

**EL MONTE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(BAC) MINUTES  
February 8, 2012**

- Meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m.
- Present, were members of the BAC, community, parents, students, and EMUHSD staff, and a large group of stakeholders from SEMHS.
- Attendees: Ryan Di Giulio, Joel Kyne, Rita Donato, Oscar Cisneros, Larry Cecil, Winneta Belt, Ronda Logan, Lisa Chambers, Rosana McLeod, Matt Strother, Larry Fry, Donna Duncan, Veronica Larios, Carol Truscott, Robin Torres, Raymund Lu, Andrew Jaramillo, Mary Segovia, Isolda Robinson, Alma Zarate, Lupe Lozano, Constancio Lozano, Liz Alonso, Tony D'Amico, Mike Felix, and Barry Dragon
- Absent: Dana Smith, Julie Jennings, Edith Echeverria, Cathy Satterfield, Ken Rausch, Bob Mata, Keith Richardson, Jim Taite, and Olga Lopez
- At 6:16 Mr Dragon introduced himself as part of the District Assistance Intervention Team (DAIT) to address issues in our district that are educational and financial. He stated that perhaps tonight's large attendance was due to an item listed on the suggestion list. He assured the audience, that the item was one person's suggestion as are all the others. Some are not feasible, doable, or viable, but the job of BAC is to see all suggestions, narrow down a list and present to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's recommendation to the Board is based on items given and those at his discretion.
- Mr. Dragon explained the next part of the meeting. A gallery walk will take place by members of the BAC only. Members will view all the suggestions printed and displayed on the wall. Ten colored dots were issued to each member and members were asked to prioritize top ten (10) from their stakeholder survey results. Instruction was to not place more than two dots on same item. He gave a brief run down of all suggestions posted on the walls.
- Mr. Dragon welcomed everyone and appreciates all those attending. He further said he would like everyone to understand that it is very important that students and parents take an interest, and understand the process that is about to begin.
- Mr. Dragon stated, if explanations were needed, Ryan and Joel were present for any questions.
- In the meantime, Mr. Dragon began explaining to the group about LACOE sending a letter requesting EMUHSD submit a fiscal stabilization plan. Was it the District's fault? No, but it's a reflection of the economy of the State.
- By composing a committee, holding meetings, and the reps informing their constituents, the District is meeting the required component of the program improvement. We need to inform LACOE that we are making the effort to become fiscally stable and solvent by end of the month.
- He further stated that everyone played a very important part of the process and that there would be a chance for everyone to express themselves.

- Extensive conversation ensued regarding the closing of SEMHS this year. Again, it was explained that this suggestion was taken out of context and it was a mere suggestion. Ryan explained that the upcoming cuts and reduction is a three-year process. It is simply not feasible to close a school by the end of this school year and future years do not warrant that large of a reduction.
- Mr. Dragon explained the timing of survey and that all involved bargaining units, community leaders, teachers, use this group as a consensus to vote. It is not about personal views, but broader ideas, and what we are trying to accomplish.
- As painful as some process may be, the last thing we want to do is to hurt the 9,000 plus students in the district.
- Again, Mr. Dragon explained his role, not speaking on behalf of the District, but a facilitator on behalf.
- Mr. Dragon began reading items with the monetary values included. Ryan mentioned that some items are negotiable so are not to be construed as one-sided without the approval of other parties besides the District or Board. If item is something committee votes on, it will be included in list of suggestions made to Superintendent.
- As items were read, he noted that some items are not measurable, some need more information, and some are negotiable.
- An extended time was assigned to travel around the room and place dots on posted suggestions.
- Financial goal for next fiscal year is at least \$5 million. Mr. Dragon complimented the intelligence of room and began dialogue. If questions, please do not hesitate, but try to do independent process to promote equality. Vote for your constituents and for the young group in this room. Currently the State is paying eighty (80) cents for every dollar they owe us, the District.
- Mr. Dragon explained process of items selected. Look at items and eliminate those that are not highly rated. There will then be a filter of cabinet and the Superintendent. Like baking a cake, all ingredients will be blended to get a final effect.
- He pointed out that there were no dots on the closing of SEMHS, and yet some may be cut and do not have a dot. We haven't eliminated any, a consensus list will be drawn.
- It was asked if there were any closing questions and comments, and Ryan noted his appreciation for those in attendance, as the BAC meetings are open to the community.
- Next meeting date, tentatively: Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the PDC at South El Monte High School.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.