

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MARCH 5, 2024  
9:00 A.M.**

**Present:** Mr. Israel Irrobali, President  
Ms. Valerie Beals, Vice President  
Mr. Daniel Call, Member  
Mr. Alex Cuellar, Member  
Ms. Diana Sayavedra, Superintendent

**Absent:** Ms. Isabel Hernandez, Secretary  
Ms. Leah Hanany, Member

**Others:** Ms. Cezy Collins, General Counsel

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Board President Irrobali.

**Board Workshop to Include the Discussion of the Following Topics:**

Superintendent Sayavedra reported that the purpose of this meeting was to share data associated with the 2024-2025 proposed budget based on State provisions and changes to legislation.

**A. 2024 Property Values Discussion**

Ms. Martha Aguirre, Chief Financial Officer, shared a comparison of property values and Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rates for 2023, as well as the current year. She reported that the M&O rate decreased due to the homestead exemption value increasing from \$40,000.00 to \$100,000.00. Additionally, Ms. Aguirre reported on the Interest & Sinking (I&S) tax rate.

Mr. Walt Byers, Treasurer, presented details on tax compression and the impact on setting the District's tax rate. He reported the primary components for State funding are student counts, Average Daily Attendance (ADA), property values, and tax effort, which is a voter approved tax rate. Mr. Byers discussed the various sources of property values to include: El Paso Central Appraisal District, City of El Paso Tax Office, and State Comptroller Property Tax Assistance Division. A comparison of adopted tax rates, to include the M&O and I&S for the 2023-24 fiscal year, for area school districts, was shared with the Board. Mr. Byers reported that the M&O rate is determined by the Texas Education Agency, while the I&S rate is determined by the District. Lastly, Ms. Aguirre provided a comparison of the total Foundation School Program Revenue for local school districts, as well as IDEA Schools.

**B. 2024-2025 General Operating Fund Revenue Projection**

Ms. Aguirre, along with Mr. Byers, presented the local, state, and federal preliminary revenue projections for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, they discussed and compared previous, current, and projected budgets. Information was shared on the SHARS/Medicare payments by school districts to the federal government. In response to Trustee Call's inquiry, Mr. Aguirre shared that Impact Aid is associated with entities that do not pay into the property values, such as Ft. Biss, the Housing Authority, and Homeland Security. She went on to share that the federal government created this program to offset lost funding and it is contingent on federally-connected information submitted by the community.

Lastly, Ms. Aguirre shared that E-rate funding is connected to technology-related expenditures, with the federal government reimbursing a portion of the costs to the District. Ms. Sayavedra clarified that as the budget is built, the District is starting with less money and did not incur a deficit, however, a conservative budget will need to be built moving forward.

In response to Trustee Irrobali's inquiry, Ms. Aguirre stressed the importance of ensuring the focus and priorities continue to be aligned with the Strategic Blueprint, as well as continuing to explore all options to produce revenue. Ms. Sayavedra shared that when building last year's budget, the District was able to create a bandwidth to provide a 2% raise for teachers, not raise insurance rates for employees, offer of a \$1,000.00 Health Savings Account (HSA) contribution, depending on the health plan chosen, and continue to be self-sustaining with health care benefits. Lastly, she shared that the District will need to be conservative, deliberate, and very strategic with funding to continue moving forward as a school district.

**C. 2024-2025 Budget Development Update**

This item was not presented.

**2. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

**Date Approved: March 19, 2024**