



**MINUTES
CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SOCORRO ISD
EDUCATION CENTER – BOARD ROOM
JANUARY 12, 2006 | 6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda East, Co-Chairman; David Amaya, Member; Victor H. Valdivia, Member; Robert Valles, Member; Susan Hill, Member; Enedina Serna, Member; Hector Muñiz, Member; Thomas A. Eyeington, Assistant Superintendent of Operational Services; Gracie Tovar, Administrative Specialist II.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Herb de la Rosa, Co-Chairman; Dolores Acosta, Member; Keenan Greseth, Member; Christy Guereque, Member; Amelda Herмосillo, Member; Ernest Ramirez, Member; Betty Vigil, Member; Vicki Icard, Director of Special Projects.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Mr. Thomas A. Eyeington. Ms. Linda East, Co-Chairman, arrived fifteen minutes after to conduct the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting held on September 29, 2005, were approved.

PRESENTATION BY MR. THOMAS A. EYEINGTON

Mr. Eyeington presented a PowerPoint presentation in which, he discussed the bond projects. A hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be provided to the Committee with a copy of the minutes.

2000 Bond Projects

John Drugan School was opened on January 9, 2006. Utilities problems were taken care of. Final inspection was done on Friday, January 6, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. Socorro ISD staff members immediately started the moving of boxes from Sierra Vista/Clarke to John Drugan. John Drugan will relieve the students' population from Sierra Vista/Clarke. The County is preparing to re-pave about two miles of Pellicano, which will eventually connect to Darrington Street.

Mr. Eyeington showed the Committee pictures of Socorro ISD staff members working late Friday, Saturday and Sunday, to ensure the opening of the school. The pictures also shows the before and after classrooms and landscaping areas. Mr. Eyeington expressed thanks for all of the hard work and dedication that was done by staff employees to undertake this tremendous task.

Punch list items are still being done at the campus.

2004 Bond Projects

Desert Wind Addition

Certificate of Occupancy was given to the District on November 29, 2005, for Desert Wind Addition. Project was scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2005. Mr. Eyeington provided pictures of the addition of the campus. The addition is the middle school portion of Desert Wind School.

El Dorado H.S. Phase III

A color site plan was provided to the Committee to show what areas have been completed and which area the contractor is still working on. The Auditorium is the only area that is pending on this project. El Dorado H.S. Phase III should be totally completed by the end of the month or first part of February 2006.

Ituarte/Hernando Combo School.

Ituarte/Hernando is the new combo school. The combo school is located in the Rich Beem area, north of Zaragoza. Mr. Eyeington presented color scheme boards of the combo school to the Committee. The elementary portion of the school is scheduled to be completed by July 2006. Mr. Eyeington provided pictures showing the progress of the school.

Socorro H.S. HVAC Upgrade

Project is about 65% complete. It is scheduled to be completed by May 2006, but will be completed within thirty to sixty days. Phase II of the upgrade, which is the re-roof of the gymnasium, cafeteria, and locker room areas proposal and additional HVAC upgrades, will be presented to the Board in the next Board Meeting. Phase II of the upgrade should start this summer. Mr. Eyeington provided pictures of the status of the project.

Operational Services Additions & Renovations

This project is being done to provide sprinkler systems and life safety improvements to the Warehouse Facility in the valley. Offices are being added for the Information Systems Department. Presently the employees from Information System were transferred to Desert Wind School, due to the construction, until their areas has been completed.

Miscellaneous Projects

Mr. Eyeington provided pictures of Montwood M.S. and Clarke M.S. gymnasiums. The pictures show the lighting that the gymnasiums had before and the lighting that the gymnasiums has after Operational Services staff provided new lighting to the schools. The difference is very noticeable. Administrations at both campuses were happy with the turn out.

New Education Center

The District has closed on the property for the New Education Center. It is the old CFI Property. Twenty-three acres of the property is fenced in. This would be the Transportation Facility. The facility would double the capacity that the District presently has. It also has fueling capability that the District presently does not have. A kick off meeting has been scheduled with the architect.

Other Business

Ms. East asked on the location of the New High School. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the original master plan located the high school site directly on Eastlake, due to access and size, Mr. Eyeington did not like the site. Mr. Eyeington has been meeting with the developer to try to find sites suitable for the New High School and Dr. Sue Shook School.

Committee members asked Mr. Eyeington what happens to the bond money saved on projects that has been completed. Mr. Eyeington mentioned bond money saved on completed projects is put back into the bond construction funds.

The Committee members asked that the public be informed on the savings of the projects that have been completed. Ms. East suggested that Ms. Baumann, Director of Communications, inform the public in the @ Socorro Newsletter and the website. This would give the taxpayers a better concept on the bond money. This would also be a good opportunity to let the taxpayers know that the schools are being built on time and under budget.

Mr. Eyeington mentioned that a report has been provided to the Board Members on the seven projects that have been completed. The report showed a savings of about two million dollars.

Ms. East asked about EDA or IFA funding. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that Mrs. Benham has reported in their Cabinet Meeting, that she feels very confident that the money will be there. Ms. East mentioned that she had heard that this is the last year that it is being funded. Mr. Eyeington confirmed the question.

Ms. Hill asked on the schedule for the Education Center. Mr. Eyeington mentioned the design part of the project will be started within thirty days. Anticipation of breaking ground by July or August 2006 and having it built within a year's time. This is Mr. Eyeington's timeline, but could change.

Ms. East asked when the timeline for 2004 Bond Projects is scheduled to end. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the last scheduled project would end by 2009.

Committee member asked if the District had done an evaluation on the older schools. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that this is something Dr. Duron and he had spoken about, but no assessment has been done yet. Facility assessment will help in the District's planning effort. It will especially help the older school identify their needs and the assessment help with preventative maintenance throughout the District.

Mr. Valles asked about the standardization of the schools. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that a programming document for the New High School was developed to standardize the high schools. This document is a working document that would be revised as needed, but would eventually be utilized to give to the architects. This would give the architects some view on what the District needs and wants are.

Schedule a Tour of the New Schools:

Mr. Eyeington mentioned that Mr. Allen Long, Director of Career and Technology, has offered to host the Committee at El Dorado High School. He would arrange to tour John Drugan, Desert Wind Addition, Ituarte/Hernando Combo School and end up at El Dorado High School for dinner. Committee mentioned that the tour could start at 4:00 p.m. on April 6, 2006. Mr. Eyeington will visit with Mr. Long on the date and time.

Items Requested by Members for Next Meeting:

Report on Projected Enrollment

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.