

**El Paso Independent School District
Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2023**

Present:

Ana Elena Allen
Norma Chavez
Yolanda Clay
Kelvin Joel Kroeker, P.E.

Miguel S. Venegas
Russell Wiggs

Not in Attendance:

Alexsandra R Annello
Michael Apodaca
Raul Arizpe
Angelica Bharat
Roger Scott Brown
Bob Burns

Debbie Fetzer
Dan Longoria
Christian Lopez
Toni Lunsford
Ross Moore

Presenters:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Mr. Russell Wiggs, Chair.

2. Review of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes for April 15, 2021, through June 15, 2023, were not approved due to lack of quorum. The minutes will carry over to the next scheduled meeting for approval.

3. Projects Update

Ms. Irene Ramirez, Executive Director of Facilities & Construction, presented the following.

Completed Construction Projects

Listed Projects have been completed, with some of the projects having minor pieces still going on.

- Andress High School
- Austin High School
- Dr. Joseph Torres
- Burges High School
- Coach Archie Duran
- El Paso High School
- Irvin High School
- Don Haskins PK-8
- Gen. D. MacArthur PK-8
- Crockett Renovations
- Dr. Josefina Tinajero PK-8
- Charles Q. Murphree PK-8

Projected Funds Transferred to Program Contingency

A result of the above completed projects a transferred \$11,782,293.88 into the program contingency. Details will be provided during the Financial Reporting by David Martinez.

Project Completion Timeline Summary- Five remaining projects to be completed.

- Jefferson and Bobby Joe Hill - End of September
- Navarette – October 2023
- Coach Wally Hartley - December 2023
- Coronado – March 2024

Mr. Russell Wiggs asked what was pending to be done in the remaining projects. Ms. Ramirez responded that Jefferson has some pending work in the Auxiliary Gym but will go into the details during the individual project update.

The following projects were presented by the assigned project manager:

Bobby Joe Hill School -(Mr. Oscar Jaloma, Project Manager)

Mr. Wiggs asked what would be done in the ponding area. Mr. Jaloma responded that a proposal was requested from the Contractor for a rock landscape around the ponding perimeter. Mr. Wiggs continued to ask if the pond area would remain as dirt. Mr. Jaloma responded that it would since there is no irrigation in the area.

Ms. Norma Chavez asked if a fence could be added around the pond with remaining contingency funds for safety concerns.

Mr. Wiggs asked if river rock could be added to the ponding area instead of leaving the area as dirt. Ms. Ramirez responded that it would be looked into, and although it was not programmed in the project it could be added to the Bond Gap list. Mr. Manny Verduzco, Interim Chief Operations Officer, added that we can see how much it would be to proceed with rock down to the center.

Mr. Miguel Venegas asked if the basketball courts included lighting. Mr. Jaloma responded yes.

Jefferson/Silva- (Mr. Oscar Jaloma, Project Manager)

Ms. Chavez asked for an update on the potential fencing to Alameda and Val Verde. Mr. Jaloma responded that those doors are exit doors and administration is having issues with students leaving those doors propped open. Mr. Verduzco added that they are working on a Safe Grant for barrier perimeter fencing and considering this school.

Coach Wally Hartley PK-8 -(Mr. Manny Rivera, Project Manager)

Ms. Chavez asked what is designated across the football field in the image presented. Mr. Rivera responded that it is an open grass area with equipment for the cross-fit program.

Ms. Chavez asked if the roofing to the existing Hughey was completed before the big rain. Mr. Rivera responded that the roof was fully dried in before to the rains.

Mr. Venegas asked if there was any asbestos material removed with students in the area. Mr. Rivera responded that all asbestos material was removed prior to demolition and all safety precautions were taken to keep all air/dust contained during the abatement.

Captain Gabriel L. Navarrete Middle School- (Mr. Oscar Garcia, Project Manager)

Ms. Yolanda Clay asked what furniture was in the hallway. Mr. Garcia responded that the 2nd floor will receive soundproof panels and the 1st floor will receive collaboration furniture. Mr. Wiggs added that the furniture is to fill an extremely large hallway.

Coronado High School- (Mr. Joel Olivas, Project Manager)

Mr. Wiggs asked if the area below the bus loop includes landscape the area has weeds growing already. Mr. Olivas responded that it will be landscaped with large rocks and they are finishing the irrigation to the shrubs.

Mr. Wiggs asked if the courtyard included seating similar to Burges. Mr. Olivas responded yes it would include a small amphitheater, and landscaped areas with tables, chairs, and shading.

Ms. Clay asked if the project is anticipated to be completed by March 2024. Mr. Olivas responded yes, the building is anticipated to be completed by January 8, 2024 and substantial completion by March 6, 2024.

Irvin High School Additional Projects– Ms. Luz Favela

- Rocket Display – Existing rocket relocated and placed on the base to include lighting.
- Science Labs Fume Hoods- Adding fume hoods to renovated areas that were not part of the bond project. The project is to be completed by Spring 2024.
- ROTC Exterior Stairwells

4. Bond IT, Safety & Security Projects Update

Ms. Claudia Alonzo, IT Project Coordinator, presented on the following.

Projects Completed

- Security Surveillance Cameras
- Classroom Technology- Interactive Panels along with a Mini PC

Mr. Wiggs asked if the cameras and interactive panels were only installed in bond schools. Mr. Alonzo responded yes, the update today is only for bond campuses.

Mr. Verduzco stated that they are currently working on 3 grants that will address non-bond campuses as well. First was the numbering of the buildings and exterior doors to comply with TEA was recently completed. The second is to have all exterior doors with access control, and video stations at the back of the school for student access for transitioning between buildings. They anticipate going out to bid at the end of this month (September) and start working on this plan which may extend to the next calendar year.

Digital Marquees

- Andress -Complete
- Austin -Complete
- Burges -Complete
- Coronado -In progress
- Don Haskins -Complete
- Duran -Complete
- Irvin -Complete
- Jefferson -In progress
- MacArthur -Complete
- Murphree -In progress
- Navarrete-Complete
- Tinajero -In progress
- Torres- Complete

Access Control

Mr. Wiggs commented at a previous meeting they were informed that there were not enough servers for all the security devices. Mr. Verduzco responded that all bond schools have been migrated into the cloud. Mr. Wiggs asked if all magnetic cards working. Mr. Verduzco responded yes they are working and programmed, new cards were programmed and delivered to the campuses.

Mr. Wiggs asked if the video door that could be pulled open at Irvin High School was addressed. Mr. Verduzco responded static pressure of the air is being addressed with the contractor to secure hinges as well as the EPISD Maintenance Department.

Mr. Venegas asked who is managing the access control on campuses with multiple access locations on site. Mr. Alonzo responded that the reason for multiple video doors is determined by the number of buildings on campus. When students are transitioning between buildings they will ring the video door which will notify the front office for access. Mr. Verduzco commented that additional video door stations will be added to schools

Mr. Venegas commented that in his place of employment, he has access to the doors and when a door is left open it sounds like an alarm, is this something that can be done at the campuses (Jefferson). Mr. Verduzco responded that they were working on the doors along with EPISD Police Services.

5. Periodic Financial Reports

Mr. David Martinez, Compliance and Job Cost Accounting Manager, presented the periodic reports as of August 31, 2023.

- Fund Report Managed by the District
- Fund Status Report Breakdown by Project
- Interest Revenue/Admin Expenses to Date - Mr. Martinez reported that at the September Board meeting approved the use of interest for the Andress boiler and chiller improvement in the amount of \$1.2 million
- Bond Program Status- Budget

- Bond Program Status – Program Contingency – Mr. Martinez reported that EPISD applied for a grant to build Bliss Elementary School from the federal government. Mr. Verduzco added that Bliss was on the DOD list of schools that were eligible for the grant to cover 80% of the built. In May 2023, the District presented a proposal in Arlington, as part of the application the District had to show the financial funding for the 20%.

Mr. Wiggs asked if the Board approved to use of bond funds. Mr. Martinez responded that the Board approved the proposed use of \$8mil of program contingency, \$2.6mil of interest, and \$4.3 mil of general fund. Mr. Wiggs asked if legal had approved the use of bond funds for a non-bond campus. Mr. Martinez responded that they had reached out to the bond attorney and were okay with it.

Ms. Ana Elena Allen asked how the attorney came to the conclusion that it was okay to use bond funds. Mr. Martinez responded that how he understood it was the funds being used were interest/revenue that was being earned and the initial bond funds had been used. Ms. Allen added that really good documentation should be kept on interest.

Mr. Wiggs stated as long as Cezy Collins, EPISD Counsel, had looked at this and was okay with it.

Ms. Chavez commented to make sure that it is allowable to use funding that was for specific bond schools, and interest that came from the bond.

Mr. Venegas commented if a new bond goes out again make sure that the message is correct and understood.

Ms. Chavez stated that the committee is the eyes for this bond, and it could taint a future bond if the voters are not confident that the right thing was done, if staff can make sure that this is okay and present it back to the committee. Mr. Martinez responded that he would provide information at the next meeting.

Mr. Wiggs commented that the Irvin courtyard was cleared out and there is no shade, students are not using the area and requested that it be looked into.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Date Approved by CBAC Secretary: December 8, 2023

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