

**El Paso Independent School District  
Budget Review Committee  
Minutes April 18, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

Lucy Clarke called the meeting to order at 07:32 a. m.

**Committee members present**

Jim Cardwell, Rick Chumsae, Lucy Clarke, Wilfred Garza, Elizabeth Montes, and Deborah Trexler

**EPISD personnel present**

Walt Byers, Vernon Butler, Sandra Dea, Esther Jacobo, Isabel Fernandez, Elizabeth Perez, Martha Piekarski, Maria Pineda, Richard Romero, Lety Arce, and Eric Winkelman

**Welcome**

Lucy Clarke welcomed BRC members.

**Approval of March 2013 Minutes**

Approval of the March 28, 2013 minutes was unanimous.

**CATE Programs**

Lety Arce and Eric Winkelman presented agenda item on the CTE Programs. They provided information as to the program's organizational structure and its successful achievements with students. CTE is a technical skills attainment for students. Intent is to have students graduate with a value added diploma; e.g. students obtain a technical skill along with their diploma. Since TEA's mandate of the Texas Achievement Plan (consisting of 16 career clusters), EPISD developed its programs of study called the College and Readiness Plan. The intent is for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to engage in a program of study in order to prepare for their high school years and to select a career plan of interest. Intent is for the students to plan for their high school career and above. EPISD maintains at least three (3) clusters at each school and some students attend a magnet school from freshman to senior year.

Industry exams, such as the A+ Certification, are the main indicator of the CTE Program's/College and Readiness success. Last year, Cosmetology students challenged the Cosmetology State Board Exam at a 100% passing rate and Pharmacy Technician was close to 100% in passing. Another indicator is the accountability ratings through Performance Based Monitoring. With many of the El Paso communities' industries providing students with scholarships, many of our competitive students have advanced to national competition such as TSA, Skills USA, HOSA, DECA and BPA. CTE Programs are all locally funded. Its gained weighted local funding is 1.35% while students are in their CTE course. The funds cover salaries, equipment, facilities, and student travel to competitions. CTE Magnet schools are also included.

House Bill 5 is going to bring about a big change in high school graduation requirements for the state of Texas. Basically, it will rewrite all of the graduation requirements. Students will pick a graduation plan (five options) of interest. Eric Winkelman recommended the BRC to read and become familiar with House Bill 5.

CATE covers competitions for students who travel to their career and technical organizations (CTSO's). Students compete locally and when a 1<sup>st</sup> place winner is selected, he/she is advanced to State. If the student takes 1<sup>st</sup> place in State, then he/she advances to Nationals. Students acquire leadership and competition skills. National competitions can be extremely expensive, which includes travel, lodging, registration, and meals; therefore, this is limited to 1<sup>st</sup> place winners.

### **Presentation of Financial Statements for March, 2013**

Sandra Dea presented the Financial Statements for March, 2013. Handouts were provided to BRC members.

### **2013-14 Budget Process Update**

Esther Jacobo provided the BRC a presentation on the update of the 2013-14 Budget Process.

Esther Jacobo brought the BRC up to date of the Texas School Alliance meeting held on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

There is approximately \$600 million in budget remaining at the state level. Representative Jim Pitts recommends through House Bill 1025, that \$500 million be allotted to school districts. We are hoping this goes through the process and approved. At this point, we are not sure this will happen.

For year 2015, there is a house bill that will require districts that do not pay into social security to contribute one percent (1%) to TRS. Esther Jacobo provided the BRC with the PowerPoint presentation on this issue, which she had presented to the Board.

Pre-school (Foundation Schools) funding is anticipated. Based on \$1.5 billion, we would anticipate receiving an additional \$8 to \$9 million in 2014 and \$16.7 million in 2015. However, an amendment for an additional \$1 billion was added at last minute to the substitute bill for the House, bringing total of \$2.5 billion for school districts. Based on this, El Paso can anticipate \$16.5 million in 2014 and \$23 million in 2015. This still needs to go to the Senate committee and to the governor by the end of May 2013.

Esther Jacobo provided a summary affecting the District's Fund Balance. Walt Byers shared with the BRC that the uncommitted general fund balance for end of June is \$81.5 million. Next year's cannot be determined until after completion of the audit.

Campus needs assessments are complete. Currently, we are working on department budget hearings.

### **Closing Comments**

Lucy Clarke thanked staff for the presentation of CATE Programs by Eric Winkelman and Lety Arce. She thanked the BRC for their attendance.

The next BRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2013.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 a. m.**