



**MINUTES
CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SOCORRO ISD
DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER/ MEETING ROOM A
SEPTEMBER 29, 2008| 6:00 PM**

MEMBER PRESENT

Victor Valdivia, Co-Chairperson; Susan Hill, Member; Cathey Kaiser, Member; Linda East, Member; Paul Guerra, Member; Enedina Serna, Member; Joe Keith, Member; Lorenza Fraire, Member; Rafael Hernando, III, Member; Thomas A. Eyeington, Assistant Superintendent for District Operations; Larry A. Baskind, School District Attorney; Gracie Tovar, Administrative Specialist II, Grace L. Rubio, District Operations Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT

Herb De La Rosa, Chairperson; Irene Chavez, Member; Troy Hicks, Member; Robert Valles, Member; Mary Ann Devine, Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Mr. Victor Valdivia, Co-Chairperson.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Victor Valdivia welcomed everyone to the Citizen's Oversight Committee and had everyone introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee approved the minutes for the Citizen's Oversight Committee Meeting held on June 25, 2008 with a clarification.

Mr. Valdivia mentioned that he would like to bring up a point on the Citizen's Oversight Committee minutes for the June 25, 2008. He addressed the comment where Mr. Eyeington speaks about any money from a project of the 2004 bond can legally be used for another project. Mr. Valdivia mentioned that he would like to clarify if the comment should read, legally can be used for another 2004 bond project. He mentioned that since the money was from the 2004 Bond Program, the money could only be used with bond projects.

Mr. Eyeington directed the question to Mr. Larry Baskind, School District Attorney. Mr. Baskind mentioned that the answer to the question was yes and no. He added that there are circumstances in which it would be moved to another project, but primarily the district needs to stick to the bond projects. If there is a significant change of circumstances where the project does not make sense anymore, and then it is possible for the Board to move it. The Board would need to vote on the change. Mr. Valdivia asked if that were the case, would the Board have a community meeting to explain why the change was done. Mr. Baskind agreed. The district would need public input, the board would need to vote on the change and legal opinion would be needed. Mr. Valdivia asked to amend the minutes so that this particular point would be added to the minutes.

Ms. Fraire questioned how the minutes were done and added that items were not mentioned from the previous meeting. Mr. Valdivia pointed out that the information she was mentioning was addressed in the minutes under 2004 Bond Program Update. She was questioning the savings that were mentioned on previous minutes and requested that this item be placed as an agenda item for the next Citizen's Oversight Committee Meeting. Mr. Valdivia commented that at that particular time points were brought out and explained by the financial person and Mr. Eyeington mentioned that those savings were going to be used for the overruns on some of the other projects on changes the district was making in the particular bond projects.

Ms. Fraire requested that the minutes be written where if a committee member asks a question a response be provided with the question in the minutes. She feels that the minutes need to be more detailed. Ms. Fraire commented that she believes that the purpose of minutes is to help the committee members see what is going on in the meetings. Mr. Baskind commented that the purpose for minutes is to record what action was done, not what every body says.

A motion was made by Ms. Lorenza Fraire and seconded by Mr. Rafael Hernando for minutes to include detailed reports and questions with answers that a committee member has asked during the Committee Meeting. The motion carried with eight in favor, none against and one person abstained.

A motion was made by Ms. Lorenza Fraire and seconded by Mr. Paul Guerra to approve the minutes for the June 25, 2008 Citizen's Oversight Committee Minutes with the amendment of the clarification on how the 2004 bond monies is moved. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paul Guerra asked where the Citizen's Oversight Committee Membership stands. Mr. Baskind asked for the agenda items to be conducted first then he would address the question at a later time during the meeting.

2004 BOND PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Eyeington provided a breakdown of the remaining 2004 Bond Program. He mentioned that the district has approximately \$9,258,096.76 left out of the \$188,680,000.00 in the 2004 Bond Program. He provided the Committee with a proposal on how the remaining monies in the 2004 Bond Program will be spent.

Ms. Fraire requested that Mr. Eyeington provide copies of the PowerPoint presentation prior to the Committee Meeting. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that he would have to provide the information to the Board Members first. After their approval he could provide the information on paper.

Mr. Eyeington provided a list of the projects that have been completed in the 2004 Bond Program. They are as follows:

- Desert Wind
- El Dorado H.S. – Phase III
- Loma Verde
- SAC Upgrade
- Montwood H.S. Addition
- Dr. Sue Shook Elementary
- Ituarte/Hernando Combo School
- Socorro H.S. HVAC Upgrade
- Operational Service Complex Upgrade
- Hueco Addition
- District Service Center

Currently under construction are Eastlake High School, Options High School, Chester E. Jordan and 9th Grade Center Future High School.

Mr. Rafael Hernando mentioned that in August of 2005, a year after the bond, the district mentioned the construction of nine schools. He asked for Mr. Eyeington to identify all nine. Mr. Eyeington mentioned the following schools:

- Dr. Sue Shook
- Ituarte/Hernando
- Eastlake H.S.
- 9th Grade Center, which replaces a combo, so you lose a school
- Chester Jordan
- Options High School
- 9th Grade Center – Socorro

Ms. Fraire asked Mr. Eyeington if he could provide the savings and overages of the schools that have been completed. Mr. Eyeington mentioned the following schools and added the amounts would be in round numbers.

Desert Wind	Savings of \$266,403.93
El Dorado High School- Phase III	Savings of \$250.00
Loma Verde Addition	Savings of \$51,014.92
Student Activity Complex Upgrade	Savings of \$1,197.00
Montwood H.S. Addition	Savings of \$358,596.00 still pending on change signature
Socorro H.S. HVAC Upgrade	Savings of \$18,000.00
Ituarte/Hernando Combo	Savings of \$1,500,000.00
Eastlake High School	Estimated Savings of \$1,000,000.00
Operational Services	Savings of \$29,000.00
Hueco Addition	Savings of \$20,000.00
District Service Center	Savings of \$36,295.00
Options High School	Estimated Savings \$234,000.00 – under construction
Rojas & Hilley Abatement	Right on line
9 th Grade Center Future High School	the only amount that was budgeted because it is a hard bid or competitive bid proposal is \$750,000.00 in contingency.
Chester Jordan	Estimated Savings \$700,000.00 – under construction

Mr. Keith asked, given that every site is unique due to the land and building itself, do savings that are drafted from each of these give a general sense of where that is coming back from, construction or contingency funds. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that most of the money is coming back from the contingency fund.

Mr. Eyeington showed the Committee the student capacity by campus. He mentioned that if the district took an average of the Socorro Feeder Pattern it is at 77% capacity, Montwood and Americas Feeder Pattern is at 86% capacity and El Dorado Feeder Pattern is 98% capacity. Ms. Fraire asked where the over capacity students from El Dorado Feeder Pattern are going to. Mr. Eyeington explained that they are placed in portables. She asked if Socorro High School had any portables. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that he believed that there is a couple in the back.

Mr. Guerra asked how many military students was part of the capacity chart that was presented. Mr. Eyeington responded that about thirteen to fourteen hundred students. He mentioned that BRAC will be a big factor.

Mr. Guerra asked how much would it cost for the lower valley school to get package units. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that 45 million dollars was set aside in the 2007 Bond Program to upgrade the lower valley schools to HVAC four pipe systems. Mr. Guerra asked how about a package unit. Mr. Eyeington mentioned he would have to go back and evaluate the cost for a package unit.

OTHER

BYLAWS AND MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Baskind reported that he has reviewed these items several times and has spoken to the Board Members. They have not reached a consensus at the Board Members level as to how to solve how this committee should work. The district is at the tail end of the 2004 bond issue, and because the district has new board members and change in superintendent, they are not too sure where they want to take this. They felt that they have a good committee, even though they are dwindling, it was probably best just to leave it alone. Not to tamper with it. Let the committee members finish up their work. He believes that the Board Members decided to let the committee finish off what they started and will try to decide what to do when the district goes out for the next bond issue. That is the reason why no new bylaws have been written because the committee is doing a good job.

Ms. Fraire asked Mr. Baskind what he meant about the work that the committee should do. In the three four meetings that she has attended, she does not believe the committee members know what they are supposed to be doing. What she has read on the internet, the Citizen Oversight Committee was established to review all facilities planning in Socorro Independent School District. Ms. Fraire did not see much of this in the couple of times that she has been to the meetings. This committee acts as a means of involving the public to assure accountability, insuring that taxpayers dollars are used effectively, efficiently and equitably. They will serve in an advisory capacity to the Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees to assure a fiscally responsible, timely and educationally and appropriate building program. She feels all she did at the Citizen's Oversight Committee was what Mr. Eyeington had to say. She could not have any input. Mr. Eyeington will be going to the Board of Trustees for their decision. She would like to know at what point she participated in advising the Board of Trustees on what she felt should be done.

Mr. Guerra felt Mrs. Fraire brought up a good point. He feels that the Committee is receiving the information. He asked if the members could suggest ideas or is it something the members could not do. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that he could take that recommendation back to the Board on behalf of the Citizen's Oversight Committee Members. Mr. Guerra added that in the June meeting the members were discussing what their role is. The members were told that they are only an advisory committee. Mr. Valdivia disagreed; he mentioned that the Committee provides input. Mr. Valdivia mentioned that a lot of recommendation was done for the 2007 Bond. He added that the Committee had input because Mr. Eyeington had recommended a lower amount and the Committee kept on asking for a higher amount. Mrs. Fraire asked why Mr. Valdivia participated as a Committee in the 2007 Bond when he was a Committee Member for the 2004 Bond. Mr. Valdivia commented that it was requested by the Board of Trustees and the superintendent.

Mrs. Fraire felt that teachers are taking the biggest fall and the kids are suffering because they are not getting educated. It is always about the district not having enough room for kids. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that if she looks at the information that was provided to her, the information shows the 22 to 1 ratio. Mrs. Fraire mentioned that multi track in 1993 was her biggest concern because she thinks that education is number 1. She added that the only thing she can leave her children is an education. Mr. Eyeington commented that if the 2007 Bond did not pass, one of the

possibilities was going to multi track, but it has not gotten to that point. He asked if Mrs. Fraire felt that going multi track was her recommendation, he would take the recommendation to the

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Board of Trustees. Mr. Keith mentioned that he was not an advocate of multi track, both as an administrator and a community member. He feels that there are other issues with cost. He added that there are certain populations that are jammed on certain tracks. There are issues with UIL competition, with high schools trying to match families. To Mr. Keith it does not make sense to go back to multi track. He feels that the Committee needs to move forward and meet the demands that BRAC is continuously going to bring the district, instead of looking at procedural aspects of this Committee. Mrs. Fraire asked if the district did away with multi track why the district did not change to a traditional calendar. Mr. Baskind commented that the Board of Trustees decides on the calendar, not the Citizen's Oversight Committee. Mr. Baskind added that if Mrs. Fraire does not like the calendar then she needs to talk to the Board members.

Mr. Guerra asked if KEYS Academy is okay to work in. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that testing has been done at KEYS Academy and everything is fine. It meets the in-door air quality. He added that the in-door air quality can change from day one to day two, but when it was tested it met all the ratios.

Mr. Guerra recommended that four million dollars be allotted from the 2004 Bond Program for the needs of the schools that do not have air conditioning.

Mrs. Kaiser asked how many schools four million dollars could take care of. Mr. Eyeington mentioned that it could take care of maybe one. The amount was based on a four pipe system, but if it was done as a packaging, the district could do maybe three or four. Mrs. Kaiser added that the Committee addressed that issue in the District Improvement Plan under Facility, which would be the plan as the district moved forward in equity, so there is a plan there. Mr. Eyeington agreed and added that it would take bond money.

It was recommended by Mr. Guerra and seconded by Mrs. Fraire. No voting was done.

Mr. Keith recommended that the Committee look at the remaining savings for the building with the intention that future bond monies be allocated for the air conditioning as Mr. Eyeington studies the situation and develops a plan. Mr. Guerra seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Mr. Eyeington mentioned that as far as the district calendar, the district has had community meetings to discuss the calendar. Mrs. Kaiser added that the EPAC Committee makes the recommendation to the Board of Trustees and the Board votes on the recommendation.

REPORTS FOR NEXT MEETING

- None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.