

**El Paso Independent School District
Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2017**

Present:

Ted Houghton, **Chair**
Dan Longoria, **Vice-Chair**
Paul Masters, **Secretary**
Ana Elena Allen

Bob Burns
Kelvin Joel Kroeker, P.E.
Alejandro Limón
Javier Olmos

Andrew M. Pena, Ed.D
Edmundo Rodriguez
Miguel S. Venegas
Lisa Schoenbrun (Rep.)

Not in Attendance:

Cimi Alvarado
Cynthia Cano
Yolanda Clay

Toni Lunsford
Samuel Morgan
Ross Moore (rep. attended)

Debbie Trexler
Max Villaronga

Special Guest:

Juan Cabrera, Superintendent
Dori Fenenbock, Board President
Al Velarde, Board Vice-President

Presenters:

Carmen Arrieta-Candelaria
Walt Byers

Marguax Dalbin
Carlos Gallinar

Alice Ramos
Aaron Sarfati

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Mr. Ted Houghton, Chair.

1. Welcoming

Mr. Ted Houghton, Chair, requested that an update be provided, of recent events, on the selection of architectural firms, to the committee. Mr. Ted Houghton, apologized for the date changes to the meeting.

2. Architecture/Engineering Firm Selection Process

Mr. Carlos Gallinar, Executive Director, Planning and Innovative Schools Construction, presented that 28 qualifications were submitted as part of the Request for Qualifications 2016 Bond Architectural Services, which were reviewed and evaluated. The committee included Carlos Gallinar, Carmen Arrieta-Candelaria, Dan Longoria, Allen Shubert (Public Service Board), and Jose Lopez. 7 firms out of the 10 firms selected are local firms, which were approved by the Board of Trustees at the March Board Meeting. The 10 firms were interviewed in April as part of the 2nd phase and at that time the firm's skills were matched with the appropriate project. Currently Jacobs Company is negotiating fees with these firms. The first 6 contracts will be presented to the Board at the Special Board Meeting in May.

Mr. Dan Longoria stated that he was impressed with the complete process and was happy to be part of this process and added that the AE selection was fairly done.

Mr. Ted Houghton stated that he served for the 2nd phase and was amazed of the complexity and to see how the firms selected with the projects fell into place.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Kelvin Kroeker, Mr. Carlos Gallinar clarified that the 10 firms selected, would be easier to manage instead of selecting a firm for each project. This did not mean that the top firm would receive the largest budgeted project, the firms were matched to the project that best suited their skills.

Mr. Ted Houghton added that some of these firms indicated which projects they were interested in obtaining.

Mr. Aaron Sarfati, added the first round was based on qualifications the 2nd phase was based on specific characteristics, matching the firm's specific capabilities to the project.

Mr. Cabrera, Superintendent, addressed the committee.
Mr. Al Velarde, Board Vice-President, addressed the committee.

3. Review of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Miguel S. Venegas, second by Mr. Kelvin Kroeker, and carried unanimously, that the minutes be approved.

4. Taxes and State Debt Funding

Mr. Walt Byers, Treasury Manager, provided an overview of the M&O Tax Rate, I&S Tax Rate, Outstanding I&S Debt, Calendar Year Debt service Payments, Tax Rates by Fiscal Year, Possible Future I&S Tax Rates, EPISD Property Values and Debt Service Fund Balance on August 31, 2017.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Paul Masters, Mr. Walt Byers, confirmed that everything is being driven by the ADA numbers, that is the biggest driver and the debt was sold in 2009 and that is why the debt peaks in 2009.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Kelvin Kroeker, Mr. Walt Byers, clarified the financial management impact it has and the rate of 6million can be sold and applied to projects. How we issue debt will determine on Facilities projects and when they need to get funded. Ms. Carmen Arrieta-Candelaria, added that their plan is to issue June 2018 and June 2019, due to the short time we have to move on the projects, if we slow down it will affect the projects timeline.

5. Sprint Start Document

Mr. Aaron Sarfati, Jacobs Company, provided an overview of the Sprint Start efforts, and presented the documents that was provided to the Board of Trustees in April for approval. Timeline provided for projects, to include design, procurement and construction. Program Budgets provided included the extracted of 5% for program contingency and a percentage for the program management fee. Budget for Andress and Irvin includes available funding from 2006 Bond. Considerations presented to include new construction, renovations, and demolition for each campus.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Ted Houghton, Mr. Aaron Sarfati clarified what is being presented may have possible changes, especially after presenting charrettes to the community.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Kelvin Kroeker, Mr. Aaron Sarfati clarified Andress HS, FEMA plans done 30 years ago shows the flood plain across the campus, which we are limited on what we can do. The City if working on a map revision. We submitted documents to FEMA to get a quicker determination within 60 days.

In response to inquiry by Kelvin Kroeker, Mr. Aaron Sarfati clarified that the Hughey /Ross combination, the intent to share spaces. Mr. Carlos Gallinar added that the campuses are close to each other, we would have them share facilities, separate drop offs for each section. We conducted meetings with staff at Hughey and Ross and a community meeting. PK-8 are being done around the district. Marguax Dalbin will continue to provide outreach.

Ms. Dori Fenenbock, Board President, addressed the committee.

6. Bond Outreach Update

Ms. Marguax Dalbin, Bond Outreach Coordinator, provided an update to the outreach that is being conducted in the past few months, which includes the creation of campus committees which consist of administrators, teachers, staff, parents, community members, list provided by campus. School Project Committee scheduled provided and an update of the bond website & dashboard.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Miguel Villegas, Ms. Marguax Dalbin clarified that the meeting with the school committee are not for the general public, but there will be community meetings in the future to obtain the communities input. Mr. Ted Houghton added that the charrette meetings would be held for design input.

7. Technology Improvements

Ms. Alice Ramos, provided an update to the network infrastructure, network cabling, laptops to middle schools and teachers, and neighborhood Wi-Fi to include the allocated budget for each of these projects and the project timelines from 2017 through 2019.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Ross Moore's representative Lisa Schoenbrun, Ms. Alice Ramos clarified that the issue of students and teachers losing connection to Wi-Fi is the reason for the upgrade to the network

In response to inquiry by Mr. Bob Burns, Ms. Alice Ramos clarified that the District is working with the City of El Paso to expand the Wi-Fi to District neighborhoods. Ms. Arrieta-Candelaria added that students need access to wifi to work on school projects, and working on partnering with the City to expand these capabilities.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Paul Masters, Ms. Alice Ramos clarified that anyone would be able to connect to the Wi-Fi, but it can be secured to only allow District students.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Ross Moore's representative Lisa Schoenbrun, Ms. Alice Ramos clarified that the security filtering is on the equipment that is provided to students.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Andrew Pena, Ed.D., Ms. Alice Ramos was unaware if any other school districts are partnering with the City of El Paso or if other Districts have allocated funding to expand their Wi-Fi to their neighborhoods.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Paul Masters, Ms. Alice Ramos clarified that the technology projects will support the active learning component. Mr. Carlos Gallinar clarified that putting the agenda together we were going to add the update on the Active Learning, but due to the time limitations did not include. An update to the Active Learning will be included at the next meeting.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Miguel Venegas, Ms. Alice Ramos clarified that the technology projects do not include those schools that are being reconstructed.

8. Meeting Schedule/EPISD Contract Information

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2017.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 07:56 p.m.

Date Approved by CBAC Secretary: April 24, 2017

Date Approved by Chair: May 8, 2017