

El Paso Independent School District  
Minutes of Board Finance Committee Meeting  
March 2, 2004  
5:00 p.m.  
Education Center-Boeing

Present: Mr. David Dodge, Board Member, Board Finance Committee Chairperson  
Ms. Lisa Colquitt-Muñoz, Board Member  
Miss Leonor Garcia, Board Member  
Mr. Sal Mena, Jr., Board President

Administration: Mr. Charles Tafoya, Superintendent  
Mr. Tomás Gabaldón, Associate Superintendent, Special Populations, State  
and Federally Funded Programs  
Mr. Juan Sandoval, Executive Director, Auxiliary Services  
Dr. William Wachtel, Senior Researcher  
Mr. Walt Byers, Treasury Manager  
Ms. Esther Jacobo, Interim Budget Director  
Mr. James Damm, EPISD Consultant for Finance

Guests: Mr. Carlos Cordova, Board Secretary  
Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, Board Vice President<sup>1</sup>  
Mr. Gerald Cheek, El Paso Council of PTAs  
Ms. Frances Wever, El Paso Federation of Teachers and Support Personnel

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Mr. Dodge.

The topics discussed were as follows:

1A. Discussion of Strategies for 2004-05 Budget

- a. There is no consensus in state leadership regarding school finance reform.
- b. With no program enhancements, looking at a desirable compensation plan of \$8 million to \$9 million.
- c. The offset in reduction of state funds is equal to increase at the local level - no new funding.
  - (1) Need to generate funds
  - (2) Need to redirect/reduce programs, funding, etc.
- d. Projected amount for lapsed salaries for 2003-04 is on target.
- e. In order to provide compensation plan, will need to do the following, which have been identified by the administration:
  - (1) Staffing study to reduce staff through attrition
  - (2) Staggering start times for schools
    - (a) Potential \$500,000-plus savings in transportation
    - (b) Reduce bus driver shortage and eliminate need to replace as many school buses

It was the consensus of the Committee that the administration is to proceed with a study and gain input from parents, community, teachers, etc., regarding staggered start times.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. O'Donnell arrived at 5:17 p.m.

- (3) Closing campuses for lunch beginning with students entering ninth grade in 2004-05 and recommendation to commit to a two-year phase-in for ninth and tenth grades

It was the consensus of the Committee to proceed with investigating closed campuses.

- (4) Partnering services for Food Services

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to the Board of Trustees that the issue of partnering be approved so that the option is available.

- (5) Printing/copying

It was the consensus of the Committee to pursue having schools communicate with the Print Shop electronically for copying/printing jobs rather than using copy machines at the campus.

- (6) Streamlining staff at schools – meet needs of students but justify standards and leave open for modifications

- (7) Also looking at the following:

- (a) Incentives and pay for substitutes
- (b) Pay for long-term teachers
- (c) Potential savings in utility costs
- (d) Partnering with other governmental agencies to consolidate services

Speaker to this item:

1. Ms. Frances Wever spoke about studying efficiency of Central Office as well as the schools and getting input from employees on possible cost savings.

1B. Possible Discussion of Other Finance-Related Issues

Speaker to this item:

1. Mr. Manny Aguilar, Magnolia Coca-Cola® Bottling Company, spoke about principals being allowed to make decisions on beverages that will be allowed on their campuses.

There was discussion on the Board's prior approval of an increase in beef prices, the subsequent price reduction in the open market, and whether the District is looking into getting the prices reduced to coincide with the market prices.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned 6:45 p.m.

Date Approved: May 11, 2004