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degree in Higher Education Administration from Texas Tech University. He resides with his family in McAllen and has three children enrolled in McAllen Independent School District. He also serves as the Vice President of the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley.

- **Jessica Ochoa:** Mrs. Ochoa has called the Rio Grande Valley home for more than 20 years and is a proud La Joya ISD parent with two children currently attending La Joya ISD schools. She is passionate about positively impacting her community and providing an excellent example of civic engagement for her children. In her free time, Mrs. Ochoa enjoys exploring new places, volunteering in the community, and spending time with her extended family and friends. She is a graduate of the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin and holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.

The members of the Board of Managers will be responsible for governing La Joya ISD, and they will provide the leadership needed to work towards positive change and effective governance for the district. Accordingly, with this appointment of a Board of Managers, the powers of the district's Board of Trustees are HEREBY SUSPENDED until further notice and for the duration of the tenure of the Board of Managers.<sup>2</sup>

State law also requires that I appoint a superintendent.<sup>3</sup> Under that authority, I hereby appoint Dr. Marcey Sorensen as the Superintendent of Schools of the La Joya Independent School District, effective immediately and with the full authority, rights, and responsibilities as permitted under the Texas Education Code.

Dr. Sorensen is a passionate educator, leader, and advocate for students. She most recently served as Deputy Superintendent for the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and focused chiefly on initiatives surrounding learning acceleration, early literacy, and special education. Prior to that, she spent a number of years in the Fort Worth Independent School District as the district's Chief Academic Officer and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, during which time the district saw significant academic improvements. Beyond that, Dr. Sorensen has a lengthy track record of success in multiple roles in K-12 public education, including as a long-tenured principal and social studies teacher. Dr. Sorensen's experience as an academic leader and in improving academic performance will provide valuable new leadership for the students and community of La Joya ISD.

I wish the new superintendent and Board of Managers all my best. It is my sincere hope that all parties work together in a cooperative and productive manner to address the systemic board and administrative issues identified in the Final Report and create a culture of ethical and effective governance with an unrelenting focus on improving student outcomes.

Sincerely,



Mike Morath  
Commissioner of Education

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<sup>2</sup> TEC §39A.202(a)(1).

<sup>3</sup> TEC §39A.202(a)(2).