

El Paso Independent School District  
Minutes of Board Policy Committee Meeting  
August 17, 2004  
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  
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  
Mr. Robert Ortega, Associate Superintendent, High Schools Supervision and Instruction  
Mr. Juan Sandoval, Executive Director, Auxiliary Services  
Mr. Luis Villalobos, Executive Director, Accountability and Administrative Relations  
Mr. Armando Nava, Chief, EPISD Police Services  
Mr. James Damm, EPISD Consultant for Finance
- Guests: Ms. Lisa Colquitt-Muñoz, Board Member<sup>1</sup>  
Mr. Gerald Cheek, District 19 Texas PTA  
Ms. Frances Wever, El Paso Federation of Teachers and Support Personnel

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Dr. Roark.

The topics discussed were as follows:

1A. New Policy BDD (Local), Board Internal Organization: Attorney

The Committee discussed whether Mr. Safi should represent the Board or the administration when additional legal counsel is required for complaints, terminations, or nonrenewal cases. Mr. Safi reviewed the circumstances where this issue normally arises and provided information on the historical perspective of the policy language.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the policy language be simplified and brought back to the Board Policy Committee.

1B. Revision to BBE (Local), Board Members: Authority

Dr. Roark referenced subheading Written or E-Mail Communication and recommended that "and trustee" be added at the end of the last sentence.

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Colquitt-Muñoz arrived at 5:32 p.m.

Mr. Safi addressed the reference to the Texas Public Information Act and clarified that the proposed language would not prevent disclosures in response to appropriate requests under the Public Information Act.

Miss Garcia commented on her preference for open communication between the Board members and the Superintendent. Mr. Mena, Mr. Dodge, and Mr. Cordova expressed their opposition to the restrictions that the language would impose on the Superintendent and his ability to manage the District.

Dr. O'Donnell stated that communication from Board members should not be shared outside the District. Mr. Safi commented on his recommendation to create a policy or bulletin that would stipulate the Superintendent should authorize the sharing of Board member communications.

Mr. Tafoya provided information on the development of the proposed policy language, the process used to gather information requested by a Board member, and how it could be determined what can and cannot be shared.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Superintendent develop a bulletin or directive regarding this issue and that copies be provided to the Board members.

1C. through 1F.

Postponed to the next meeting of the Board Policy Committee.

1G. New Policy FNCE (Local), Student Conduct: Telecommunications Devices

- a. Dr. Roark referenced the first paragraph and expressed a concern with the term “cell” phones and suggested “mobile” phones and “other communication” devices. He commented on the use of cell phones by cheerleaders and athletes during school-sponsored activities such as football games.
- b. Dr. O'Donnell referenced the second sentence in subheading Penalties and recommended replacing the word “attending” with “participating in” school-related activities. The Committee concurred with the recommendation.
- c. Ms. Colquitt-Muñoz referenced the first paragraph and expressed a concern with the word “possessing.” It was suggested that the language be modified that students be prohibited from “using” paging devices and “disrupting instructional time.”
- d. Dr. O'Donnell requested clarification on the possibility of cell phones detonating an explosive device. Chief Armando Nava reviewed the procedures followed at the schools during a bomb threat situation. He stated that it would be important for students to have cell phones in order to communicate suspicious activity at a campus.
- e. Mr. Dodge referenced the first paragraph and recommended the language be modified that “the District prohibits students from using paging devices (including but not limited to cell phones and other two-way telecommunications devices) while participating in school-sponsored or school-related activities on or off school property during the instructional day while instruction is being conducted.” The Committee concurred with the recommended language.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend approval of the policy, as modified, to the Board of Trustees and that the administration proceed with the incorporation of the revised policy language into the Student code of Conduct in anticipation of the Board's approval.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned 6:21 p.m.

Date Approved: September 14, 2004