

**El Paso Independent School District
Budget Review Committee
Minutes September 20, 2012 – Regular Meeting**

Dr. Rene Rosas called the meeting to order at 07:35 a. m.

Committee members present

Delia Camacho, Jim Cardwell, Lucy Clarke, Michael Hicks, and Deborah Trexler

EPISD personnel present

Walt Byers, Sandra Dea, Isabel Fernandez, Esther Jacobo, Jose Lopez, Kenneth Parker, Elizabeth Perez, Martha Piekarski, and Maria Pineda

Approval of June, 2012 Minutes

Approval of the August 16, 2012 minutes was unanimous.

Welcome

Dr. Rosas welcomed BRC members and staff. He welcomed and introduced newest BRC member, Jim Cardwell, who is representing Board Vice President David Dodge for District 7.

Comments from the BRC Chairman

Dr. Rosas announced that he received a letter of resignation from Coach Pete Euzarraga; he accepted a position in Socorro ISD as a coach at Montwood HS. In addition to this, Ken Parker added that two more vacancies exist, Board of Trustee Russell Wiggs in District 4 and Board Secretary Joel Barrios in District 5.

Presentation of Updated Financial Statements for June 30, 2012

Ken Parker presented the Updated Financial Statements for June 30, 2012. Handouts were disseminated to the BRC. Mr. Parker reviewed the summarization of the General Fund Revenues, as of 9/17/2012 (handout page 7 of 7). Overall, with a \$453.8 million budget, EPISD was only \$768.7 thousand short. This is the best the District has done on revenues over the last seven (7) years.

Ken Parker summarized the unaudited financials for June 30, 2012:

- Balance sheet, Governmental Funds (EXHIBIT C-1)
- Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance, Governmental Funds (EXHIBIT C-3)
- Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance, Budget and Actual – General Fund (EXHIBIT G-1)

Discussion of TEA Letter and Requirements

Ken Parker presented a brief overview of the TEA Letter and Requirements. Handouts were provided to the committee. The letter from TEA officially notified EPISD that its accreditation status was lowered from **Accredited** to **Accredited-Probation**. The status affects EPISD's operations, which has been subject to investigations related to compliance with financial, data reporting, and accountability requirements at state and federal levels.

EPISD is required to obtain the professional services of:

- an external accounting, auditing, and legal services firm at the expense of the District.

- an external entity to oversee and monitor test administration/security during the 2012-2013 school year. This term may be extended at the discretion of the agency. Dr. Judy Castleberry has been assigned to serve as a TEA monitor to the District. The TEA letter lists her responsibilities.
- securing appropriate training for staff, officers, and board to address identified deficiencies and any future investigatory findings.

The total cost to EPISD for these services is estimated to be about \$460 thousand. This includes the services, staff development, testing, and the monitor. A public notice did go out informing the community of EPISD's **Accredited-Probation** status.

Update on Superintendent Position

Ken Parker presented the update on the superintendent position. An RFP was issued 30 days ago. This is due on September 27th. The earliest we may have a selection for the most qualified candidate is November 1st. By the beginning of the New Year, we should have a candidate for selection. The selection process may be completed in March or early April.

Presently, Ken George is the District's *temporary* interim superintendent. The Board is currently conducting interviews for an interim superintendent.

Board Amendments

Esther Jacobo presented Board Amendments. A summary sheet was provided to the BRC. The five (5) amendments presented to the Board affect the District's fund balance.

Closing Comments

Ken Parker introduced his staff as a courtesy to the newest BRC member.

Dr. Rosas thanked BRC members and staff for their participation in today's meeting. He expressed his gratitude to staff for their presentation of materials.

The next BRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a. m.