

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees  
El Paso Independent School District  
May 24, 2001  
3:30 p.m.  
Education Center-Boeing

Present: Mr. Dan Wever, President  
Dr. Gene Finke, Vice President  
Miss Leonor Garcia, Secretary  
Mr. Sal Mena, Jr.<sup>1</sup>  
Dr. Charles Roark<sup>2</sup>  
Mr. Joe Rosales<sup>3</sup>  
Dr. Gilberto Anzaldua, Superintendent

Absent: Mr. Richard Telles

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m. by Mr. Wever.

Presentation by Administration Regarding Ninth Grade Success Initiative Grant and Implementation; Presentation by Vendors Pertaining to Possible Expenditures of Ninth Grade Success Initiative Grant Funds; and Possible Follow Up Action by the Board of Trustees (Item #1)

Ms. Marsha Lawler, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (CI&A), provided information on her recent conversation with members of the monitoring team from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in Austin, Texas, regarding the District's financial difficulties with the Ninth Grade Success Initiative grant.

Arrival of Board Members

Mr. Mena arrived at 3:40 p.m. and Mr. Rosales arrived at 3:42 p.m.

Ms. Lawler explained the instructions on restructuring the response to the audit report, which will include the financial aspect, with journal ledger pages; assurances on TEA requirements; and an amendment describing the program to date. In addition, Ms. Lawler proposed a plan for the District to commit to a summer school program for eligible eighth graders and the completion of the technology component of the grant prior to the cessation of grant funds.

There was discussion on the \$5.9 million value of the original grant award; the projected total amount of \$750,000.00 to be spent by the District by August 31, 2001; and submitting a request for reconsideration to the TEA to allow the District to expend \$1.5 million in grant funds that will be available through August 31, 2001.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Mena arrived at 3:42 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Roark departed at 5:00 p.m.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Rosales arrived at 3:40 p.m.

Ms. Lawler provided a chronology of events beginning with the initial grant application through the award of the grant. She reviewed the “term” timetable used by TEA compared to the “semester” timetable used by EPISD, which compounded the District’s problems with the grant. In addition, Ms. Lawler provided information on the process and procedures that should be followed on grant applications and presented a model used for the Governor’s Reading Initiative, which will serve as a model to be used for future grants.

The following people requested to speak to this item:

1. Ms. Jean Haverstick and Ms. Melinda Cook, Classroom Connect®, made a presentation on Classroom Connect® and the program being a possible solution for the Ninth Grade Success Initiative grant funding.
2. Mr. Brent Lawson, Amherst, presented a proposal for laptop computers that would connect with the program previously presented.

Discussion followed on the District joining with the other school districts affected by timetables in this grant and working through state legislative officials to modify the rules; presenting additional proposed programs to TEA for additional funding from the grant; following a political approach on grant guidelines by contacting state legislators; and the Superintendent and Ms. Lawler contacting TEA to determine if additional programs will be allowed.

#### Departure of Board Member

Dr. Roark departed the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Finke clarified that the Superintendent and Ms. Lawler will contact TEA representatives regarding the possibility of expending additional funds in connection with the Ninth Grade Success Initiative grant and that this item be brought back to the Board at the next regular Board meeting on June 12, 2001.

#### Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Date Approved: July 10, 2001