

**ELPASO GRIDLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #11**  
**Citizens Advisory Council Minutes**  
**October 12, 2010**

Superintendent Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Members in attendance: Nancy Schuler, Stephanie Matzke, Chuck Fenney, Paula Puck, Tarry Lance, Brooke Hinds, Kami Miller, Beth McNamara, Kelly Faulk, Rick Johnston, Kelly Throneburg, Karen Krug, Brian Kurz, Tim Fairchild, and Kim Elder.

Council members absent: John Hartness, Michelle Marr, Leah Fletcher, John Shaffer, Hannah Denney, Shelbie Bigger, Lisa Meyer, Theresa Miller, Shelly Forrest, and Robby Tomlinson.

Superintendent Johnson welcomed the new and old members of the group to the meeting. Members individually introduced themselves to their fellow Council members. After introductions, Mr. Johnston explained that the purpose of the Citizens Advisory Council is to enhance communication from the community to the school and vice versa.

Superintendent Rick Johnston stated officers for the Citizens Advisory Council need to be elected. He opened the nominations for President and reported that Lisa Meyer has volunteered to fill the office of President. It was moved and seconded to approve Lisa Meyer as President. The motion carried. Brooke Hinds made a motion to nominate Tarry Lance for Vice President. The motion was seconded to approve Tarry Lane as Vice President. The motion carried. Mr. Johnston opened up nominations for Secretary. Paula Puck volunteered for the position. It was moved and seconded to approve Paula Puck as Secretary. The motion carried.

Check Feeney moved and Stephanie Matzke seconded the motion to approve the April 20, 2010 minutes.

Superintendent Johnston went over the District's Financial Overview. For FY10, EPG began the year projecting a \$617,000 deficit with \$750,000 worth of projects being paid out of existing funds. We did not have to borrow any money. The state did not pay us nearly \$700,000 within the FY10 fiscal year that they owed us for Special Education, Transportation, Reading Grants, and Early Childhood. To help offset this deficit, the district worked hard to keep expenditures at \$560,000 which was 4% below the budget. The district ended the year at \$182,000 in deficit.

For FY11, Mr. Johnston indicated the district is presenting a \$524,688 budget deficit because of the expectations of the state not funding at past levels. The revenue projections are at a conservative level compared to previous years because we planned for the State of Illinois to make cuts. If we maintain similar spending levels as the past five years and have no large unexpected costs, we will end the similarly to the FY10 ending balance.

Paula Puck questioned if there was money set aside in the budget for large unexpected expenditures such as a boiler or roof. Mr. Johnston said there is money in the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

Chuck Feeney questioned if there was not enough to cover it in the Operations and Maintenance Fund, where would the district get the funds? Superintendent Johnston said money would be pulled from the Education Fund and put into the Capital Projects account to cover the expense. This is allowed in school code to cover these unexpected costs when districts have existing strong fund balances.

Mr. Johnston state we are in a much better financial condition than most other school districts in that we have not laid off teachers and we have cash on hand. Our district has a solid financial cushion which is the result of positive revenue to expense for FY06-08. Tarry Lance expressed concern about depleting this fund if things do not improve with the State of Illinois. The concern was noted but Mr. Johnston advised as long as the district manages its finances effectively, the District will be able to achieve its goals.

Mr. Johnston informed the Council of what the district has been able to accomplish in the last two years. Improvements were made in the following areas: Connectivity and Security systems, Technology, VOIP phone system, Skyward, Fitness Center, HVAC system replaced, Centennial roof and gutter system, ADA compliant elevator at High School, Updated paint scheme, District web presence expanded and updated, Curriculum and Instruction, and a District policy manual update. Please refer to the District Dashboard for a complete overview of the above mentioned projects.

Superintendent Johnston turned the meeting over to Brian Kurz for his presentation of the Districts ISAT scores for the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades. He discussed there will be new standards with new ways to measure for 2014-2015. The dilemma is whether to focus on the new standards which are unknown yet or focus on current standards. The answer is work on setting positive internal goals for the district based on past performance and track the progress of the kids. He advised it is important not to compare one class to another but each class's progress individually. The students are tested in Reading, Math, Science, and Writing. The classes are not tested each year in all four subjects. We follow the guideline set for the students. After the results are in for a given year, a reasonable yet aggressive goal is set by the District staff for the next year. The information is compiled to see if each individual class meets/exceeds its goal. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades we had approximately 80% of students meet or exceed the goals set.

Mr. Kurz advised when the kids are tested again, it is the PSAE Test for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The tests are showing only 50% of the students meet or exceed their goals set. He advised there is a disconnect between the junior high ISAT test and high school PSAE test. How can the scores drop for the students? Mr. Kurz said we need to put this news in perspective because EPG is doing better than most area schools (Refer to the District Dashboard). The goal is to serve all kids and effectively improve all students. He advised we did not show Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the District. Stephanie Matzke and Tarry Lance asked about the consequence of not meeting AYP. Mr. Johnston advised we are years away from consequences but, he gave an example of a consequence. A family would get to choose which high school in the district to send their child. This is not even relevant for us because we only have one high school in our district. Mr. Kurz said again it is all about perspective. For the PSAE Test, the 50% of our kids that meet or exceed goals are in the top 25% of students in the nation. He said to remember we decide what valuable goals are for our kids. We should always aspire to be better. Tarry Lance expressed concern about how the AYP story was in the paper. Mr. Kurz said we need to find positive ways to balance and articulate information. Mrs. Lance advised laymen's terms are always best for the public because once it was explained thoroughly tonight, it sounded better. Mr. Kurz said we

should always focus on the good. The students in our district are served better now than they were served 2, 5 or even 7 years ago.

Superintendent Johnston went over the enrollment figures for 2010-2011 with the Council.

Mrs. Lance asked what the Mission Statement for the Citizens Advisory Council was. Mr. Johnston said he will provide that at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.