

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
El Paso Independent School District
October 14, 2003
5:00 p.m.
Education Center-Boeing

Present: Mr. Sal Mena, Jr., President
Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, Vice President
Mr. Carlos Cordova, Secretary
Mr. David Dodge
Miss Leonor Garcia
Dr. Charles Roark¹
Mr. Charles L. Tafoya, Superintendent
Mr. Anthony Safi, School District Attorney

Vacancy: Trustee District 1

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Mr. Mena. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Miss Carolyn Grantham, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources. Ms. Elizabeth Montes, Executive Director, K-12 Instruction, gave the Thought for the Day.

1. Recognition of 2003 Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) Regional Award Recipients

Ms. Georgette Smith, Connections teacher at Roberts Elementary School, was recognized as the TAGT 2003 Rising Star Teacher of the Gifted for Region 19; Ms. Helen Yancey, parent of a gifted and talented student, was recognized as the Parent of the Year for Region 19; and Ms. Judy Shipp, Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate teacher at Coronado High School, was recognized as the Region 19 TAGT 2003 Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Ms. Sherly Maxsom, TAGT Regional Director, presented the honorees with engraved plaques from the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented.

2. Awards to September 2003 Employees of the Month

Ms. Lisa Ann Schoenbrun-Askenazi, teacher at Western Hills Elementary School, was recognized by the Board of Trustees as September 2003's Certified Employee of the Month; and Mr. Henry Ochoa, paraprofessional at Guerrero Elementary School, was recognized as September 2003's Non-Certified Employee of the Month. Each was presented with an engraved plaque and a check in the amount of \$200.00.

Meeting Closed

The meeting was recessed at 5:17 p.m. to a closed meeting by Mr. Mena under Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.082 of the Texas Government Code as follows:

16. Closed Meeting

B. Proposed Termination of Probationary Contract Teacher

¹ Dr. Roark departed at 7:30 p.m., during discussion on Item #5.

C. Consultation with School District Attorney Regarding Pending Litigation

1. Silva's Super Market, Inc., Silva Diversified, Inc. and Silva Investment Partnership, Plaintiffs vs. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant; In the 120th Judicial District Court, El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 2003-1388
2. Dianne Jones, Manuel Mendoza, Mark Mendoza, and Efren Yturralde, Plaintiffs vs. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant; In the 41st Judicial District Court, El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 2000-2704

D. Property Acquisition for New South/Central Elementary School

The closed meeting started at 5:21 p.m. The closed meeting ended at 6:36 p.m.

Meeting Opened

The meeting was reassembled in Open Session at 6:37 p.m.

Item Withdrawn

It was announced that item no. 16, A., Appeal of Placement in Alternative Education Program at Coronado High School – M. E. H., had been postponed at the request of the parent.

16. The action as a result of items discussed in closed meeting was as follows:

B. Proposed Termination of Probationary Contract Teacher

It was moved by Miss Garcia, seconded by Mr. Cordova, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the termination of Patricia Hedrick's probationary employment contract, effective immediately.

D. Property Acquisition for New South/Central Elementary School

It was moved by Miss Garcia, seconded by Dr. Roark, and carried unanimously that the Board authorize the administration and legal counsel to continue with efforts to acquire the properties for the new South/Central Elementary School in the area bounded by 8th Avenue, the Border Highway, Campbell Street and Kansas Street, including making a counter offer to the owners of three parcels of property within that area as discussed in Closed Session.

3. Public Forum

The following person requested to speak on Open Forum:

1. Ms. Magdalena Hernandez, representing Southside neighbors, spoke in support of Mr. Trini Acevedo filling the vacancy in District 1 on the Board of Trustees.

4. Consent Agenda

The following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion as follows:

Dr. O'Donnell - Item C.
Item D., 8.

Mr. Dodge - Item B.
Item F.

Questions on Item 4, B., Optometry, Dental, and Medical Services for Title I Qualified Recipients (\$119,100.00)

Mr. Dodge inquired about the amount of this item being less than last year. Ms. Rita Hadersbeck, Director, Health Services, explained that the lower amount was a result of an across-the-board “tightening” of the budget by External Funding and not a reduction of the population in need of these services. The Board members requested that a quarterly report be provided on the progress of the program.

Question on Item C., Revision to Board Policy EHBB (Local), Special Programs: Gifted and Talented Students

Dr. O'Donnell inquired about the reasons for a reassessment when an elementary-level student in the Gifted and Talented (GT) program moves to middle school. Ms. Fara Green, Director, Advanced Academic Services, Gifted and Talented, advised that fifth graders would be reassessed for areas of strength in order to recommend the appropriate program.

Questions on Item D., 8., Budget Amendments - Superintendent's Office/Consulting Contracts (\$94,525.00)

Responding to Dr. O'Donnell's inquiry about the balance for encumbrances from the previous year, Mr. James Damm, EPISD Consultant for Finance, advised that the balance was approximately \$1 million. He explained the process of establishing the reserve for encumbrances to cover purchases orders that are carried over from the prior fiscal year for which funds in the current year's account(s) need to be reimbursed.

Questions on Item F., Professional Services Contract Award - Quality Assurance Testing, Mary N. Tippin Elementary School, #04.816.01 (\$29,180.00)

Responding to Mr. Dodge's inquiry about the recommended vendor, Mr. Nick Corona, Executive Director, Facilities, Maintenance and Construction, provided corporate and local background information on Professional Services, Inc.

It was moved by Dr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Dodge, and carried unanimously that the items on the Consent Agenda be approved as listed including any recommended vendors for any amounts indicated.

- A. Approval of School Board Member/Superintendent Continuing Education Shared Services Agreement with Region 19 Education Services Center, 2003-04 (\$3,000.00)

The Board approved the Horizon Package in this agreement.

- B. Optometry, Dental, and Medical Services for Title I Qualified Recipients (\$119,100.00)

The Board approved the initiation of purchase orders to the optometrists, dentists, and physicians as presented in the amounts indicated for the provision of student vision, hearing, dental, and spinal screenings (copy of list and amounts attached to the permanent file of these minutes).

- C. Revision to Board Policy EHBB (Local), Special Programs: Gifted and Talented Students (copy attached to the permanent file of these minutes).

D. Budget Amendments

1. Barron Elementary School #1 (\$6,500.00). This item is to allow the purchase of additional instructional supplies for students.
2. Barron Elementary School #2 (\$1,000.00). This item is to allow the purchase of reading materials for the library.
3. Barron Elementary School #3 (\$3,000.00). This item is to allow the purchase of reading materials for the students.
4. Bonham Elementary School (\$5,500.00). This item is to fund intramural activities for student wellness and to purchase instructional manipulatives to benefit all students.
5. Houston Elementary School (\$3,500.00). This item is to allow the purchase of additional instructional supplies for students.
6. Stanton Elementary School (\$500.00). This item will cover substitute salaries while physical education teachers attend a Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Conference in Galveston, Texas, December 3 - 6, 2003.
7. Ross Middle School (\$4,000.00). This item is to allow the purchase of instructional materials.
8. Superintendent's Office/Consulting Contracts (\$94,525.00). This item is to pay consulting contracts on Purchase Order Nos. 273841 and 246306 from the previous year, which need to be carried forward to the 2003-04 fiscal year.

E. Purchases Requiring Board Approval

1. Residential Relocation Services RFP #86-03 (approx. \$40,000.00) was awarded to Santa Fe Moving on an "as-needed basis," with no guaranteed minimum (copy of bid tabulation attached to the permanent file of these minutes).
2. Music Instruments Bid #81-03 (\$161,090.50) was awarded as follows: Brook Mays Music, Item 22, \$8,466.00, net 30; Interstate Music Supply, Items 11, 16, and 29-35, \$17,163.00, net 30; Kurland-Salzman Music, Items 9, 23-25, and 36, \$20,765.00, net 30; Midwest Musical Imports, Items 13, 15, 19, and 21, \$35,972.00, net 60; Northeast Music, Inc., Item 14, \$4,912.00, net 30; Washington Music Center, Items 1-3, 10, 12, 20, and 27, \$40,545.50, net 30; and West Manor Music, Items 4-8, 16-18, and 28, \$33,267.00, net 30 (copy of bid tabulation attached to the permanent file of these minutes).
3. Diesel Fuel for School Buses on Region 19 Bid #03-5574 (approx. \$125,000.00) was awarded to Transmountain Oil Company, Inc. for the 2003-04 school year (copy of bid tabulation attached to the permanent file of these minutes).

F. Professional Services Contract Award – Quality Assurance Testing, Mary N. Tippin Elementary School, #04.816.01 (\$29,180.00), was awarded to Professional Service Industries, Inc., subject to the review and approval of the District's attorney, for construction period quality assurance testing and other additional program elements as may be required for the construction of the school for a Lump Sum Basic Services Fee of \$29,180.00.

G. October 2003 Personnel Report (copy attached to the permanent file of these minutes)

10. Provision of Texas State Reading Academy Series by Region19 Education Service Center for Grades K – 3 Literacy Leaders (\$75,000.00)

Dr. Roark commented on developing a Board policy that would require a monetary component, an evaluation process, and a report being brought to the Board on various programs being implemented by the District. He inquired about the K-3 teacher training by the Literacy Leaders; the type of monitoring system that had been built into the program; and inviting a volunteer to a training session. Dr. O'Donnell suggested that an evaluation of the Literacy Leaders by the teachers be considered as part of the monitoring model.

There was discussion on the program and Research, Evaluation, Planning and Accountability's involvement in the program.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and seconded by Dr. O'Donnell that the Board approve the reading academy series.

Motion Amended

Dr. Roark recommended amending the motion to include an evaluation component with reports to be brought back to the Board. Mr. Mena accepted the amendment.

Upon the vote, the motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

11. Additional Expenditure for *Measuring Up™ to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and Success Strategies for the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills)* (approx. \$200,000.00)

It was moved by Mr. Dodge, seconded by Dr. Roark, and carried unanimously that the additional expenditure for these items be approved from People's Publishing Group, Inc., the sole source, for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year, with the provision that an evaluation component be developed and the program evaluated at the end of the school year.

5. Interdistrict Transfer Student Tuition Waiver Appeal – C. S. R.

Mr. Willie Reyes, Assistant Director, Pupil Services, provided background information on the request for C. S. R. to attend kindergarten at Hillside Elementary School. He stated that the transfer and tuition waiver request was denied because the student resides in the Socorro ISD and that the parent was advised that C. S. R. could attend if tuition was paid.

Mrs. Socorro Rodriguez, parent of C. S. R., requested that the Board allow the transfer and tuition waiver because the student's grandmother, who lives close to Hillside, provides childcare.

It was moved by Dr. Roark, seconded by Mr. Mena, and carried unanimously that the Board uphold the administration's decision to deny the tuition waiver request for the interdistrict transfer of C. S. R. to Hillside Elementary School for the 2003-04 school year.

Departure of Board Member

Dr. Roark departed the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and was not present for any subsequent action taken by the Board of Trustees.

6. Announcement of 2003-04 High School Graduation Dates

Ms. Linda Corral, Associate Superintendent, High Schools Division, announced the 2003-04 graduation dates for EPISD high schools.

7. Renewal of Law Enforcement Liability Policy RFP #118-02 (\$35,250.00)

It was moved by Miss Garcia, seconded by Mr. Cordova, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the renewal of this insurance policy from Northfield Insurance Company of the Northland Insurance Group, through Rogers & Belding Insurance Agency, Inc., effective October 25, 2003, through October 25, 2004.

8. Interlocal Cooperation Contract with El Paso Psychiatric Center for the Provision of Educational Services to Students with Disabilities (\$500.00)

It was moved by Miss Garcia, seconded by Mr. Cordova, and carried unanimously that the Board approve this contract.

9. Memorandum of Understanding with Region 19 Head Start Program for Use of Technology and Information Systems Television Studio Facilities and Equipment

It was moved by Mr. Cordova, seconded by Miss Garcia, and carried unanimously that the Board approve this Memorandum of Understanding through May 31, 2004.

12. Sole Source Instructional Materials, Training, and Software Purchases for 2003-04

It was moved by Mr. Dodge, seconded by Dr. O'Donnell, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the following sole source purchases in the amounts indicated:

- A. Wilson Reading System[®] and Foundations[™]/Wilson Language Basics from Wilson Language Training Corporation (approx. \$35,000.00)
- B. Physics Apparatus, Computer Interfacing, and Software for the Integration of Science Principles from PASCO[®] (approx. \$50,000.00)
- C. The Jane Schaffer Writing Program[™] from Jane Schaffer Enterprises (approx. \$30,000.00)
- D. Literacy Workshops and In-Service Materials from Keith Polette, Ph.D. (approx. \$30,000.00)
- E. Math Products from Great Source Education Group (approx. \$170,000.00)
- F. Carnegie Learning Cognitive Tutor Curricula from Carnegie Learning[®], Inc. (approx. \$200,000.00)
- G. QX3 Plus Microscope and Tableaux Digital Camera Products; *ClassWorks* and INET, K-12; and Young Readers, Success Readers for TAKS, and Action Adventures Series Middle Schools-Sets 1-3 from Classroom Strategies and Multimedia, Co. (approx. \$370,000.00)
- H. Everyday Mathematics Custom Training Sessions from ASM Associates (approx. \$50,000.00)

- I. MathStar Lesson Study Guidelines and Toolkits from Learning Study Management Consultants (approx. \$50,000.00)
- J. Mathematics Software and Textbooks from Key Curriculum Press (approx. \$30,000.00)
- K. History Alive!™ Curricular and Professional Development Products and Services from TCI (Teachers' Curriculum Institute) (approx. \$40,000.00)
- L. TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) Preparation and Assessment Materials from Jarrett Publishing Company (approx. \$35,000.00)
- M. Social Studies Materials from Nystrom (approx. \$60,000.00)
- N. Leveled Reading Materials from Red Brick Learning (approx. \$75,000.00)
- O. Advanced Placement Summer Institute Training by UTEP for EPISD Teachers (approx. \$52,000.00)
- P. Pearson Education Group and Its Subsidiaries (approx. \$509,000.00)
 - 1. Pearson Scott Foresman for Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley Mathematics
 - 2. Globe Fearon for Reading and Writing Materials
 - 3. Pearson Scott Foresman for ESL (English as a Second Language) Textbooks, Teacher Workshops, and Spanish Vocabulary Materials
 - 4. Pearson Prentice Hall for *Prentice Hall Connected Mathematics* Workbooks, Materials, and Staff Training and Inservice
 - 5. Pearson Digital Learning (formerly Electronic Education) for Waterford Early Reading Program, Waterford Math & Science, and Knowledge Box
 - 6. Celebration Press for English and Spanish Reading Materials
 - 7. Modern Curriculum Press for English and Spanish Instructional Reading Materials
 - 8. Dale Seymour Publications for Mathematics, Science, and Instructional Materials
 - 9. Pearson Learning Group for General Reading and Instructional Materials

13. El Paso Independent School District Energy Management Conservation Program

It was moved by Miss Garcia, seconded by Mr. Dodge, and carried unanimously that the Board reaffirm its commitment to the EPISD's current energy management program and its short- and long-range plans to bring about energy conservation throughout all areas of the District's operations and support of the Superintendent and all District personnel in their continued efforts to realize cost avoidance through proper energy management conservation programs.

14. Final Payment for Construction Contracts Exceeding \$100,000.00

It was moved by Miss Garcia, seconded by Dr. O'Donnell, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the final payment for the following construction contracts in the amounts indicated as recommended by the administration, subject to the review and approval of the District's attorney.

- A. Districtwide Fire Alarm Upgrades, Phase 4 - Burges, Coronado, and Irvin High Schools, #93.751 (\$74,678.60, total cost \$726,680.00), to Kendrick Electric Corporation.
- B. Franklin High School Drainage Improvements, #02.311 (\$5,549.50, total cost \$110,990.00), to Rio Grande Valley, Inc.

15. Procurement/Delivery Method for Construction Contract Exceeding \$15,000.00 – Construction Manager-Agent for Program Management Services from EPISD 2003 Bond Program

It was moved by Dr. O'Donnell, seconded by Miss Garcia, and carried unanimously that the Construction Manager-Agent delivery method be utilized for this construction contract, subject to the review and approval of the District's attorney, and that the advertisement and issuance of relevant documents be authorized to qualified bidders/proposers.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Date Approved: November 25, 2003