



**MINUTES  
CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
SOCORRO ISD  
DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER – BOARD ROOM  
APRIL 11, 2007 | 6:00 PM**

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**MEMBER PRESENT**

Herb De La Rosa, Co-Chairman; Amelda Hermsillo, Member; Susan Hill, Member; Enequina Serna, Member; Victor Valdivia, Member; Robert Valles, Member; Thomas A. Eyeington, Assistant Superintendent of Operational Services; Gracie Tovar, Administrative Specialist II.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Linda East, Co-Chairman; Dolores Acosta, Member; David Amaya, Member; Keenan Greseth, Member; Christy Guereque, Member; Hector Muñoz, Member; Ernest Ramirez, Member; Betty Vigil, Member

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Mr. Herb De La Rosa, Co-Chairman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee approved the minutes for the Citizen's Oversight Committee Meeting held on February 6, 2007.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**SUMMARY OF 2004 BOND PROGRAM**

Mr. Eyeington provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation, which shows an overview of the current construction projects in the District.

**MONTWOOD ADDITION**

Project will be completed by June or July 2007.

**DR. SUE SHOOK**

Started construction April 2, 2007 and is expected to be completed by December 2007. The schedule is very aggressive, but the District believes that it can be accomplished.

**ITUARTE/HERNANDO COMBO**

Hernando Middle School was completed February 2007 and Ituarte Elementary School was opened for the 2006-07 school year.

**SOCORRO H.S.**

The District has done about 2.5 million dollars in miscellaneous upgrades. Both the HVAC upgrade and the re-roofing have been completed.

#### NEW HIGH SCHOOL

The new high school will be located around the Eastlake Drive area. Construction documents are approximately 75% complete. The District is still working with the developer on the closing of the 70 acres, so that the District can start construction this summer in order to meet the District's timeline. The property is under the jurisdiction of the General Land Office (GLO) and they have certain rules and regulations that need to be met before the closing is finalized.

#### HUECO ADDITION

Project is under construction. Phase I has been completed, which is the additional parking lot area. The additional parking lot will relieve some of the existing parking lot so that construction can begin on the addition to the building.

#### DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER

Project is under construction.

#### OPTION HIGH SCHOOL

A picture of the building that was purchased by the District was shown to the Citizen's Oversight Committee. The project is in the design development phase. The District will start the renovation process in a couple of months.

Mr. Valdivia asked if K.E.Y.S. Academy was going to be moved to the Lee Building. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that K.E.Y.S. Academy will stay at its current location. There is so much money in the 2004 Bond Program for the K.E.Y.S. Academy facility. The assessment has been completed and the District should be receiving the report next week. The District did receive a preliminary report, in which it shows work that would need to be done to K.E.Y.S. Academy.

Mr. Eyeington added that the District has decided to remodel the Lee Building for the Option High School. The school will have a program to recover the drop-out students. Currently the District has about 120 drop-out student for the 2006-07 school year. In the 2007-08 school year, the District has estimated about 179 drop-out students. The District feels that the numbers will be growing.

The Options High School will be opening this coming school year. The District will be moving portables, as well as, utilizing the existing building as far as the offices goes. This would allow the District to continue renovating the Lee Building. Once the Lee Building is completed, the portables will be moved out of there.

Mr. Valdivia asked if the building will have the connections for the fiber optic. Mr. Eyeington agreed and added that the Options School will have a different design than a normal high school. In the Options School the class sizes are a little bit smaller, but the District is putting ten computers for each of the classrooms.

Mr. De La Rosa asked what the student capacity for the Options High School was. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that it is 600 students.

Mr. Valles asked if the school would be strictly academics. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the school will have a semi-gym.

#### ABATEMENT @ ROJAS AND HILLEY

Phase I & Phase II of the abatement projects for Rojas and Hilley have been completed. Phase III will be awarded by the Board of Trustees on the next Board Meeting. Phase III will start this summer.

#### MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Miscellaneous improvement and HVAC projects are being done district-wide. Roughly two million dollars worth of work is being done, but is still in the planning stage. The District will be starting to work on providing refrigerated air to libraries, computer labs and administration area in a couple of weeks.

#### K-5 SCHOOL

School will be located in the triangle area (Zaragosa & Joe Battle). The school will reduce some of the over crowding in our elementary schools.

Ms. Hill asked if the K-5 school was the one that was going to be housed at Hernando Middle School for the whole year. Mr. Eyeington agreed and added that as soon as the school is completed the student and staff will be transferred to the new school.

#### 9<sup>TH</sup> CENTER @ SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL

The District has started the programming phase for this project.

#### 9<sup>TH</sup> CENTER FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL

Project will relieve the El Dorado High School Feeder Pattern.

#### ROTC FIRING RANGE

Project is the last of the new construction projects under 2004 Bond Program. The project was awarded to GA Architects. Project will get started in a couple of months.

Mr. De La Rosa asked if the District had decided on a location for the ROTC Firing Range. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that administration has discussed but have not agreed on the location.

Mr. De La Rosa asked if the ROTC Firing Range will have a vault for the weapons or are people transporting the weapons. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the facility will have some type of storage system. Mr. Eyeington also mentioned that he had met with the Commander, in which they gave the department some sketches for the facility. Within the sketches they included an armory for the storage of the weapons.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 2004 BOND REPORT ON WEB SITE

On the February 6, 2007, Citizen's Oversight Committee members had requested for Administration to put the 2004 Bond Program information on the web. Mr. Eyeington explained the slide show will be placed on the web for the community to be informed of the process of the 2004 Bond Program.

#### PRESENTATION OF NEW ELEMENTARY FOR SOCORRO CLUSTER

The campus will be located in the Socorro Cluster. Mr. Eyeington provided a PowerPoint presentation showing the 2006-07 current enrollment numbers for Ernesto Serna, Robert R. Rojas, Campestre, Socorro M.S. & Sanchez M.S., as well as the potential developments from City of Socorro

Planning Department. This presentation shows the need for a new elementary school in the Socorro Cluster. Due to the numbers, Administration is suggesting to use some of the money earmarked for the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center in Socorro to be used for the new elementary school. RFP and RFQ have been sent out; they have not been awarded by the Board. Mr. Eyeington showed the Committee areas that the District is looking at. The District would need an area that is accessible by road and utilities. On this land the District can build a new elementary school and maybe a future middle school, making it a combo school similar to Ituarte and Hernando Combo School.

Mr. De La Rosa asked if the thirty-five acres would be enough to build a combo school. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that thirty-five acres was what the District used for Ituarte and Hernando Combo School.

The school will be build for 600 students with an addition to bring it up to 900 students. If the District can find and purchase a thirty-five acre property, then the District would be able to also add the middle school. The demographic report shows that in the year 2012, there might be a need for a middle school, due to the growth in the area.

Ms. Serna asked about a rumor of closing Ernesto Serna School. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the school is not going to be closed. There was an extensive structural analysis done to Ernesto Serna in which, it shows that the school is sound. The assessment shows that the District would need to do some work around the school to alleviate some drainage problems. The damage in the school has already been done. When administration mentions closing Ernesto Serna, the appropriate way of addressing it should be taking it out of circulation, in order to fix the problems. Being a year round school, the District does not have two months like El Paso ISD and Ysleta ISD to work on the schools. In building a new elementary school, it would help the District to take half of the students out, work on the elementary side of the school and keep the middle school students. Or switch them out back and forth or potentially maybe move them all out, but the school will not be closed.

#### DISCUSS OVERSIGHT ATTENDANCE/PROCEDURES

An attendance chart summary was provided to the Committee for their reference.

Mr. De La Rosa mentioned that he was aware that the members in the Citizen's Oversight Committee are selected by the Board of Trustees, but he would like to see what procedures the Committee might be able to put in place for people who do not attend the meetings. He mentioned that it is important to have members that will attend the meeting on a regular basis. We can't afford not to, especially now that the District is looking, in the near future to ask for a bond. We would need a commitment from the individuals in order work to achieve that goal of passing a new bond.

Mr. Eyeington suggested that district staff can contact El Paso ISD and Ysleta ISD to see what kind of by-laws or guideline they have in place with their Oversight Committees that we can use.

The next Citizen's Oversight Committee Meetings has been tentatively scheduled for May 9, 2007 and June 13, 2007.

ADJOURNED: 7:45 P.M.