

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
El Paso Independent School District
December 4, 2001
5:00 p.m.
Education Center-Boeing

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Mr. Wever. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Mena.

Discussion and Possible Action on Approving Issuance of RFP (Request for Qualifications) for Alternative Financing Schemes for EPISD Maintenance and Facility Needs (Item #1)

Dr. Anzaldua stated that this item was brought to the Board as a follow-up to a discussion at the November 27, 2001, Board Finance Committee. He advised that a rough draft of an RFQ (request for qualifications) or RFP (request for proposals) is to be prepared in order to obtain proposals for funding the District's maintenance and facilities needs. First Southwest, the District's financial advisors, and the District's legal counsel and bond counsel will need to review the budget in order to confirm the availability of funds prior to any recommendations on the financial proposals being made to the Board.

Mr. Hector Martinez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, provided a history of the Districtwide Facility Assessment and Educational Adequacy Study conducted in October 2000, which identified a total of \$428 million in deferred maintenance and facility needs. He reviewed the estimated costs for Priority 1, 2, and 3 repairs and improvements. He stated that the Operations Unit is currently in the design phase of addressing Priority 1 issues using the current operating budget but addressing the remaining priority items will be dependent on a major capital improvements funding program. He requested the Board's authorization to proceed with an RFP or RFQ for alternative financing for the District's deferred maintenance and critical facility needs.

It was moved by Dr. Finke and seconded by Mr. Rosales that the Board authorize the administration to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified providers for alternative financing for the District's deferred maintenance and critical facility needs, subject to the review and approval of the District's attorney and the District's financial advisor, with the value of said financing program to be determined and approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.

There was discussion on providing Mr. Paul Colbert, who has served as the District's legislative consultant, with a copy of the draft RFQ/RFP for his input; the RFQ/RFP process giving proposers an opportunity to provide ideas on alternative funding methods to address the District's maintenance and facilities needs; the District hiring apprentices for construction projects resulting from an RFQ/RFP; and communicating with the public on the District's objectives concerning alternative funding for facility needs.

Dr. Anzaldua reported that a series of three or four question-and-answer type meetings are anticipated, which will be held throughout the city to explain that this project will not affect taxes; that funding will be within the District's limited financial capabilities; and that several different options will be considered.

Discussion continued on alternative funding being taken out of the operating budget and not requiring a tax increase and Priority 1 issues amounting to \$4 million being addressed as part of the current construction budget.

The following person requested to speak to this item:

1. Ms. Teresa Caballero, representative of El Paso Fights Back Coalition, spoke about a rollback petition regarding the City's proposed tax increase; all funds used by the school district being taxpayer money; the District trying to "go in the back door" after its failed bond election; and putting the alternative financing plan before the voters to allow them to make a choice.

Mr. Telles called for the debate to be closed and that an immediate vote be taken on the pending question.

Upon the vote, the motion carried with Dr. Roark voting "present."

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Date Approved: March 26, 2002