



**MINUTES  
CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
SOCORRO ISD  
COL. JOHN O. ENSOR MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY  
JANUARY 10, 2008| 6:00 PM**

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**MEMBER PRESENT**

Herb De La Rosa, Co-Chairperson; Susan Hill, Member; Paul Guerra, Member; Cathey Kaiser, Member; Heidi Martinez, Member; Rafael Hernando, III, Member; Troy Hicks, Member; Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson, Superintendent of Schools; Thomas A. Eyeington, Assistant Superintendent for District Operations; Holly Fields, Assistant Superintendent for El Dorado H.S. Cluster; Anna Lisa Banegas-Peña, Assistant Superintendent for Americas H.S. Cluster; Pat O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services; Rebecca O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Montwood H.S. Cluster; Cynthia Lopez, Assistant Superintendent for Socorro H.S. Cluster; Gracie Tovar, Administrative Specialist II

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Victor Valdivia, Co-Chairperson; Ricardo Castellano, Member; Robert Valles, Member; Betty Vigil, Member; Pat Ramirez, Member; Jacob Cintron, Member; Enedina Serna, Member; Irene Chavez, Member

**RESIGNED**

Hector Enriquez - Verbal Resignation  
Joe Sarabia - Verbal Resignation  
Hector Muñoz - Written Resignation

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Mr. Herb De La Rosa, Co-Chairperson. Because a third of the members did not attend the meeting, all agenda items were discussed but not voted on.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. De La Rosa asked if the corrections or recommendations were done to the Citizen's Oversight Committee Minutes held on November 15, 2007 and December 5, 2007. Ms. Tovar mentioned that she had done all the corrections that were given to her. Mr. De La Rosa asked if there were any questions and if the corrections were approved by the Superintendent. Ms. Tovar mentioned that they had not been approved by Dr. Atkinson.

Mr. Guerra asked if the Committee ever agreed on the removal of a committee member based on two consecutive unexcused absences. Mr. De La Rosa mentioned that the committee will talk about this issue on agenda item number seven.

**THREE YEAR FACILITY PLAN**

Mr. Eyeington presented a PowerPoint presentation, which shows the District Operations Three Year Facility Plan. The focus was the 2004 Bond Program and the projects that will come online at that time.

Mr. Hernando, III, mentioned if Pebble Hills will not open until a couple of years, is El Dorado High School capable of holding them off until then. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the district has added some portables to El Dorado H.S. and they will be adding one more portable. The district feels that with the additional portables, El Dorado High School will be able to handle the student capacity through spring 2010. If the district does not open Pebble Hills by spring 2010, El Dorado High School might not be able to handle the student capacity.

Mr. De La Rosa asked if the district has a plan if BRAC changes its course. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the district has looked at possibly converting some of our existing facilities and moving kids around. He added that a demographic study is currently being conducted with a company out of Austin. They are actually looking at numbers and the district is anticipating some results from them by next month. Based on the demographic study, the District Operations Three Year Facility Plan can be changed through the attendance zone and boundaries.

Mr. De La Rosa asked based on the Three Year Facility Plan, when would be the completion date of the 2004 Bond Program, so that the committee can let the community know. He feels that this is imperative, prior to having another bond election, that the district completes these projects before they go back out there to the community and say we want a bond twelve or eighteen months from now. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the plan shows that everything would be completed by 2010.

Mr. Guerra asked when would be a good time frame to wait until the district goes out for another bond. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that in a normal bond of this size it takes anywhere from four to six years to complete, but a lot of the fast growing districts will at the tail end of the schools, when they have all their projects committed or under construction, will come out with another bond program.

Dr. Atkinson mentioned six to eight years is usually the norm. A district would primarily like to be at the close of the bond before the district goes out for another bond.

Mr. Hicks asked in the 2004 Bond Program whether it was not anticipated how much the building cost was going to be. There is obviously a big difference between what was allocated by the bonds. Is the funding there to do what was presented in the Three Year Facility Plan? Mr. Eyeington mentioned that the funding is there because the district has had savings from the 2000 and 2004 Bond Programs. The district has approximately six to eight million dollars that has been rolled over into the 2004 Bond Program. These last projects and projects from now are going to be high. There is a selected few bidding the projects because of bonding capacity due to the amount of work. He added that during the Citizen's Oversight Committee and Board Meeting held in December, he mentioned that the district is about 7% over, but the construction cost has gone up 80%. The 2004 Bond Program was based on \$85.00 per sq. feet and the district is building at \$145.00 per sq. ft.

Mr. Hicks asked Mr. Eyeington what he presented in the Three Year Plan met what was voted for on the 2004 Bond Program. Mr. Eyeington responded that the presentation was based on

all the allocated projects for the 2004 Bond Program with the exemption of the ROTC facility. The ROTC facility is a half a million dollar project.

Ms. Cathy Kaiser asked if the district had contacted El Paso Community College on the firing range. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that he will follow up on that item.

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**2004 BOND PROGRAM - OPTIONS**

Mr. Eyeington provided a handout on the 2004 Bond Program Options. He mentioned that it was presented at the December Board Meeting. Complete the new construction as allocated under the 2004 Bond Program as follows:

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Estimated Timeline</b>
Ituarte/Hernando	Completed	
Pebble Hills 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Center	Construction/Mar 08	Spring 2010
Dr. Sue Shook	Under Construction	Spring 2008
Chester E. Jordan	Under Construction	Summer 2009
Socorro H.S. 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Center	Land Acquisition	Fall 2010
Eastlake 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Center	Under Construction	Fall 2009
Options H.S. (Section A&B)	Starting Construction	Fall 2008
	January of 2008	
District Service Center	Under Construction	Spring 2008
ROTC	Pending	

Mr. De La Rosa mentioned that he had a concern with the purchasing of the land. Since 2004, the district has talked about purchasing the land in the City of Socorro. We are at 2008 and he does not see that the district has a plan in place or more direction on what the district is going to do in that area.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

**9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CENTER - SHS FEEDER PATTERN**

Potential sites for the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center - Socorro H.S. Feeder Pattern were shown and discussed with the Committee. District is awaiting further direction from the Board of Trustees.

**REVIEW COMMITTEE BY-LAWS/COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. De La Rosa mentioned that he would like to appoint two or three members to review the Citizen's Oversight Committee By-Laws and really fine tune them. He added that earlier last year, the committee had looked at the by-laws from El Paso and Ysleta Independent School District, but he felt that they were not very well put together. That is the reason why he would like to appoint two or three members to fine tune the by-laws before presenting them to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Guerra asked what by-laws were being used by the other committee. Mr. De La Rosa mentioned that the committee had used some of the verbiage from the Foundation, but the Board of Trustees did not fill comfortable with the words "at will".

Mr. De La Rosa mentioned that the item was tabled by the Board of Trustees and asked the Citizen's Oversight Committee to come back and include community representation. He added that the section where the by-laws read "that each campus principal will solicit" is one of the concerns that were brought up by the Board. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that he understood that the Board wanted the district to put out a letter of intent for individuals to submit back to the Committee. Dr. Atkinson added that the Board wanted to make sure that there was community representation by the area or campus. Mr. Eyeington and Mr. Baskind will be working on the wording of the Citizen's Oversight Committee By-laws.

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Mr. De La Rosa asked the committee to review the by-laws for any additional changes to finalize a good copy.

Mr. Hernando, III, mentioned that the committee definitely needs to change. The same five or six people show up. If this continues the committee can not vote or make any decisions based on the attendance. He feels administrators need to get more involved.

Ms. Cathy Kaiser asked if our office received the RSVP from all the committee members. Ms. Tovar mentioned that all the members were e-mailed and given a deadline to RSVP. After the RSVP deadline has passed, the staff calls the members who have not responded. If the member is contacted by phone, staff will notify or remind them of the meeting. If the member is not reached by phone, a message is left for them to inform them of the meeting. Mr. De La Rosa mentioned that once the by-laws are approved, the committee can go back to see which members will be participating and which are not. Ms. Kaiser mentioned that in the past the committee had discussed sending a letter to have the members recommit or for them to resign.

Mr. Guerra mentioned that the campus that is hosting the Citizen's Oversight Committee can advertise on their marquee of the meeting and mention that all public is welcomed.

Mr. Hicks requested that the committee draft a letter to the Board Members to have them designate their person and make sure that they attend. He asked that the letter be drafted and presented during a regular board meeting and read out loud. Mr. De La Rosa asked Mr. Hicks to draft the letter for next meeting.

#### BRAC REPORT

Mr. O'Neill provided the committee with handouts on the students from military families enrolled in Socorro ISD. El Dorado High School Feeder Pattern has the largest amount of military families within the district. In totaling the numbers by grade levels, the biggest lump of military students are in the lower grade levels.

#### DISCUSS UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Our next Citizen's Oversight Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2008 @ Escontrias Elementary School @ 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Heidi Martinez mentioned that Wednesday, February 6, 2008, is Ash Wednesday. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that he would speak with Dr. Atkinson regarding the date. When Cabinet first looked at the calendar they did not realize it was Ash Wednesday.

Staff will notify members on the next scheduled Citizen's Oversight Committee.

**Reports for next meeting**

- Check with El Paso Community College on the firing range.
- Draft letter send to the Citizen's Oversight Committee for recommitment or ask for their resignation.
- BRAC Report on growth and breakdown by campus

ADJOURN: 7:35 P.M.