

**Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
Business Services Committee Meeting
El Paso Independent School District
March 11, 2008
4:30 p.m.**

Present: Mr. David Dodge, President
Mr. Sergio Lewis, Vice-President
Ms. Patricia Hughes, Secretary
Mr. Carlos Flores, Trustee
Ms. Carolyn Grantham, Trustee
Dr. Charles Roark, Trustee

Admin: Dr. Lorenzo Garcia, Superintendent
Mr. Kenneth Parker, Chief Business Officer

The meeting was called to order at 4:14 p.m. by Mr. Dodge.

1. Athletic Committee Presentation to Discuss Projects and Financing of the Same

Mr. Kenneth Parker, Chief Business Officer, introduced Mr. Rick Hernandez to make a presentation to the Committee. Mr. Hernandez provided a recap of the presentation, which had been shared with the Committee at a previous meeting. He discussed recommendations made by the Athletic Facilities Committee in three phases to include funding options.

The Committee decided unanimously to recommend the issuance of Maintenance Tax Notes, which would expedite the accomplishment of facilities upgrades within a 3 to 4 year time frame as proposed.

Mr. Parker discussed Maintenance Tax Notes to ensure a clear understanding of this recommendation. The Committee chose this option due to the favorable interest rate which could be obtained because of the excellent credit rating established by the District. Repayment would be made out of the General Fund on a 10-year repayment schedule. The funding would also be used for lockers and other athletic building improvements. This would not create an additional tax burden on tax payers, as the District will be utilizing the funding which would otherwise be used for maintenance and watering of the current fields.

Dr. Garcia impressed upon the Committee the safety and improved quality of life benefits, as the band and students in other sports would be able to utilize the field.

Carlos Flores shared his concerns, as well as the concerns of the community, that the approved funding will be used for the purposes intended and inquired as to whether the Athletic Committee could serve as an Oversight Committee to ensure the funding is spent on the process agreed upon for the next three to four years. Mr. Parker explained that in the legal documents to be drawn up for these Tax Notes, it will need to be specified what the funding requested is for. Mr. Parker then went over the water and maintenance cost savings figures submitted by Energy Management regarding the current fields being utilized. The savings amounted to approximately \$52,000 to \$53,000 a field per year for an annual savings of \$528,000.00.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Lewis, Mr. Parker discussed that payment of the tax notes would be done biannually. Mr. Lewis also expressed his concerns in reference to the warranty and depreciation of the artificial turfs. Mr. Parker spoke about repairs to the fields and Hector Martinez spoke in reference to the manufacturer's warranty for defects, materials and installation. Mr. Martinez will provide the Board with a report on the warranty provisions specified by the Engineer.

Mr. Parker went over the procurement process and explained that there will be enough time to work out the details necessary for this project such as specifications and the type of warranty the District needs. At this time, this is the preliminary step for an approval to proceed.

Patricia Hughes shared that on her trip this past September to the TASB Convention, there were exhibits on artificial turf and she brought back brochures and packages from different manufacturers, along with warranty information.

David Dodge impressed upon the Board that we have a history to borrow money at the same interest rate. This project will decrease the District's utility cost and improve the quality of life for students in allowing more opportunity for utilization of these fields. The Board will be afforded two more opportunities to turn this process down or move forward.

Mr. Flores requested that administration look into the El Paso climate to determine the durability of the turf.

Mr. Dodge expressed his appreciation to the Athletics Facilities Committee for an excellent job on research done and pointing out the facilities concerns in this area.

2. Possible Discussion of Other Business Services Issues

No discussion held.

Meeting Adjourned

It was moved by Patricia Hughes, seconded by Sergio Lewis and carried unanimously, that the Business Services Committee Meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.