

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
El Paso Independent School District
October 23, 2001
4:00 p.m.
Education Center-Boeing

Present: Mr. Dan Wever, President¹
Dr. Gene Finke, Vice President
Miss Leonor Garcia, Secretary
Mr. Sal Mena, Jr.
Mr. Joe Rosales
Mr. Richard Telles
Dr. Gilberto Anzaldua, Superintendent
Mr. Anthony Safi, School District Attorney

Absent: Dr. Charles Roark

In the absence of the Board President, the meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by Dr. Finke, Vice President.

Presentation on District's \$66.1 Million Year 4 E-Rate Award (Item #1)

Mr. Jack Johnston, Executive Director, Technology and Information Systems, introduced the presentation by IBM Global Services Group on the District's \$66.1 million Year 4 E-Rate funding award. He advised that the Board would be provided with a perspective of "where we were," "where we are," and "where we need to go" with respect to the grant award from the Schools and Library Division (SLD) for Year 4 E-Rate applications.

Mr. Michael Pratt, Complex Engagements Manager, IBM Global Services Group, stated that the \$66.1 million is the single largest E-Rate funding commitment issued in the state of Texas. He then provided an overview of the E-Rate program, including the history and future of E-Rate and what E-Rate will and will not fund.

Arrival of Board Member

Mr. Wever arrived at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Pratt provided information on Round 4 E-Rate funding; E-Rate funding in the El Paso area; and the EPISD Rate Year 4 award. He advised that the EPISD E-Rate projects will enhance and support the instructional process through E-Rate funding and reviewed the two focus areas. The Web Enablement for Learning will utilize the Web to provide communications, collaboration, and the delivery of resources, and the Infrastructure and Support Services will provide upgrade services. Mr. Pratt reviewed the project elements and the environment of the Web Enablement and Infrastructure; the project elements; and the project approach timeline, and critical success factors. He advised that the next steps for the Board are to authorize work to begin and to approve a purchase order for 25 percent of the District's 10 percent matching funds in the amount of \$1.7 million to fully staff the project. The remaining 75 percent will be addressed in January 2002.

¹ Mr. Wever arrived at 4:30 p.m., during the presentation on Item #1.

There was discussion on the E-Rate program being targeted at financially disadvantaged school districts and schools within those districts; the grant providing funding for infrastructure items and not desktop components; E-Rate funding freeing money from other sources to provide equity among the schools; and the importance of adhering to the grant timeline and obtaining the Board's approval in order to move forward.

Discussion continued on cabling versus wireless access; anticipated problems with asbestos; hiring a consultant to oversee the E-Rate projects for the District and an architectural firm to assist with the assessment of facilities; the use of local subcontractors; and funds from the Technology and Information Systems budget being allocated to the District's 10 percent matching fund obligation.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Date Approved: January 22, 2002