

ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1 - RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1

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BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD ROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE MINUTES OF MEETING DRAFT June 9, 2014 (Business Session Meeting)

A Business Session Board Meeting of the Elizabeth School District was held on Monday, June 9, 2014, in the Board Room, District Office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Deb Spenceley called the BOE Meeting to order at 7:08pm.

ROLL CALL

The following BOE Directors were present:

Director Carol Hinds
Director Chris Richardson
Director Deb Spenceley
Director Chip Swan

Also present: Superintendent, Douglas Bissonette
Executive Administrative Assistant/Communication Specialist, Michele McCarron
Director of Finance, Ron Patera

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Deb Spenceley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 EDUCATION SHOWCASE

No Education Showcase

5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/BLANKET MOTION

A motion was made to amend the agenda.

Remove item 7.1 opting out of Federal Title Funding – Lessons learned from Kit Carson

Add item 9.7 to the consent agenda Disposition of District Property

Motion moved by Director Swan

Motion seconded by Director Hinds

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds - aye
Director Chris Richardson - aye
Director Deb Spenceley - aye

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Director Chip Swan - aye
The motion carried 4-0

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Motion to approve the minutes from 5/19/14 as written.

Motion Moved by Director Richardson

Motion Seconded by Director Swan

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 4-0

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Removed from the agenda – opting out of federal title funding lessons learned from Kit Carson

7.2 Chief Financial Report

Ron Patera, Chief Financial Officer presented the proposed budget for the school year 2014-2015. The Board of Education has a difficult job, recognizing the declining enrollment and modest revenue increases, while striving to meet the ever-increasing demands for student achievement. During the budgeting process the BOE stressed their desire to continue educational excellence, develop a financially responsible plan and to put students at the heart of everything we do.

Ron Patera coordinated with the district-wide leadership to address the budget challenges. Salaries were increased for some employees who have experienced multiple years of pay freezes. Certified staffing levels were adjusted based on changes in enrollment. Staff support positions were further reduced due to the state's reduced funding from prior years' and three years of fund balance usage to balance the general fund budget. Funds were allocated within the capital budget to improve health and safety at the schools. The district budget for 2014-2015 reduces expenditures by \$504,000 and the impact will be felt throughout the organization. Our revenues have been below 2008 funding levels. Ron Patera indicated that the current business model is unsustainable and that within a few years our reserves will be exhausted. The district administration and its staff continue to be dedicated to providing an excellent education experience for our students.

7.3 Superintendent Report

Superintendent, Douglas Bissonette discussed with the board the CDE discipline report.

7.4 Board of Education

The Board of Education have participated in various community events including Elizabeth Stampede and Elizabash and will be participating in the Safety Fair. They have been active with the Citizen Impact Committee.

8.0 Public Participation

No Public Participation

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda 9.1 through 9.7 as presented

Motion Moved by Director Swan

Motion Seconded by Director Hinds

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

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Director Chip Swan - aye
The motion carried 4-0

9.1 New Hires

9.2 Terminations/Resignations/Non-Renewals

9.3 Transfers/Changes

9.4 Fund Balance Resolution 2014-2015

9.5 2014-2015 District Budget

9.6 Approval of Property and Liability Insurance and Approval of Worker's Compensation Insurance

9.7 Disposition of District Property

10.0 Action Items

10.1 A motion was made to approve the 2nd Reading and final approval for Policy JLDAC Screening & Testing of Students and Policy KDB-R Public's Right to Know

Motion Moved by Director Swan

Motion Seconded by Director Richardson

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 4-0

10.2 A motion was made to approve the Board President signature on the Consolidated Grant.

Motion Moved by Director Richardson

Motion Seconded by Director Hinds

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 4-0

10.3 A motion was made that the Board of Education engage George K. Baum to provide services in connection with the District's public policy efforts and to provide underwriting and investment banking services in connection with one or more capital projects, and that the President of the Board be authorized to sign the engagement letters substantially in the form presented to the Board at this meeting. Subject to final review and approval by district legal counsel.

Motion Moved by Director Swan

Motion Seconded by Director Hinds

ROLL CALL:

Director Carol Hinds - aye

Director Chris Richardson - aye

Director Deb Spenceley - aye

Director Chip Swan - aye

The motion carried 4-0

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11.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 Bond/Mill Levy Override

Community leaders, the Board of Education, and District Administration are actively working together to consider going to voters to approve a mill levy override, a bond request or both. Our facilities need repairs and improvements, our students and staff needs additional technology resources and support, and we need to attract and retain the very best educators. Approximately 24 percent of the Elizabeth School District's teaching staff leaves each year, primarily for higher paying jobs in other districts. The district is in the bottom 5 percent of per pupil funding statewide when mill levy overrides are considered. The district has great needs and putting off a request for increased taxpayer funding is undesirable.

A professional polling firm was used to survey 100 households for the board of education in understanding what the community values in terms of Elizabeth Schools and the voters' receptivity to a question on the ballot this November. When read a number of needs that could be funded through ballot measures, attracting and retaining quality teachers, providing updated textbooks, as well as providing technology necessary for students to gain skills they will need in the modern workplace were the residents' top priorities. The backlog of needed repairs that this funding would address is a strong ancillary rationale.

12.0 BOARD PLANNING

The board meeting scheduled for June 23 was cancelled.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2014.

13.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Spenceley, President

Chip Swan, Vice President

Chris Richardson, Secretary

Carol Hinds, Treasurer

Dee Lindsey, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded by: Michele McCarron