

EPAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2015
DSC Meeting Rooms C & D
4:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:31 p.m.

Members Present:

Christopher Portillo	Lee Ann Troncoso	George Moran	Ciria Leon
Crystal Newport	Luis Salinas	Selene Davila	Araceli Carmona
Lulu Bouche	Daisy Newport	Eunice Gomez	Lisa Gomez
Alicia O'Quinn	Krystal Lozano	Gabriela Barraza	Patricia Santana
Regina Lerma	Elena Burdan	Luz Gamez	Jesus Malanche
Lorena Sandoval	Johanna Jauregui	Rosa I. Rojas	Denise Ewing
Luis Miranda	Cathey Kaiser	Mary Esther Smith	George Thomas
Kelley Akins	Martha Ortega	Lizette Castro	Melissa Smith
Frenda Serda-Gerardo	Darlene Esparza	Sylvia Gomez	Earl Sanchez
Issidoro Lopez	Brenda Torres	Kim Padilla	Lorraine Vidales
Ruben Ochoa	Madahi Alderete	Tiffany Heras	Lorena Cartagena
Salvador Chavez	Jackie Beltran	Sandra Burton	Edward Martinez
Luz Irene Apodaca	Jessica Chavez	Sandra Jasso	

Cabinet/Staff: Dr. José Espinoza, *Superintendent of Schools*; Carmen Crosse, *Assistant Superintendent - Secondary Education*; Marivel N. Macias, *Assistant Superintendent - Administrative Services*; Tom Eyeington, *Chief Operations Officer - District Operations*; Hector Reyna, *Chief Technology Officer - Technology Services*; Tony Reza, *Chief Financial Officer - Financial Services*; Alisa Zapata-Farmer, *Chief Academic Officer - Academic Services*; Jennifer Avila, *Director - Bilingual/ESL Education*; Dr. Holly Fields, *School Improvement Officer - Instructional Support*; Kelly McBain, *Director - Research and Evaluation*; Richard Ortega, *Director - Special Education*; Jeanette Williams, *Director - State and Federal Programs*; Fernie Vasquez, *Assistant Director - State and Federal Programs*; Miguel Moreno, *Coordinator - Instructional Technology*; Sergio Jaurrieta, *Title I Specialist - State and Federal Programs*; Jennifer Jones, *Title I Specialist - State and Federal Programs*; Oscar Leza, *Title I Specialist - State and Federal Programs*

I. Welcome - Dr. José Espinoza

Ms. Williams opened the meeting, welcomed members, and handed the meeting over to Dr. Espinoza. Dr. Espinoza greeted members, reminded them of their importance as part of EPAC, and emphasized how they serve to connect the district with campuses. He spoke about his advisory councils with both parents and students, stating that input from all parties is important. He asked members to relay the message to campuses about having stakeholders attend the upcoming feeder pattern community meetings. He also spoke about student enrollment, noting that over 45,000 students now attend Socorro ISD. He shared that safety measures in the district are even better this year since elementary campuses will now have a security officer in place. Dr. Espinoza requested that members remind their campuses to update their school websites so that they are current and to use them to actively disseminate information. He spoke about Twitter, noting that while its use is not mandatory, it is a great tool for promoting best practices for learning. Dr. Espinoza also announced 2 new principals: Ms. Angelica Herrera at Hueco Elementary and Ms. Rosemary Yates at Elfida P. Chavez Elementary. He also recognized schools that were categorized as Tier I schools: Robert R. Rojas Elementary, H.D. Hilley Elementary, Americas High School, Montwood Middle School, John Drugan School, and Mission



Early College High School.

II. Introduction of EPAC Chairperson - *Ms. Jeanette Williams*

Ms. Williams introduced Mr. Earl Sanchez, who will continue as the EPAC Chairperson for the 2015-2016 school year.

III. District-Level Planning and Decision-Making Process – *Ms. Jeanette Williams*

Ms. Williams went over a PowerPoint presentation regarding the district-level planning and decision-making process, which detailed EPAC member responsibilities as well as the various requirements in policy regarding the activities of the committee.

IV. 2015/16 DIP & CIPs Website – *Ms. Jeanette Williams & Mr. Oscar Leza*

Ms. Williams handed the meeting over to Mr. Leza, who showed members where the District and Campus Improvement Plans are located on the SISD website.

V. School Improvement Team Issues – *Mr. Earl Sanchez*

Mr. Sanchez asked members to share any SIT issues for deliberation at EPAC and stated that if a question cannot be answered immediately, appropriate parties will be consulted to address it at the next meeting.

The member from Myrtle Cooper Elementary asked for input regarding how to remedy Pre-K student absences and the absences of Special Education students with particular medical needs, since they impact the overall attendance of the school. With regard to Special Education, Mr. Ortega stated that the district does have to allow these absences, but only those that are properly documented via the ARD process, prescriptions, and doctor's notes. With regard to Pre-K attendance, Ms. Farmer stated that it is important to call parents and keep them informed. Communities experience varying levels of difficulty with the perspectives of parents but it is important to build relationships with them to notify them about the importance of attending school. Ms. Macias added that Pre-K students are held to the same attendance standards as far as the 90 percent rule. The sooner that parents understand the necessity, the sooner the attendance improves. Things do tend to improve by the time students reach Kindergarten and acclimating parents quickly is key.

VI. Closure – *Mr. Earl Sanchez*

Mr. Sanchez thanked members and reminded them that the next EPAC meeting will occur on September 17th, 2015. The meeting was closed at 5:12 p.m.

