

## **Bond Oversight Committee Meeting October 25, 2016 Minutes**

On the 25th of October 2016, the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) of the Ysleta Independent School District met at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office, 9600 Sims, El Paso, Texas. Attached is a list of the sign in sheets for this meeting. Also present was Dr. Xavier De La Torre, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Ana Dueñez, Board member from the Riverside area; Mr. Mike Rosales, Board member from the Eastwood area; Mr. Pat O'Neill, Associate Superintendent of Operations, Mrs. Lynly Leeper, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Abigail Tarango, Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives Director. Members of the VLK Architects (Bond Program Manager) present were: John Klein, Sloan Harris, and Project Managers Rene Aguilar, Edgar Goytia, Brenda Fierro, and Adrian Stresow. Representatives of GA Architects were also present with Thomas Manor ES project design plan boards set up for viewing.

BOC Chair Frank Hernandez welcomed the group, noting as there was lack of a quorum present, no action could be taken on the minutes from past meetings. He added the issues of attendance would be discussed at a later point in this meeting.

Mr. Hernandez introduced Superintendent of Schools, Dr. De La Torre, who welcomed the group, thanking them for their time and service on this important committee. He reported every Learning Community now has bond projects in progress. He has attended Chamber of Commerce meetings to report this and explain the district's solicitation process. For a few projects, the best firm for the project has not been a local one. Dr. De La Torre added more detail would be provided during the Project Manager report provided by VLK Architects. Dr. De La Torre invited the group to attend December board meeting when representatives of the BOC will report to the Board.

Staff from VLK Architects reporting were John Klein, Program Director; Sloan Harris; Chad Davis, Director of Design; and Project Managers Edgar Goytia, Rene Aguilar, and Adrian Stresow. Mr. Klein reported on Bond Program activity. The full report was available as a handout, emailed to the entire BOC, and posted on the Bond 2015 web site. The report included an update on these Bond Projects currently under construction: Del Valle high school auxiliary gym improvements; Athletic Enhancements; District Wide Security Entries; Eastwood Knolls additions and renovations; Parkland middle school additions and renovations; and Structural Remediation at Riverside middle school.

Bond Projects under design were also a part of the update: new Bel Air middle school; Tierra del Sol and Desertaire elementary school additions and renovations; new Del Valle middle school/Mission Valley elementary combo school; new Thomas Manor elementary school; Hanks high school improvements; Rio Bravo and Ysleta middle school additions and renovations; and Eastwood high school additions and renovations.

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Mr. Klein reported projects completed are all 7 football fields with new turf. He closed the VLK Report with a review of navigating through the Bond 2015 web page.

Mrs. Lynly Leeper, Chief Financial Officer, reported to the Committee on the finance side of the bond. Mrs. Leeper, Ms. Tarango, and Mr. Klein responded to questions from the group.

Minnie Acosta – Questioned the amount of the Eastwood high school project, referring to a list of Bond Projects with project costs. Mrs. Leeper and Ms. Tarango referred the BOC to the individual project sheets sent to the BOC and posted on the web page. The costs associated with each project have not been changed, and can only be revised with approval by the Board.

Ron Leiman – Asked is the cost of the Athletic Enhancements were about \$2 million each. Mr. Klein responded that was correct.

Manny Moreno – Asked the BOC members to consider the high complexity of each project and look at the Cost Performance Index (CPI) he had asked for. The CPI and the Actual Expense and Encumbrance figures keep the BOC informed that each project is on or under budget.

George Acosta – Commented he had asked for a detailed and itemized budget copy for each project over 6 months ago and asked this information be sent to each BOC member. The response was the individual project sheets provided this information and had been in the BOC's hands for several months, as well as posted for the public. Several BOC members responded to this, referring to the role of the BOC and stating they did not want this type of detailed information.

Garry Woodruff – Reminded the group the public voted in \$96 million for the Eastwood high school project, and added it had not changed.

Ramon Federico – Asked if this bond would be within the budget.

Manny Moreno – Referred the group to the CPI provided by Mrs. Leeper, indicating the projects were under budget.

George Acosta – Commented he had an issue with statements made by the Superintendent at a community meeting of the Eastwood area about the cost of the Eastwood high school project. Mrs. Leeper reminded the group the Board approved the Bond Projects by budget function, by campus, and only the Board could move funds between campus projects.

Minnie Acosta – Asked about quality control and who besides the VLK staff reviewed and approved projects. Mr. O'Neill responded the Ysleta ISD Project Managers each had a list of Bond Projects under their watch. Mrs. Acosta added there were problems with projects in the Riverside area and she wanted a tour and information on remedies. Mr. O'Neill referred the group to the BOC Charter for the members' roles and responsibilities, but added campus visits are guided by district policy.

Ramon Federico – Asked if all the stain had been removed from the Eastwood field turf, with response being yes.

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Garry Woodruff – Asked questions about how the split level of the ground would be handled in the design of the new Bel Air middle school. VLK responded with information about the planned design layout that will address the uniqueness of the site.

Liz Tabbutt – Commented she knew her role as a BOC member and in order for the district to move forward with projects, there had to be trust. She added she did not need a copy of the detailed budget per project.

Frances Rodriguez – Asked if Parkland area projects were under budget, could any funds be used for school parking there. Mrs. Leeper responded any budget amendments must be approved by the Board once a project is completed.

Jim Cox – Asked when the next round of bond sales were planned. Mrs. Leeper said October is usually not a good time to sell bonds, and at this time, the district does not need to sell bonds. The best time is usually January or June.

George Acosta – Again brought up his list of concerns with projects in the Riverside area.

Ms. Tarango asked that questions be sent to her to have them addressed in order to respect the time of the BOC members attending meetings. Mr. Hernandez referred the group to the agenda item providing time to Mr. Ron Leiman to report on the Ysleta Historic District. The El Paso Historic Landmark Commission has approved markers for several of the older campuses, including RFK, Ysleta high school, Ascarate, Cadwallader, and Cesar Chavez. Funding is being sought for the markers (\$2200 each) through the Paso del Norte Foundation. Mr. Leiman added there will be a big celebration to dedicate markers when they are ready to be installed.

Abigail Tarango, Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives, said Bond Project sheets will be updated and posted, as will agendas and minutes of the BOC meetings. Mrs. Acosta asked the Sign In sheets for each meeting be a part of the posted minutes, as stated in those minutes.

Mr. Hernandez asked for volunteers to report to the Board at their December meeting, and for a meeting of the BOC to address attendance and re-dedication to the group. No input was provided by the group. Mr. Hernandez asked members to email him their concerns and ideas of addressing the quorum issue.

The next meeting of the BOC will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 14 in the Ysleta Room when the Board meets. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. on October 25, 2016.

SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL  
February 28, 2017