more silent lunches. It sounds like prison.”

Sherilyn Velasquez, who said she volunteered at Perez Elementary more than 55 times this school year, described tightly controlled lunchroom conditions she personally observed.

“Students currently sit in single-file rows facing the backs of their peers, often forced in boy-girl order,” Velasquez said. “They're frequently required to eat in silence, and when finished must put their heads down.”

She also claimed students were being forced to “earn” recess through running laps and sometimes threatened with loss of playtime for talking.

Pediatrician Priscilla Alvarez warned trustees that limiting recess and increasing rigid school structures may worsen mental health challenges among children.

“Recess is not just free time,” Alvarez said. “It is a critical part of childhood development.” Alvarez cited research from the American Academy of Pediatrics linking recess to improved emotional regulation, academic performance and physical health. “If we truly want healthy, successful students, we must support the whole

child,” she said. “Let us make sure that children are allowed to be children and enjoy their childhood.”

District defends current structure but leaves door open for adjustments

In response, Associate Superintendent Janet Nino delivered a detailed presentation explaining the district’s elementary scheduling requirements and operational constraints.

Nino said all elementary campuses currently provide a minimum of 20 minutes of recess, separate from physical education classes, and emphasized that PE time cannot legally replace recess under Texas Education Agency standards. She stressed that the district already reduced the instructional day by 25 minutes this school year while still maintaining state academic requirements.

“Twenty-five minutes doesn’t sound like a lot, but over 175 school days, that’s 76 hours of time,” Nino said. “We still have to teach the same, we still have to have the same instructional expectations, we’re just have to do it with less time.”

Nino denied that district policy allows recess to be taken away as punishment. “The legal does outline you cannot use recess as a form of any punishment,” she said.

Still, she acknowledged that district leaders are listening to parent concerns. “Is there something that we can get better at? Absolutely,” Nino said. “It’s not for us to close the door, but to listen and see how we can make things better.”

Trustee Roberto Haddad asked whether the district should consider extending recess or even lengthening the school day slightly to provide students with more play opportunities.

Nino responded cautiously, saying any increase in recess would require additional staffing and significant operational planning.

“The staff buy-in is critical for any adjustment,” she said. “Ten minutes doesn’t sound like a lot, 20 minutes doesn’t sound like a lot, but it matters.”

Nutrition concerns continue surfacing

Nutrition criticism also resurfaced during public comments, continuing a months-long discussion over student meals and sugar content in school breakfasts.

Parent Herschel Patel displayed a strawberry oatmeal chia breakfast bar while criticizing what he called excessive sugar levels in district breakfasts. “This little guy packs 230 calories and 24 grams of sugar,” Patel said. “This is what 60 grams of sugar looks like.”

Patel accused the district of failing to communicate menu changes to parents and argued that breakfast offerings continue producing unhealthy sugar spikes for students. “Sixty grams of sugar is not breakfast,” he said.

Later in the meeting, district wellness officials acknowledged that nutrition standards remain an area targeted for improvement. Sonia Esquivel, presenting as part of the district’s School Health Advisory Council report, said child nutrition staff are working to expand scratch cooking recipes and improve food quality.

Trustee Robert Carreon asked whether future nutrition initiatives would include measurable standards for food quality improvements.

“That is the next level of work,” administrators responded.

School safety and vaping concerns highlighted

Another major theme throughout the meeting involved student safety and vaping prevention efforts.

Former McAllen ISD counselor and parent Aisha Gonzalez urged trustees to consider increasing police staffing on campuses. “Our teachers already carry so much,”

Gonzalez said. “They deserve to focus on teaching and caring for our children without constantly carrying the weight of safety concerns on their shoulders.”

Gonzalez suggested a goal of assigning one police officer for every 500 students.

Later in the meeting, district police and wellness officials outlined expanded presentations addressing vaping, underage drinking, cyberbullying and social media safety.

Police Chief Victor Silva said the district conducted dozens of student presentations this year, including 44 focused on vaping and 56 addressing threats and campus safety.

“We get very creative as to how we do the presentations,” Silva said.

Trustees also discussed reviving more visible anti-drug awareness programs similar to the former D.A.R.E. model and placing additional informational materials in student restrooms.

Employee morale survey shows improvement

District officials also presented results from the annual employee opinion survey, which showed broad improvement in staff morale and satisfaction scores compared to the previous year.

The survey, completed by more than 1,500 employees, found gains in nearly every category, including communication, work-life balance, leadership confidence and school culture.

One of the largest increases involved employee confidence in district leadership. “Communication with the school board about policy and decisions is clear and timely” increased from 3.24 to 3.80 on the district’s five-point scale, while satisfaction with board and superintendent performance rose from 3.14 to 3.66.

Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Alberto Canales credited collaboration with teacher groups and efforts to improve transparency. “We’ve been really transparent with our teachers,” Canales said.

Still, compensation and benefits remained among the district’s weaker-rated categories, though those scores also improved modestly from the previous year.

Strategic planning underway

Administrators also updated trustees on development of a new district strategic plan involving parents, teachers, students and community stakeholders.

Canales said the district has already conducted multiple planning sessions and SWOT analyses focused on district strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. “We’re involving our communities,” Canales said. “We’ve had two community meetings which involved parents, teachers, district leadership.”

District leaders said future meetings will focus on finalizing strategic objectives and a “balanced scorecard” system designed to track district performance metrics more publicly.

[← Previous](#)

[Next →](#)

Discussion about this post

[Comments](#) [Restacks](#)



Write a comment...

© 2026 McAllen News Tribune · [Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Collection notice](#)
[Substack](#) is the home for great culture

CITY

McAllen, Edinburg based Texas House races show differing campaign fundraising



MCALLEN NEWS TRIBUNE

FEB 01, 2026



2



Share

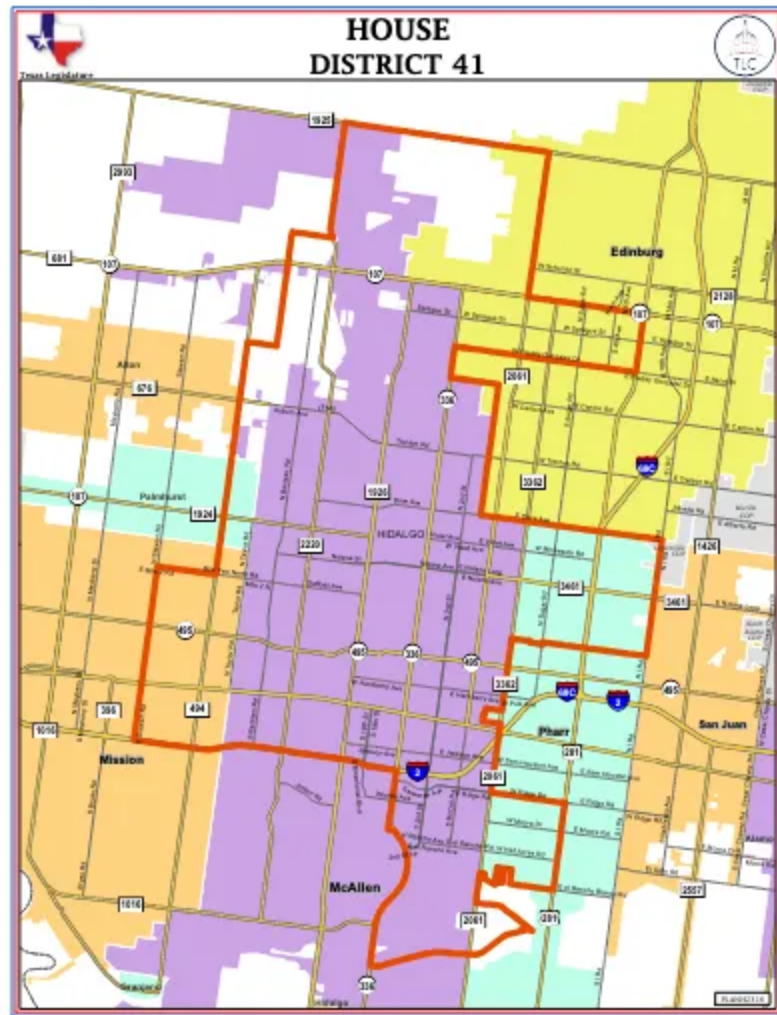


Photo above: The Texas House of Representatives. Photo by Austin Price, The Texas Tribune.

Arnoldo Mata

Edinburg, TX - Newly filed campaign finance reports reveal sharp contrasts in fundraising and cash on hand among candidates running in two South Texas House districts ahead of the March primaries, with an open-seat contest in House District drawing heavier financial activity than the largely quiet race in House District 40.

District 41



In Texas House District 41, the seat is open following the decision by Democratic s Rep. Bobby Guerra not to seek reelection. The district is based primarily in McAlle and extends into parts of Edinburg, Pharr and Mission.

On the Democratic side, Victor “Seby” Haddad reported the strongest fundraising totals in the race. Haddad reported \$174,295.91 in political contributions during the reporting period from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2025, and ended the year with \$216,280.98 in cash on hand and no outstanding loans.

Democratic candidate Eric Holguín reported \$21,544.86 in political contributions during the reporting period from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2025, and ended the year w

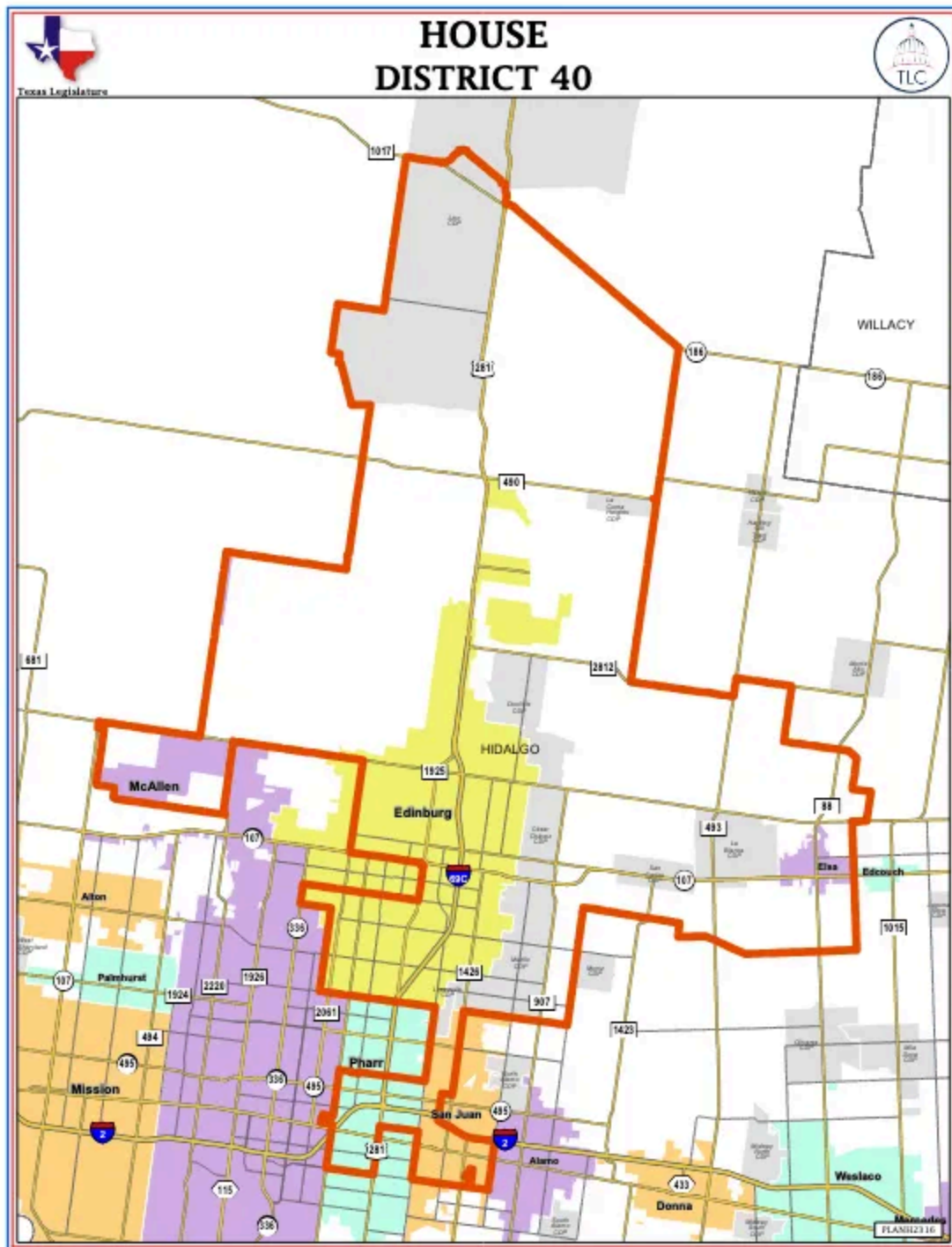
\$5,488.04 in cash on hand and \$25,000.00 in outstanding loans..

Julio Mauricio Salinas, also running in the Democratic primary, reported \$68,491.31 political contributions and \$41,715.25 in cash on hand, with no outstanding loans.

Republican candidates in District 41 reported more modest fundraising totals. Gary Groves reported \$18,338.70 in contributions and \$21,528.25 in cash on hand, along with \$26,250 in outstanding loans. Sarah Sagredo-Hammond reported \$68,182.61 in political contributions and \$48,001.22 in cash on hand. Sergio Sanchez reported \$60 in political contributions, \$2,022.19 in cash on hand, and \$21,000 in outstanding loans.

District 40

Texas House District 40 is based primarily in Edinburg and includes portions of northeast McAllen, Pharr and San Juan.



Democratic incumbent Terry Canales is seeking reelection and faces no primary opposition. Canales reported \$48,750 in political contributions during the reporting period and ended with \$282,898.54 in cash on hand and no outstanding loans.

Republican challengers in District 40 reported limited campaign activity. Celeste Cabrera-Huff reported \$4,718.53 in political contributions and \$7,307.82 in cash on

hand. Vangela Churchill reported \$697.92 in contributions and \$94.30 in cash on hand. Nehemias Gomez reported no political contributions or cash on hand and disclosed \$2,680 in outstanding loans.

Campaign finance reports provide a snapshot of fundraising and spending but may reflect late or amended filings submitted after the reporting deadline. Additional disclosures are expected as the primary election approaches.

Source -- Texas Ethics Commission.



2 Likes

← Previous

Next →

Discussion about this post

Comments Restacks



Write a comment...



Positive Valley News

[\(https://valleybusinessreport.com/\)](https://valleybusinessreport.com/)

News

[\(https://valleybusinessreport.com/news/\)](https://valleybusinessreport.com/news/) ▾

Calendar

[\(/events\)](#)

Contact ▾

Profiles ▾

Business Advice

Never Stop Practicing, Practicing

By: Arnoldo Mata (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/author/arnoldo/>)

SEARCH



(https://i0.wp.com/f8f5899316.nxcli.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/training-2874597_1920.jpg?ssl=1)Any skill that is important to you – from simple writing skills to complex negotiation skills – needs to be practiced, and practiced even when you don't need it.

While people say that practice makes perfect, I prefer a different quote: “Don’t practice until you get it right; practice until you can’t get it wrong.”

You know who Michael Jordan is, the winner of six NBA championships. After winning three championships in a row, the vaunted “three-peat,” Jordan retired from basketball. However, he didn’t really retire. He went to play baseball. It was one of the first sports he played as youngster.

Signup for e-Brief

Sign up for our weekly VBR e-Brief newsletter to receive the latest business news, opinion, and updates from across the Rio Grande Valley.

** indicates required*

SUBSCRIBE

After reaching the pinnacle of success in basketball, he decided to return to a sport he loved. As it turns out, that baseball career was not championship caliber. While he was a great athlete, his baseball skills had been dormant for decades. In a sense, he had not practiced them enough to be able to readily access them. After about two years in the minor leagues, he returned to basketball.

The strange thing is that, upon his return to basketball, he was really rusty. Even a two-year absence was too long. Shots he might have easily made two years earlier seemed too hard for him. Some said he was too old to return. He had lost his touch.

But, Jordan did the only thing he could do. He returned to his practice routines. He practiced the simple things, the basics, things that he had stopped thinking about. How to dribble, how to pass, how to pivot, how to handle the ball, how to jump, how to shoot. For all I know, maybe he was even practicing how to hang out his tongue.

After a while, he started getting back to his old form. Returning to his practice routine, Jordan eventually surpassed his previous level of performance, considering the longevity of his career. He went on to earn three more titles.

The problem Jordan fell into was believing that having mastered baseball at one time was enough to gain success in the ballpark. He had let those skills go too long. In effect, he had been so long away from baseball that his body had forgotten those skills. While he had been away from basketball for two years, it was easier to get those skills back.

What are you good at? Public speaking, presentations, planning, writing, forecasting? You need to practice them over and over again, and keep practicing, even after that. There is a reason why the military, police, firefighters and other first-responders keep practicing the same drills over and over again. As the quote at the beginning of this article points out, they practice until they can't get it wrong.

Mostly, we think of skills as things we need for work. But, we also have skills we need in our personal relationships, with family and friends. From communication to being punctual to exercise to keeping the house clean – those are all skills we need to keep practicing.

Decide which skills are really important to you. Keep practicing them until they just come naturally to you. Put in the hard work every day.



Arnoldo Mata heads Leadership Resource Group and has more than 30 years of experience in leadership training and development. Leadership Resource Group works with nonprofits, governments and private businesses on strategic planning projects that provide focus and direction for organizational growth. He also provides training and services in creativity and ideation.

<http://www.arnoldomata.com> (<http://www.arnoldomata.com>) <https://twitter.com/arnoldomata>

View all posts by Arnoldo Mata →
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/author/arnoldo/>)

Most Popular

- 
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/go-fly-a-kite/>)
Let's Go Fly a Kite
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/go-fly-a-kite/>)
- 
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/airports-take-flight-with-growth/>)
RGV Airports
Take Flight With
Growth
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/airports-take-flight-with-growth/>)
- 
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/entertainment/iced-cube/>)
Custom Raspas
for a New Age
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/entertainment/iced-cube/>)
- 
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tout-956-culture-pride/>)
Merchandisers
Tout 956 Culture
& Pride
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tout-956-culture-pride/>)
- 
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/clark/>)
Clark Shapes Clay
into a Business
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/clark/>)

Comments

< BBQ Joints Listed Among Best in Texas
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/industry/food-entertainment/rgv-bbq-best-in-texas/>)

Mentors Increase Small Business Success >
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/business-advice/mentors-increase-small-business-success/>)

Tags

McAllen
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/mc-allen/>)
| Brownsville
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/brownsville/>)
| Harlingen
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/harlingen/>)
| Edinburg
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/edinburg/>)
| Weslaco
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/weslaco/>)
| South Texas College
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/south-texas-college/>)
| Mission
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/mission/>)
| Pharr
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/pharr/>)
| South Padre Island
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/south-padre-island/>)
| UTRGV
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/utrgv/>)
| Port of Brownsville
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/port-of-brownsville/>)
| Mercedes
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/mercedes/>)
| STC
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/stc/>)
| VIDA
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/vida/>)
| Valley Initiative for
Development and
Advancement
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/valley-initiative-for-development-and-advancement/>)
| Texas
Southmost College
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/southmost-college/>)
| Texas
Workforce Commission
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/workforce-commission/>)
| SBA
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/sba/>)
| Edinburg Chamber of
Commerce
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/edinburg-chamber-of-commerce/>)
| McAllen Chamber of Commerce
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/mc-allen-chamber-of-commerce/>)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO RECEIVE 12 PRINT ISSUES MAILED TO YOU FOR ONLY \$30 (/subscribe-to-vbr/)



Quick Links

News
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/news/>)
Business
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/industry/>)
Community
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/community/>)
Profiles
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/profiles/>)
Calendar (/events)
Subscribe to VBR
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/sul-to-vbr/>)
Sign Up for e-Brief (/e-brief_subscribe/)

Welcome

Welcome to Valley Business Report! The editorial philosophy of this publication is to provide local professional business news for Rio Grande Valley business executives, professionals and community leaders.

Advertise With Us!
(<https://f8f5899316.nxcli.net/advertise>)

Contact Us

Mercedes, TX 78570
(956) 310-8953 (tel:1-956-310-8953)
info@valleybusinessreport.com
(mailto:info@valleybusinessreport.com)

Social Media



(<https://www.facebook.com/valley>)



Positive Valley News

[\(https://valleybusinessreport.com/\)](https://valleybusinessreport.com/)

News

[\(https://valleybusinessreport.com/news/\)](https://valleybusinessreport.com/news/) ▾

Calendar

[\(/events\)](#)

Contact ▾

Profiles ▾

Business Advice

Real Leaders Find Solutions

By: Arnoldo Mata (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/author/arnoldo/>)



(<https://i0.wp.com/f8f5899316.nxcli.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/solution.jpg?ssl=1>) We often see leaders as people who take action, and that is certainly part of leadership. But, action in and of itself is not leadership. Real leadership comes when someone offers a real solution.

Anyone can take action at any time. Worse, people often act out of a need to do something, anything. This is just reflexive action, something done without much thought. Reflexive action is done out of frustration. It is done without a solution behind it.

Search ...

SEARCH

Signup for e-Brief

Sign up for our weekly VBR e-Brief newsletter to receive the latest business news, opinion, and updates from across the Rio Grande Valley.

Email Address *

First Name *

Last Name *

** indicates required*

SUBSCRIBE

In a real crisis or emergency, we all act reflexively, sometimes doing the very first thing that comes into our head, perhaps even the very thing we should not do.

Every organization finds itself facing some challenges along the way. Their response will tell you if there is real leadership at the helm.

Roger Smith was chairman and CEO of General Motors Corporation from 1981 to 1990, and is widely known as the main subject of Michael Moore's 1989 documentary film "Roger & Me." I've never seen the film, so I don't speak from that perspective. However, under Smith's leadership, GM's share of the U.S. market fell from 46 percent to 35 percent, and the company was close to bankruptcy during the early 1990s recession. Of course, Smith inherited many of the problems he faced. The company had failed to keep up with technology and responded poorly to several issues.

Smith decided that GM needed to transform itself to be competitive, proposing some initiatives that were radical for the company and the industry. He consolidated divisions, formed what could have been strategic joint ventures with Japanese and Korean automakers, launched the Saturn division, invested heavily in technological automation and robotics, and attempted to change the company's culture. With good reason, Smith had a real sense of urgency, but he failed to address the fundamental problem of a company that was not really responding to what the customers wanted and needed. Of course, there is more to the story than I can discuss here, but the great convulsion of initiatives was never well thought out nor well executed.

How badly were some of the proposed solutions implemented? In one case, in one of the automated factories robots were painting each other instead of painting the cars. Other robots were welding doors shut. The development of these new factories had been so fast that they did not have time to work all the bugs out before they started trying to build cars there.

The company lost hundreds of experienced executives and engineers as the situation grew worse and worse.

As a leadership example, however, Smith's actions were empty actions. None of those came with real solutions attached to them. There was a real sense across GM that the building was on fire, but there was no real sense of how to get everyone out of the building. The board wanted action. The shareholders wanted action. And Smith gave them action. Smith just didn't see the solution.

While we want and expect action from our leaders, we really want solutions. That is the hard part of leadership, crafting a solution. But, it is a necessary element of leadership.

I learned, from my wife, one principal's approach to addressing problems. Her principal told her, "I don't mind you bringing me problems, but I expect you to come with a solution for me to consider. Don't just bring me problems." It's easy to point to problems. We all do that. We don't all come up with solutions.

Anyone can take action. No real thought is required. But solutions demand hard thought and work. It takes longer to understand the problem and come to a solution, but that is the only way to get to real solutions. What we really need is solutions leaders, not just action leaders.

Most Popular

1



(<https://valleybusinessre go-fly-a-kite/>)

Let's Go Fly a Kite
(<https://valleybusi go-fly-a-kite/>)

2



(<https://valleybusinessre airports-take-flight-with-growth/>)

RGV Airports
Take Flight With
Growth
(<https://valleybusi airports-take-flight-with-growth/>)

3



(<https://valleybusinessre entertainment/iced-cube/>)

Custom Raspas
for a New Age
(<https://valleybusi entertainment/ice cube/>)

4



(<https://valleybusinessre tout-956-culture-pride/>)

Merchandisers
Tout 956 Culture
& Pride
(<https://valleybusi tout-956-culture-pride/>)

5



(<https://valleybusinessre clark/>)

Clark Shapes Clay
into a Business
(<https://valleybusi clark/>)



Arnoldo Mata heads Leadership Resource Group and has more than 30 years of experience in leadership training and development. Leadership Resource Group works with nonprofits, governments and private businesses on strategic planning projects that provide focus and direction for organizational growth. He also provides training and services in creativity and ideation.

<http://www.arnoldomata.com> (<http://www.arnoldomata.com>) <https://twitter.com/arnoldomata>

View all posts by Arnoldo Mata →
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/author/arnoldo/>)

Comments

< Downhome Goodness Served Here (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/industry/food-entertainment/longhorn/>)

Changing Lives with Music > (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/industry/healthcare/music-therapy-and-wellness-center/>)

Tags

McAllen (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/mc-allen/>)
Brownsville (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/brownsville/>)
Harlingen (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/harlingen/>)
Edinburg (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/edinburg/>)
Weslaco (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/weslaco/>)
South Texas College (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/south-texas-college/>)
Mission (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/mission/>)
Pharr (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/pharr/>)
South Padre Island (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/south-padre-island/>)
UTRGV (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/utrgv/>)
Port of Brownsville (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/port-of-brownsville/>)
Mercedes (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/mercedes/>)
STC (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/stc/>)
VIDA (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/vida/>)
Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/valley-initiative-for-development-and-advancement/>)
Texas Southmost College (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/texas-southmost-college/>)
Texas Workforce Commission (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/texas-workforce-commission/>)
SBA (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/sba/>)
Edinburg Chamber of Commerce (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/edinburg-chamber-of-commerce/>)
McAllen Chamber of Commerce (<https://valleybusinessreport.com/tags/mc-allen-chamber-of-commerce/>)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO RECEIVE 12 PRINT ISSUES MAILED TO YOU FOR ONLY \$30 (/subscribe-to-vbr/)



Quick Links

News
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/news/>)
Business
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/industry/>)
Community
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/community/>)
Profiles
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/profiles/>)
Calendar (/events)
Subscribe to VBR
(<https://valleybusinessreport.com/sul-to-vbr/>)
Sign Up for e-Brief (/e-brief_subscribe/)

Welcome

Welcome to Valley Business Report! The editorial philosophy of this publication is to provide local professional business news for Rio Grande Valley business executives, professionals and community leaders.

Advertise With Us!
(<https://f8f5899316.nxcli.net/advertise>)

Contact Us

Mercedes, TX 78570
(956) 310-8953 (tel:1-956-310-8953)
info@valleybusinessreport.com
(mailto:info@valleybusinessreport.com)

Social Media



(<https://www.facebook.com/valley>)