Meeting Minutes
Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6:00 PM

Canutillo ISD Administration Office
7965 Artcraft
El Paso, TX 79932

1. **GENERAL FUNCTIONS-OTHER**

1.A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

1.B. Roll Call

Trustees Present: Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Borrego, Mrs. Mendoza, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Simental Mrs. Zuniga

Trustees Absent: Mrs. Trout

2. **OPEN FORUM-OTHER**

Any person wishing to address the Board during the period reserved for public comment at a Board meeting must sign up to be heard, in accordance with District policy BED(LOCAL):

Each participant will be limited to <u>THREE MINUTES</u> to make comments to the Board.

The Board is <u>NOT</u> permitted to discuss or act upon any issues that are not posted on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

For further information on those policies, contact the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant.

Nancy Quiz - Regarding DDE possible closure. She mentioned that she is aware that the possibility of DDE closing has been brought up in recent meetings due to the district facing financial hardship. She mentioned that the DDE community would suffer in case of DDE closing. The community would face transportation issues since grandparents also help parents with student. She wants to explore other options beside possible campus closure.

Mrs. Sonia Fraire - 2024 Bond -She mentioned that there are several concerns regarding the bond of 350 million. She mentioned that there is a lack of trust and transparency. Mrs. Fraire mentioned that the district is using Canutillo staff and deteriorating building conditions as an excuse. Mrs. Fraire stated that the district refused to remove the gender queer book from its libraries. She also mentioned that the salaries are extremely high for administration. Canutillo outvoted chaplains in schools. Mrs. Fraire mentioned that separation of church of state is not on the constitution. She mentioned that the district did not act while there was violence in the schools.

Larry Spears - Possible school closing- He wants the board to reconsider closing DDE since the school is more than just a building. He mentioned that extracurricular activities are essential to their community since they walk to and from school. Parent

and students would suffer if the school were to close. He wants to appeal to the board to reconsider since teachers and staff are mentors to the children on the community. Closing the doors will be a disservice to the community and the student.

Martha Castillo – Regarding DDE Closure- She wants to mention that it would disrupt the students and the community. It would affect students academically and socially. She wants the board to consider the prefund effects of closing the campus.

Caroll Cassidy - Regarding TAXES - Mrs. Cassidy wants to mention that the debt of the district is about 6 million dollars. Mrs. Cassidy mentioned that she is outraged that the state of Texas is allowing Canutillo to operate with such deficit. She mentioned that there are 9 ISD in El Paso community. She stated that Canutillo curriculum is "woke". She mentions there is no separation of church and state. She is here for the families that live in this community. She wants the district to see the Texas bond review board.

Christiopher Judge - CMS Bond. Supporting the bond will help student accessibility and academically. CMS would benefit from a relocation since accessibility is hard and traffic is creating a conflict. Relocating CMS can contribute to promote more visibility and attract more students. CMS was built in 1973 and they have seen the current condition of the facilities. The bond would help support student experience.

Sabina Lazos – Approval of bond BCE Assistant principal and product of Canutillo- She wants the board to approve the calling of a bond since this would benefit the kids of the community. She mentioned that the student potential would increase with access to a high-quality education. Maintenance is much needed in the campuses of the district. Equally important is safety and security for campuses. Students faculty and staff need to be provided with quality facilities. Investing on the bond is investing on the community.

Maria Castillo Principal at JDE- She wants to thank all the work and dedication from the board to the community. Passing a bond is investing on the scholars and equity. This will create readily available facilities to the students to promote learning. She believes that the students deserve a fighting chance since.

A bond will help promote safety and security upgrades. She believes that students deserve Strategically placed schools will attract more students/parents. Placing of these schools will bring up enrollment.

Lupe Montanez - The DDE currently serves a small community. She believes that DDE needs to keep doors open while a new location is open. She wants possible relocation to address the need of a more modern larger facility that will help with overcrowding issues at other campuses. DDE open in the fall of 1990. She mentioned that a newer facility will provide competitive facilities. DDE is pro bond and that community members feel like there is no transparency. Community needs to be educated to benefit the community since the ones who suffer are the students. Mrs. Montanez wants misinformation cleared up regarding taxes and transparency to allow bond to pass.

Yamilette Contreras – NWECHS Bond measure. To be place in may ballot since they want to remind the board of what the campus does even though there is a lack of resources. Mr. Clark mentioned that students save on average 50,000 dollars and walk out with an associate degree from EPCC. Mrs. Contreras mentioned that they are well known for what students bring to the table. NWECHS needs a physical building. Students feel like they need a physical building to help them with the learning and provide them with safety. The students believe the bond is overdue. Currently portables are not providing student enough support.

Dr. Jessica Melendez Carrillo - Bond Support. Principal of RES. Mrs. Carrillo mentioned why would the bond support. RES is at 104% capacity. Investing in future of community. Upgrades needed to every campus in the district. Safety and security, accessibility and retention of student. In the past 5-year growth has been affecting the school and facilities. RES was overcrowded and 2 portables had to be added. Priority are students as well as safe learning environment. We need to accommodate the growth in Canutillo

Maria Alarcon GES – Principal – Mrs. Alarcon mentioned that as proud member of the community the bond will provide access to the best opportunities to the schools. Students need safe building and supporting environments. Space is limited for inclement weather, ACE Program, robotics, high impact tutoring, school upgrades will benefit other schools.

Andrea Esparza - Supporting the school bond election. families, teachers and Canutillo community and scores and athletes are trailblazers. Canutillo outshine others academically and sport wise. Canutillo students will continue to do so but they deserve more. More advanced resources are needed for the students of the community. Voting yes, Is more than a monetary investment.

Nidia Avila – Principal requesting board moves forward with bond. With population expected to continue to grow. Enchanted Hills area continues to grow and the relocation of AMS will provide opportunities and facilities to the students. There is a concern due to student retention. RES students do not attend AMS due to location/no schools in the neighborhood. AMS provides a medical, law and education academies. A new location

Sergio Martinez – Supporting the bond. He has been involved in the community and the Canutillo TASK force. Canutillo is not looking for luxury buildings. Canutillo has a lot of growth and now Canutillo is no longer one of the poorest districts on the county. Canutillo needs to be proactive. He mentioned that students need the best facilities, safe environment that they can call home. Students need to be safe.

Bruno Vasquez - Appreciation/Gratitude. His last board meeting and wants to express his gratitude for the privilege of serving the Canutillo community. Mr. Vasquz wants to express how happy he is with the district as well as his successor Dr. Rico. He wants to mention that one day he hopes to return one day as an architect of record for the needed upgrades on the community. He wants to recognize the wonderful staff. Groundskeepers, landscapers, maintenance, bus drivers. And how they keep the district working despite limited resources. He wants CISD to take care of his facilities crew.

3. **BOARD OF TRUSTEE BUSINESS**

3.A. Consideration and Approval of an Order Calling a Bond Election to be Held by the Canutillo Independent School District, Making Provisions for the Conduct of a Joint Election, and Resolving Other Matters Incident and Related to Such Election

Dr. Oscar Rico and Gustavo Reveles address the board and presented findings of Assessment committee.
Lucy Borrego Motioned to approve administration recommendation. Mrs. Patsy Mendoza Second.

Open to discussion Rudy Mejia address concern regarding the amounts on the resolution/order calling for a bond. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that a possible closure of DDE is a last resort. He mentioned that board will consider recommendations from the superintendent’s office.

Paris Gastellum student advisor wants to address the board. As the student advisor. She wants to address the board and the community on the importance on investing on NWECHS. She wants to mention that safety and security is

imperative to NWECHS. Mrs. Gastellum wants to talk about enhanced learning spaces. Students at NWECHS choose to attend the community and thrive despite conditions. Students deal with issues of mold. Leaks and students walk to class during inclement weather.

Barnes for the record. She believes there is a lot of mistrust from the community, and she believes that is not a wise decision or fiscally responsibly to proceed with the bond. She has reservations

Borrego, Children and community deserve it yes

Mr. Simental for the record. When administration created task force it was said that the board would support committees' decision.

Barnes-No, Borrego-Yes, Mendoza-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Simental-Yes, Zuniga-Yes,
Motion Passes.

Paris Gastellum student advisor for historical record. YES.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at **7:19 PM** under unanimous consent.

Presented to the Board of Trustees for approval on **November 19, 2024**. The minutes reflect all agenda items in the order as originally posted and do not necessarily reflect the order in which they were discussed.