

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
El Paso Independent School District
December 17, 2002
6:00 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. Charles L. Tafoya, Acting Superintendent
Mr. Anthony Safi, School District Attorney

Absent: Mr. Richard Telles

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Mr. Wever. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Wever.

Discussion and Possible Action on Employee Cost Sharing Level for Health Benefits Plan (Item #1)

The following person requested to speak to this item:

1. Ms. Angie Barajas, Vice President, El Paso Federation of Teachers and Support Personnel, spoke about the Board paying \$2.7 million into the EPISD Health Benefits Plan to cover the amount needed for employee health care benefits.

Ms. Elizabeth Bulos, Director, Employee Benefits, provided information regarding employees cost sharing into the Health Benefits Plan and reported on the process followed to arrive at the cost-sharing amount of \$43.60 towards the total premium of \$340.60 per employee. She compared cost versus compensation; the higher compensation increase that would be made possible by employees contributing to their health insurance; and the added benefits for TRS (Texas Retirement System) calculations. Ms. Bulos reviewed issues that would need to be resolved if the level of employee cost sharing was modified. She recommended that the process "run its course" through the end of the year; the healthcare fund be reviewed at the end of the plan year; and, if savings are found, the plan be reviewed and revised accordingly for the next plan year.

There was discussion on the projected healthcare fund balance at the end of the current plan year; the budget development process; and projections made for healthcare in the 2002-03 budget.

Dr. Finke read a statement into the record regarding employee cost sharing, a copy of which is attached to the permanent file of these minutes.

Consideration of Rescinding Board's Action on December 10, 2002, to Establish RFQ/RFP (Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals) Process to Procure Lobbyist Services for EPISD (Item #2)

It was moved by Dr. Roark and seconded by Mr. Mena that the Board continue with the RFP (request for proposals) process to possibly procure lobbyist services.

There was discussion on the possibility of the State Legislature convening a special session on education; the importance of having someone lobby the legislators on the District's behalf; the opposition to lobbying expressed by some El Paso legislators; and lobbyists' connections to legislative committee members.

It was clarified that on December 10, 2002, the Board directed that there be an RFQ (request for qualifications) process, and if no action is taken by the Board on this item, the RFQ process will continue.

Dr. Roark withdrew his motion.

Meeting Closed (Item #3)

The meeting was recessed at 7:17 p.m. to a closed meeting by Mr. Wever under Sections 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code as follows:

A. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Pending Litigation

- a. Lillian W. Crouch, Plaintiff, v. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant; In the 327th Judicial District Court, El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 2002-5419
- b. Pete N. Duran, Plaintiff v. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant; In the 171st Judicial District Court, El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 99-577

B. Goals, Expectations, and Duties of Superintendent

Mr. Rosales and Mr. Mena recused themselves from the discussion on item no. 3, A., 2., Pete N. Duran, Plaintiff v. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant; In the 171st Judicial District Court, El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 99-577.

The closed meeting started at 7:24 p.m. The closed meeting ended at 8:38 p.m.

Departure of Board Member/School District Attorney

Mr. Mena departed the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and was not present for any subsequent action taken by the Board of Trustees. Mr. Safi departed the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Meeting Opened

The meeting was reassembled in Open Session at 8:39 p.m.

Lillian W. Crouch, Plaintiff, v. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant; In the 327th Judicial District Court, El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 2002-5419 (Item #3, A., 1.)

It was moved by Dr. Roark, seconded by Mr. Rosales, and carried unanimously that the Board authorize the law firm of Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi & Galatzan, PC to represent the District in the lawsuit Lillian W. Crouch, Plaintiff v. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant.

Possible Action on Redesignation of Legal Counsel to Represent EPISD in the Case Pete N. Duran, Plaintiff v. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant; Cause No. 99-577 (Item #4.)

It was moved by Mr. Wever, seconded by Miss Garcia, and carried unanimously that the Board authorize Rosemary Marin from the law firm of Scott Hulse Marshall Feuille Finger & Thurmond PC (formerly from Robles, Bracken, Coffman & Hughes, LLP) to continue to represent the District in the lawsuit Pete N. Duran, Plaintiff v. El Paso Independent School District, Defendant, and authorize the Acting Superintendent to sign any necessary documents on behalf of the District.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Date Approved: April 8, 2003