

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
El Paso Independent School District
January 21, 2003
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, Superintendent

Absent: Mr. Richard Telles

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mr. Wever.

Presentation by Leadership Research Council and Discussion of Student Performance and Assessment and Assessment Accountability (Item #1)

Ms. Myrna Deckert, representing Mr. Bob Hoy, Chair and President of the El Paso Leadership and Research Council (LRC), provided information on the composition and major initiatives of the LRC and introduced members of the LRC Education Committee, Mr. Mack Quintana, former Chair; Mr. Anthony Berrett, Chair; Mr. David Arbuckle, Vice Chair; and Mr. Danny Vickers.

Mr. Danny Vickers reviewed indicators of the El Paso per capita income and poverty rate and per capita tax base in El Paso versus Dallas, in addition to the wealth creation and the relationship of the level of education to earnings. He also provided a comparison of the El Paso workforce in 1995 to 2001.

Mr. Tafoya commented on the state law on drop-out recovery and suggested that the LRC work with the legislature to allow students to recover credits on coursework outside the standard classroom.

Mr. Vickers reviewed the profile of the El Paso workforce; new workers entering the El Paso workforce compared to the Department of Labor's guidelines; and Education Summit goals of identifying education as the community's highest priority, focusing attention on student success, and encouraging participation in school board elections and education decision-making forums.

Mr. Anthony Berrett provided information on the LRC Education Committee's Accountability Project and reviewed the El Paso Student Success Initiative (SSI), which uses data gathered by Just for the Kids (JFTK); the influence of the community, parents, and guardians on education; school boards discussing plans to improve individual schools; and opportunity gaps, which are the proficiency percentage differences between the average of demographically comparable schools. Mr. Berrett reviewed how schools are determined to be demographically comparable; the comparable schools analysis; and a comparison of the average opportunity gap for each elementary school for 2001 and 2002.

Mr. David Arbuckle reviewed possible steps to be taken by the Board, which included reviewing SSI performance measures on a regular basis; moving best practices from high-performing schools to low-performing schools; an evaluation and plan of action for schools with the most opportunity for improvement; discussing success factors and improvement plans with the administration and principals; establishing a Board Student Performance Committee; and creating an incentive plan to motivate student improvement. Mr. Arbuckle stated that the current focus of the LRC is elementary schools but that it would be expanding to middle and high schools.

There was discussion on vocational education; students being prepared to make the choice of whether or not to attend a university; developing a core curriculum for all District schools; the focus on test scores; teachers being provided with the appropriate tools to positively affect students; and the EPISD Board of Trustees dedicating meetings to student achievement.

Mr. Vickers commented on the need for community support of education and parental involvement. He requested that the Board work with the LRC and El Paso business community in creating a comprehensive parental engagement strategy that teaches parents the importance of education and how to support children in the education process.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Date Approved: April 22, 2003