

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
El Paso Independent School District
October 15, 2002
5:00 p.m.
Education Center-Boeing

Present: Mr. Dan Wever, President
Dr. Gene Finke, Vice President
Miss Leonor Garcia, Secretary
Mr. Sal Mena, Jr.¹
Dr. Charles Roark
Mr. Joe Rosales
Mr. Richard Telles
Mr. Charles L. Tafoya, Acting Superintendent
Mr. Anthony Safi, School District Attorney
Mr. Clyde Pine, School District Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 p.m. by Mr. Wever. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Rosales.

Approval of Service Agreements with Access Administrators, Inc., EPISD Health Plan Third Party Administrator, and Advantage Care Network, Inc., EPISD Health Plan Network Service Provider (Item #1)

Ms. Elizabeth Bulos, Director, Employee Benefits, advised that the agreements had been finalized with Access Administrators, Inc., the District's TPA (third party administrator) and Advantage Care Network, Inc., the District's network service provider. Mr. Pine commented on the legal aspects of the Health Plan Services Agreements.

It was moved by Miss Garcia and seconded by Dr. Finke that the Board approve the Service Agreements with Access Administrators, Inc., the EPISD Health Plan Third Party Administrator, and Advantage Care Network, Inc., the EPISD Health Plan Network Service Provider; and the guaranty by Access HealthSource, Inc.

Mr. Frank Apodaca, managing shareholder, Access HealthSource, Inc., provided information on Advantage Care Network, Inc. He stated that the company was originally incorporated in the state of Delaware, but it is locally owned and operated.

Upon the vote, the motion carried with Miss Garcia, Mr. Mena, Dr. Finke, Mr. Rosales, and Mr. Telles voting in favor of the motion and Mr. Wever voting against the motion. Dr. Roark recused himself from the vote.

¹ Mr. Mena departed the meeting at 6:40 p.m. during discussion on Item #3.

Purchase Requiring Board Approval – Commodity Food Processing, Purchase Order Nos. 248719 – 248724 (\$295,849.40) (Item #2)

Ms. Nancy Nordell, Director, Food Services, provided information on the questions that were posed by a Board member at the October 8, 2002, Board meeting regarding discrepancies in the purchase order amounts. She advised that the calculations were corrected and the estimates revised for the anticipated quantities.

It was moved by Miss Garcia, seconded by Mr. Rosales, and carried unanimously that the purchase orders for commodity food processing be approved from the vendors listed in the amounts indicated: H & H Foods (beef patties, pork rib, pork patties, chorizo), Purchase Order No. 248719, \$75,081.00; Gold Kist, Inc. (chicken nuggets and fajitas), Purchase Order No. 248720, \$9,907.20, and Purchase Order No. 248722, \$35,000.30; Land O'Lakes, Inc. (macaroni & cheese and cheese sauce), Purchase Order No. 248721, \$43,031.50; Nardone Brothers Baking Co., Inc. (cheese pizza), Purchase Order No. 248723, \$89,937.40; and Oak Valley Farms, Inc. (turkey products), Purchase Order No. 248724, \$42,892.00, for a total amount of \$295,849.40 (copy of purchase orders attached to the permanent file of these minutes).

Update and Discussion on EPISD E-Rate Initiative, Year 2001 (Round 4) and Year 2002 (Round 5) (Item #3)

Mr. Jack Johnston, Executive Director, Technology and Information Systems, provided information on the District's involvement with the E-Rate initiative. He reviewed Rounds 1, 2, and 3 (Years 1998, 1999, and 2000) during which Technology and Information Systems (TIS) had no outside assistance, stayed within the confines of the expertise of existing staff, and worked with a total award of \$10.6 million with no impact on the Fund Balance.

Mr. Johnston reviewed Round 4 (Year 2001) during which the District secured IBM Global Services as the Strategic Technology Solution Provider; demonstrated to the Schools and Libraries Division that the nine statements of work (SOWs) were based on the EPISD Technology Plan; received record funding in the amount of \$66.1 million with a short window of time to expend the funds; had state-of-the-art products and services with a heavy impact on TIS staff time which exceeded the skill level of the technical staff; a heavy reliance on IBM Global Services and subcontractors; and an impact on the Fund Balance of approximately \$6 million.

Mr. Johnston stated that the funding for Round 5 (Year 2002) had not been announced. He advised that if Round 5 is fully awarded, it would build on Round 4 projects; impact the Fund Balance with the District's \$5.9 million in matching funds; and continue to impact the TIS staff. Mr. Johnston stated that the filing deadline for Round 6 (Year 2003) was now due and that options included the District doing it itself; issuing an RFP (request for proposals) for an E-Rate consultant; and targeting the funding requests to sustain current work, which would reduce the impact on the Fund Balance.

Mr. Johnston commented that other issues which affect TIS include the conversion of the SASIxp (student administrative system); inadequate staffing levels; the impact from TIFB (Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board) grants; the focus on web-based instruction; and outdated instructional computers. He advised that there is a need to increase TIS staff and upgrade technical skills throughout TIS; that although continued use of Fund Balance could have a negative effect, a funding source needs to be designated to refresh technology; and because of the inequity caused by E-Rate funding only some schools, another source of funds is needed to bring all schools "up to par."

Mr. John Milota, Project Executive, IBM Global Services, provided information on the close out of the Round 4 contracts. He reviewed the scope of the network electronics, cabling, server upgrade, web and file server, video, web access, and e-mail.

Departure of Board Member

Mr. Mena departed the meeting at 6:40 p.m., and was not present for any subsequent action taken by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Milota reviewed the schedule summary for each SOW and the planned and actual completion dates; the Financial Summary for each SOW with the amount available, amount spent, and funds unspent; the rationale for the reduction in spending; and the detail financial information for the Video Project, Fiber Internet Access, Server Upgrade Project, Web and File Server Project, Network Electronics Project, and E-Mail Project.

There was discussion on compensating TIS staff involved in the implementation of Round 4 E-Rate; what would be involved to provide servers and backbone to the remaining, unfunded schools; and the status of the Help Desk.

Discuss Condition and Possible Uses of EPISD Fund Balance (Item #4)

Mr. Tafoya spoke about the need to decide what should and should not be funded out of Fund Balance. He suggested projecting costs and prioritizing.

Mr. William Goodman, Associate Superintendent, Finance, spoke about the status of Fund Balance and the need to stay within the budget.

Meeting Closed (Item #5)

The meeting was recessed at 7:40 p.m. to a closed meeting by Mr. Wever under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code as follows:

A. Proposed Supplemental Duty Contract for Acting Superintendent

The closed meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. The closed meeting ended at 7:44 p.m.

Meeting Opened

The meeting was reassembled in Open Session at 7:44 p.m.

Proposed Supplemental Duty Contract for Acting Superintendent (Item #5, A.)

It was moved by Mr. Rosales, seconded by Mr. Telles, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Supplemental Duty Contract for the Acting Superintendent as presented. Dr. Roark was not present for the vote.

Meeting Adjourned

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

Date Approved: March 11, 2003