

El Paso Independent School District
Minutes of Board Policy Committee Meeting
January 18, 2005
5:00 p.m.
Education Center-Boeing

Present: Dr. Charles Roark, Board Member, Board Policy Committee Chairperson
Mr. Carlos Cordova, Board Secretary
Miss Leonor Garcia, Board Member
Mr. Sal Mena, Jr., Board President
Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, Board Vice President
Mr. Anthony Safi, School District Attorney

Administration: Mr. Charles Tafoya, Superintendent
Miss Carolyn Grantham, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
Dr. Linda Holman, Associate Superintendent, Middle Schools Supervision
and Instruction
Mr. Hector Martinez, Associate Superintendent, Operations
Ms. Margaret Gallardo, Director, Communications
Dr. William Wachtel, Senior Researcher, Business Services

Guests: Ms. Frances Wever, El Paso Federation of Teachers and Support Personnel

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Dr. Roark. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Cordova.

The topics discussed were as follows:

1A. Revision to BED (Local), Board Meetings: Public Participation

- a. Dr. Roark referenced the first sentence in the first paragraph in subheading Open Forum and requested a legal perspective on "the Board shall allot one hour or more, as determined by the Board." Mr. Safi stated that this should be read in conjunction with the language in the preceding subheading Limit on Participation and that Open Forum would exceed one hour only if there were more than 20 speakers that had signed up to speak.

Dr. Roark recommended replacing "shall" with "may" and Mr. Safi suggested inserting "up to" between "allot" and "one hour." Mr. Cordova commented on the need for a limit of one hour for all speakers.

Dr. O'Donnell recommended the deletion of "or more, as determined by the Board," with the sentence to read "At both regular monthly meetings, the Board may elect to hear for up to one hour persons who desire to make comments to the Board." The Committee concurred with the recommendation.

- b. Dr. Roark referenced the first paragraph in subheading Complaints and Concerns and requested clarification on how the Board would deal with people who only want to ask questions. Mr. Safi stated that if an individual were simply raising a question or bringing something to the Board's attention, the various complaint policies would not apply. However, if the speaker comes with a complaint and requests action by the Board, the presiding officer would determine whether the complaint had gone through the appropriate channels.

Dr. O'Donnell recommended replacing "shall determine" with "may request." The Committee concurred with the recommendation.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend approval of the revised policy, as modified, to the Board of Trustees.

1B. Waiver of CFD (Local), Accounting: Activity Funds Management and FJ (Local), Gifts and Solicitations

Mr. Tafoya provided information on a request from students at three District high schools to allow various clubs at the schools to fund raise for the tsunami victims and to consolidate the money collected for this effort. He stated that the Board could waive the policy for this specific event or revise the policy to allow students to undertake this type of fund raising in unique circumstances.

Mr. Safi reviewed the proposed revisions that would allow student fund raising for special projects.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend approval of the revised policies, as written, to the Board of Trustees at the January 25, 2004, Board meeting.

1C. Revision to DGB (Local), Employee Rights and Privileges: Personnel-Management Relations

Dr. Roark referenced subheading Elections and requested information on the timeframe for the El Paso Consultation Association (EPCA) election. Mr. Tafoya suggested that the elections be extended to every four years rather than the current two-year cycle. He recommended that the current representation conclude with this year's April 2005 election and go to a four-year election cycle.

Speaker to this item:

1. Ms. Frances Wever, President, El Paso Federation of Teachers and Support Personnel, spoke about a proposal submitted in September 2004 to change the election to every four years and only if there is a challenge; El Paso Consultation Association (EPCA) being amenable to an election in April 2004; and the need to get started with the election process.

Mr. Tafoya also recommended that elections be only by challenge on a four-year cycle, otherwise representation would continue as is. He stated that copies of guidelines would be requested from other school districts in the state that are currently implementing the process.

Mr. Safi recommended that the revisions to this policy be approved by the Board by the end of March 2005 in order for them to be in place and take effect for the April election.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the policy be brought back to the Board Policy Committee in February 2005.

1D. Revision to FM (Local), Student Activities

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend approval of the policy, as written, to the Board of Trustees.

1E. Review of TASB Policy Manual Update 74

Mr. Luis Villalobos, Executive Director, Accountability and Administrative Relations, provided a general overview of Update 74 and highlighted where changes were recommended to local policies.

Mr. Safi stated that CAA (Local) is a new policy on fraud and financial improprieties and that a policy related to this issue was discussed at the December 14, 2004, Board meeting.

It was the consensus of the Committee that CAA (Local), CE (Local), and DBA (Local) be brought to the Board Policy Committee in February 2005, if possible, along with any other local policies included in Update 74.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned 5:43 p.m.

Date Approved: February 8, 2005