

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARCH 19, 2024
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mr. Israel Irrobali, President
Ms. Valerie Beals, Vice President
Ms. Isabel Hernandez, Secretary
Mr. Daniel Call, Member
Mr. Alex Cuellar, Member
Ms. Leah Hanany, Member
Ms. Diana Sayavedra, Superintendent

Others: Ms. Cezy Collins, General Counsel
Mr. Joshua Govea, Assistant General Counsel

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Board President Irrobali.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Board President Irrobali led the Pledges of Allegiance.

3. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

4. Recognitions

A. March 2024 Student Recognitions

The Board recognized the Mariachi groups from Austin, Chapin, Coronado, and Franklin High Schools for being the first in El Paso ISD history to earn the right to compete at State UIL. The Board also recognized the El Paso High School Girls Basketball team for winning Bi-District, a first of the campus' history. Additionally, the Board recognized Jo'vone Valadez Hernandez, student from Andress High School, and Ian Abdalla, student from Franklin High School, for placing second and third, respectively, in the High School State Wrestling Competition.

B. March 2024 Staff Recognitions

The Board recognized Officer Rafael Alarcon for assisting a wounded victim during his patrol of an EPISD campus neighborhood.

C. March 2024 School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee Recognition

The Board recognized Georgina Williams, Jocelyn Roberts, Dan Heiman, Andrew Veilleux, Michael Lopez, Kendal Jessup, and Jo Pinon for serving on the School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee and assisting in the development of the proposed 2024-2025 Boundary recommendations.

5. Public Forum

The protocol to be observed during Public Forum was shared with the public in attendance. The following individuals requested to address the Board:

Ms. Jennifer DeGraaf, Former EPISD employee, addressed the Board in favor of the Hopes and Dreams and "It Starts with Us" initiatives.

Mr. David Hohholt, EPISD teacher, addressed the Board regarding changes to TEAMS grading processes via CSV format.

Ms. Norma De La Rosa, President of El Paso Teachers Association, addressed the Board regarding retaliation and the District's grievance process.

Mr. Ross Moore, President of El Paso American Federation of Teachers, spoke reminding the Board about the 2016 Bond Compact with the voters and the sale of District properties.

Ms. Cezy Collins, General Counsel, provided clarification by reading Section 3 of the 2016 Compact with the voters, which stated the following: *Within the limitations required by principles of sound fiscal management, the current Board of Trustees of the District believes that: 1) it is a priority to make teacher and campus staff compensation and/or benefits more competitive with other area school districts in order to retain and recruit talented and experienced teachers and campus support staff; and 2) that the actual savings to the District derive from the consolidation and closure of schools should support additional funding for such increase, compensation, and benefits.*

6. Consent Agenda

The following individuals requested to address the Board:

Item 6.A.2. - Ms. Norma De La Rosa, President of El Paso Teachers Association, addressed the Board sharing her concerns with the minutes of the February 20, 2024, Board meeting.

Item 6.A.2. – Mr. Ross Moore, President of El Paso American Federation of Teachers, addressed the Board sharing his concerns with the minutes of the February 20, 2024, Board meeting.

It was moved by Trustee Call, seconded by Trustee Hernandez, and carried unanimously, that the Consent Agenda items be approved as listed, including all recommended vendors, for all amounts indicated, with the exception of Item(s) 6.G.10 and 6.H.1 - 6.H.6.

A. Approval of Minutes

1. February 20, 2024, Special Board of Trustees Meeting
2. February 20, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting
3. March 5, 2024, Special Board of Trustees Meeting (Budget Workshop)

B. Approval of Budget Amendment

1. Approval of Budget Amendment to Allocate Funds for Costs Associated with Professional Development, Testing Materials, Supplies and Materials (General Operating Fund - \$131,963.00)

C. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Approval of Proposed Adoption and Revisions to Board Policies

1. Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy CCGB (Local) - Ad Valorem Taxes: Economic Development
2. Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy CFB (Local) - Accounting Inventories
3. Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy CLB (Local) - Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment Management Maintenance
4. Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy CO (Local) - Food and Nutrition Management
5. Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy COA (Local) - Food and Nutrition Management, Procurement
6. Approval of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy DEC (Local) - Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences

D. Approval of Tuition Rates for 2024-2025 School Year

E. Approval of Interlocal Agreement between El Paso Independent School District, El Paso County Community College District, and Texas Tech University Health Science Center at El Paso, on behalf of the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing (GGHSON), for Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Pathway Program for Silva Health Magnet

- F. Approval and Ratification of Applications for and Approval of Loan Agreements for State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) Cool Chiller Projects CL 425 and CL 427 (Texas State Comptroller Loan Funding - \$5,200,262.00) – the Board approved the submission of the two loan applications and approved the two State Energy Conservation Office loan agreements (CL425 and CL427), as presented.
- G. Purchases Requiring Board Approval
1. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Region 19 Education Service Center (ESC) for USDA/TDA Products and Services and Approval to Purchase Produce Utilizing Region 19 Education Service Center (ESC) Interlocal Agreement, RFP #23-7467, Produce Delivery and Related Services (Administration Recommendation - Segovia's Distributing, Inc.) (Budgeted Federal Funds - \$2,500,000.00) - the Board approved the Interlocal Agreement with Region 19 Education Service Center for USDA/TDA products and services, as presented; further, the Board approved the purchase of produce from Segovia's Distributing Inc., utilizing Region 19 ESC Interlocal Agreement, RFP #23-7467, Produce Delivery and Related Services, on an as-needed basis, in an estimated annual amount of \$2,500,000.00, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.
 2. Approval of First Option to Extend CSP #23-059, Montessori Instructional Materials, to Alison's Montessori & Educational Materials; Bruins Montessori International USA Inc., and Early Childhood LLC, dba Discount School Supply (Budgeted Title 1 Funds - \$150,000.00) - the Board approved the first option to extend Montessori Instructional Materials, CSP #23-059, to Alison's Montessori & Educational Materials; Bruins Montessori International USA, Inc., and Early Childhood LLC, dba Discount School Supply, in the amount of \$150,000.00, effective March 20, 2024, through March 19, 2025, with the option to extend for three (3) additional years, twelve (12) months at a time.
 3. Approval to Award Montessori Instructional Materials & Furniture, CSP #24-029 (Administrative Recommendation: Alison's Montessori & Educational Materials, EAI Education (Eric Armin Inc.), Lakeshore Learning Materials LLC, and Shelby Distribution Inc.) (Budgeted Federal and Local Funds - \$300,000.00) - the Board approved the award of Montessori Instructional Materials & Furniture, CSP #24-029, to Alison's Montessori & Educational Materials, EAI Education (Eric Armin Inc.), Lakeshore Learning Materials LLC, and Shelby Distribution Inc., in the estimated annual amount of \$300,000.00, for an initial one (1) year period, with the option to extend for four (4) additional years, one (1) year at a time.
 4. Approval of Options to Extend Contracts with Inter American Interpreting Services, LLC, and El Paso SLI Sign Language Interpreters, LLC, utilizing Translation Interpretation, and Sign Language Interpreting Services, RFP #22-017 (Budgeted Local, State, and Federal Funds - the Board approved the Second Option to Extend the contract with Inter American Interpreting Services, LLC, increasing the amount of allowable services to not exceed \$50,000.00, and amending the First Option to Extend to increase the amount of that extension by \$12,000.00; further, the Board approved amending the First Option to Extend the contract with El Paso SLI Sign Language Interpreters, LLC, to increase the amount by \$9,000.00; and further, the Board approved decreasing the amount of the contract with El Paso SLI Sign Language Interpreters, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00, and exercise the Second Option to Extend in that amount.
 5. Approval of Expenditures to Purchase Dell Chromebooks, Software, Accessories and Services from Pivot Technology Services Corporation, dba Computacenter, Utilizing State of Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) Contract #DIR-TSO-3763 (Local & Grant Budgeted Funds - \$2,879,376.90)

6. Approval to Award Category 1 WAN Services for E-Rate Funding Year 2024, RFP #24-020 (Administration Recommendation: Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC) (Budgeted Local and Grant Funds - \$857,340.00, with E-Rate Discounting this Amount by 80%) - the Board approved the award of Category 1 WAN Services for E-Rate Funding Year 2024, RFP #24-020, to Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC, in the estimated annual amount of \$857,340.00, with E-Rate discounting this amount by 80%, for an initial one (1) year period, with the option to extend for four (4) additional one year periods, contingent on E-Rate funding, as presented.
7. Approval to Award Internet Service Provider for E-Rate Funding Year 2024, RFP #24-019 (Administration Recommendation: Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC) (Budgeted Local and Grant Funds - \$131,400.00, with E-Rate Discounting this Amount by 80%) - the Board approved the award of Internet Service Provider for E-Rate Funding Year 2024, to Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC, in the amount of \$131,400.00, with E-Rate discounting this amount by 80%, for an initial one (1) year term, with the option to extend for four (4) years, one (1) year at a time, contingent on E-Rate funding, as presented.
8. Approval to Award Network Switches for E-Rate Funding Year 2024, RFP #24-021 (Administration Recommendation: Advanced Network Management, Inc.) (Budgeted Local and Grant Funds - \$19,687,638.13, with E-Rate Discounting this Amount by 80%) - the Board approved the award of Network Switches for E-Rate Funding Year 2024, RFP #24-021, to Advanced Network Management, Inc., in the amount of \$19,687,638.13, with E-Rate discounting this amount by 80%, for an initial one (1) year period, with the option to extend for four (4) additional one year periods, contingent on E-Rate funding, as presented.
9. Approval of Expenditures for Radio Equipment, Supplies, Licenses, and Services, from L3Harris Technologies, Inc., Utilizing State of Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) Contract #DIR-CPO-4794 (Local & Grant Budgeted Funds - \$2,244,331.00)

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE VOTE

Board President Irroballi requested that Items 6.G.10. and 6.H.1. - 6.H.6. be removed from the Consent Agenda. He shared with the Trustees and community present that he has recently accepted a position with the El Paso Association of Contractors, and has been working diligently with Ms. Collins and Superintendent Sayavedra to ensure transparency with all entities involved. He also shared that moving forward, he will recuse himself from voting on any construction contract approvals he may be a member, work with, or be associated with in the future.

The Board then took action on Items 6.G.10. and 6.H.1. - 6.H.6. through a single vote.

It was moved by Trustee Hernandez, and seconded by Trustee Call, that the Board approve Items 6.G.10. and 6.H.1. - 6.H.6. The motion carried with Trustees Call, Hernandez, Hanany, Beals, and Cuellar voting in favor of the motion and Trustee Irroballi abstaining from the vote.

6.G.10. Approval of Second Option to Extend HVAC Supplies Catalog Discount, RFP #22-025, to Baker Distributing; Ferguson Enterprises; HA Gray & Associates, Inc.; Hercules Industries; Massey Johnson Associates; MAVICH; PC Automated Controls, Inc.; Sigler Wholesale Distributors; and Wisco Supply, Inc. (Budgeted Local Funds - \$300,000.00)

6.H. Approval of Award and Change Orders to Construction Contracts

1. Approval of Change Order No. 02 for ESSER HVAC Replacement in High Occupancy Areas of Middle Schools and High Schools (Group 3), CSP #23-037, Project No. 22.513C, to Dantex General Contractors, Inc. (Budgeted ESSER III Funds - \$218,092.18)
2. Approval of Change Order No. 03 for ESSER HVAC Replacement in High Occupancy Areas of Middle Schools and High Schools (Group 4), CSP #23-038, Project No. 22.513D, to Dantex General Contractors, Inc., for \$332,123.72 (Budgeted ESSER III Funds - \$332,123.72)
3. Approval of Change Order No. 4 for Coach Wally Hartley PK-8, CSP No. 20-020, Project No. 17.620, to Dantex General Contractors, Inc., for \$388,720.64 and an Extension of 80 Calendar Days (2016 Bond Funds - \$388,720.64)

4. Approval of Professional Services Contract Over \$100,000 – Quality Assurance Testing for El Paso High School Preservation and Renovation, Project No. 20.661, RFQ No. 21-009, to CQC Testing and Engineering, LLC (Budgeted Maintenance Tax Notes -\$249,949.50)
5. Award of Coronado HS Shade Structure, Project No. 17.627C, Utilizing The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) RCSP #23010402 – Trades, Labor and Materials, to Keystone GC, LLC (2016 Bond Funds - \$325,870.00)
6. Award of Irvin Basketball Courts and Band Practice Area Pavement Resurfacing, Project No. 17.628D, Utilizing The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) RCSP #211001 - Job Order Contracting, to Basic IDIQ, Inc. (2016 Bond Funds - \$327,890.72)

7. **Public Meeting**

A. **March 2024 Public Meeting on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Program**

Mr. Daniel Vasquez, Fund Development and Education Foundation Officer, provided an update and overview of ESSER III Fund utilization. He also presented the strategic pivots of projects implemented through the use of the ESSER funds, which included: Heating ventilation & air conditioning units, High quality instructional materials, character building with KickStart Kids, leadership talent development, Fine Arts accelerated learning, and employee retention stipends. Additionally, Mr. Vasquez shared information on a collaboration regarding school safety initiatives, allowing for funding sources to be allocated for school safety, while pivoting in areas of curriculum and modifying SEL funding along with local funding. He also reported that the current budget and spending progress for ESSER projects could be found within the dashboard located on the District's website. Lastly, Mr. Vasquez reported on the next steps Administration will be taking for use of ESSER funds, which include: initiating closed ESSER III Projects; finalizing Cabinet initiatives to determine necessary changes/adjustments; and monitoring to re-align unspent funds from completed projects.

In response to Trustee Hernandez's inquiry, Mr. Vasquez shared that when pivoting funds from one area to another, it would depend on the change being made, the cost, and the financial category where the change is coming from. It was also shared that some pivots were initiated once the strategic blueprint was solidified to ensure any ESSER money being spent would be aligned with the direction of charting the future of the District. In response to Trustee Cuellar's inquiry, Mr. Vasquez reported that his department is already in the closeout phase and is running projections almost daily to review spending rates and categorizing projects. He shared that he anticipates having initial forecasts no later than the end of April and will share with Cabinet to have an appropriate amount of time to spend any leftover funds. Ms. Sayavedra reported that as they are working through the budget process, they are also actively looking at any unspent funds, which will allow a one-time expense, that may create some bandwidth within the current budget.

Board President Irroballi opened the floor for speakers. There were no speakers.

8. **Action Item**

A. **Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Proposed 2024-2025 School Attendance Zones / Boundary Adjustments**

Superintendent Sayavedra addressed the Board and community regarding recommendations to the District school boundaries, which have not been updated in over a decade. She also shared that due to changes, such as school closures and consolidations, the Administration reviewed the impact of open enrollment on the District as well as school boundaries to help determine the path moving forward, while attempting to maintain feeder patterns.

The following individual(s) addressed the Board:

Ms. Michelle Jabor, Community Member, addressed the Board in favor of rezoning the westside zone for students attending Don Haskins to attend Coronado High School.

Ms. Georgina Williams, President of Coronado High School PTSA, addressed the Board in favor of redistricting the zones within EPISD boundaries.

Ms. Jocelyn Roberts, Community Member, addressed the Board in favor of the proposed school attendance zone adjustments.

Mr. James Smith, Band Director at Coronado High School, addressed the Board sharing his concerns regarding open enrollment and in favor of the new attendance zones.

Ms. Marivel Macias, Chief of Organizational Transformation and Equity, presented the proposed school attendance boundary recommendations as prepared by the School Attendance Zone (SAZ) Advisory Committee. She shared that during the process, the Committee held 41 meetings, both in person and virtually, to ensure the community had the opportunity to provide feedback. In reviewing data and feedback, the Committee found that 16 campuses had split feeder patterns. Ms. Macias shared the rationale behind the attendance zone recommendations. Additionally, Ms. Macias reported that the community may visit the attendance zones webpage, which can be found on the EPISD website, and that the recommendations would affect students transitioning from 5th grade to middle school and 8th grade to high school.

Ms. Sayavedra shared that the proposed boundary change for Powell Elementary and Logan Elementary, transitioning to Canyon Hills, would help alleviate the capacity concern at Navarrete Middle School. She also shared that having students from Navarrete Middle School transition to Austin High School would alleviate the concern of Austin High School having the lowest enrollment, while also proving continuity in the feeder pattern. Additionally, it was shared that when a campus is close to or over capacity, the campus would no longer accept transfers to allow availability for students who are zoned for that campus. In response to Trustee Hernandez's inquiry, Ms. Sayavedra shared that being diligent, vigilant, and collaborating with the community and developers would ensure that accurate information is provided to the community. In response to Trustee Hanany's inquiry, Ms. Macias communicated that a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list is provided on the District's website with several scenarios regarding UIL inquiries.

Discussion ensued regarding the Central-East proposal for Year 2. Ms. Macias reported that due to Moreno Elementary being part of Montessori, the committee wanted to allow an additional year to gather additional feedback and enrollment numbers, while also allowing the community to understand the attendance school zones and the proposed recommendations. In regard to Navarrete Middle School, Ms. Macias shared that the community identifies as a feeder into Chapin High School. Ms. Michelle Casillas, Executive Director of Leadership and Talent Development, reported that additional meetings were scheduled based on feedback from the military community. Based on that feedback, the SAZ Committee proposed moving forward with the recommendations for Year 2. Lastly, Ms. Sayavedra shared that looking at the recommendation for Year 2, the goal is to address that Austin High School has a dedicated middle school.

It was moved by Trustee Call, seconded by Trustee Hanany, and carried unanimously, that the Board approve the proposed school attendance zones boundary adjustments, as presented.

9. Items on Next Month's Agenda

A. Overview of Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

Superintendent Sayavedra provided a brief overview of tentative upcoming Board Meeting agenda items.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Date Approved: April 16, 2024