

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
El Paso Independent School District
February 15, 2000
6:00 p.m.
Education Center-Boeing

Present Dr. Charles Roark, President
 Mrs. Ada Gonzalez-Peterson, Vice President¹
 Dr. Gene Finke
 Mr. Joe Rosales
 Mr. Dan Wever
 Dr. Gilberto Anzaldua, Superintendent
 Mr. Anthony Safi, School District Attorney

Absent: Mr. Richard Telles, Secretary

Vacancy: Trustee District 4

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Dr. Roark. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Finke.

Public Complaint – Ms. Amparo Huerta, et al., Regarding Band Director, Irvin High School (Item #1)

Dr. Roark reviewed the procedures governing the hearing of this public complaint by the Board of Trustees. The complaint was filed by Ms. Amparo Huerta, and several other parents, against Mr. Manuel Gamez, band director at Irvin High School. Both the administration and the complainants were allowed a total of 20 minutes each to present.

The complainants, Mr. Henry Bernadette, Ms. Teresa Ramos, Ms. Patricia Martinez, and Ms. Amparo Huerta, and Ms. Angelica Juarez Barill, attorney representing the complainants, presented concerns about alleged inappropriate behavior exhibited by Mr. Gamez to female students, the District's investigations into the allegations, and the possible violation of Board policy by Mr. Gamez for taking students to an "R" rated movie.

Mr. John Doran, Executive Director, Region 1, provided information on eight original allegations made by parents. An investigation was conducted, during which time Mr. Gamez was removed from the campus. Mr. Gamez was found to have made an error in judgment by attending the movie with the students and all other allegations were either unfounded or untrue. Mr. Gamez was then reinstated as the Irvin High School band director, and he received a memo outlining the findings of the investigation and the actions he was to take. Ten

¹ Mrs. Ada Gonzalez-Peterson arrived at 6:52, during discussion of Item #1.

additional allegations were then lodged against Mr. Gamez and an amended complaint was filed alleging retaliation against students following the filing of the initial complaint.

Another investigation was conducted into the new allegations. In addition, Mr. Paul Alsup, the District's Compliance Officer, investigated the retaliation charge and examined the investigations that had been conducted. Both investigations concluded that the allegations were basically unfounded.

Arrival of Board Member

Mrs. Gonzalez-Peterson arrived at 6:52 p.m. and was present to vote in any subsequent action by the Board of Trustees.

Following additional discussion, Mr. Gamez apologized for having taken the students to see the movie.

Meeting Closed

The meeting was recessed at 7:12 p.m. to a closed meeting by Dr. Roark under Section 551.071 for consultation with legal counsel.

The closed meeting was opened at 7:15 p.m. The closed meeting ended at 7:42 p.m.

Meeting Opened

The meeting was reassembled in Open Session at 7:45 p.m.

It was moved by Dr. Finke, seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez-Peterson, and carried unanimously that the Board accept the recommendation of the administration, and request that the Superintendent further reprimand Mr. Manuel Gamez such as placing an official letter of reprimand in his personnel file.

Meeting Recessed

The meeting was recessed at 8:06 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

Cancellation or Rescheduling of February 22, 2000, and April 11, 2000, Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees (Item #2)

It was the consensus of the Board that the February 22, 2000, and April 11, 2000, meetings of the Board of Trustees not be canceled or rescheduled.

Scheduling of Date to Interview Candidates for Position of Trustee District 4 (Item #3)

Dr. Anzaldua advised that three candidates submitted responses to the advertisement for the vacancy in Trustee District 4 and asked that the Board determine a date to interview candidates.

It was the consensus of the Board that interviews be held at Education Center-Boeing on Sunday, February 20, 2000, at 1 p.m.; and February 19, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. was designated as the alternate date in case any of the candidates object to interviews being conducted on Sunday.

Approval of District Goals (Item #4)

Dr. Anzaldua presented the proposed District goals, which were revised following his presentation at the February 8, 2000, Board meeting and input received by Board members. Following a review of the proposed goals, there was discussion on staff development and incorporating deferred maintenance and District facilities into the goals. It was the consensus of the Board that Dr. Anzaldua revise the proposed goals again and that they be placed on the agenda for the next regular Board meeting on February 22, 2000.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Date Approved: March 28, 2000