

**EL MONTE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(BAC) MINUTES
January 26, 2012**

- Meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m.
- Present, were 24 members comprised of the community, parents, students, consultants, and EMUHSD staff.
- Attendees: Ryan Di Giulio, Dana Smith, Julie Jennings, Joel Kyne, Edith Echeverria, Rita Donato, Oscar Cisneros, Larry Cecil, Cathy Satterfield, Winetta Belt, Ronda Logan, Lisa Chambers, Rosana McLeod, Matt Strother, Larry Fry, Mike Felix, Donna Duncan, Joseph Wong, Robin Torres, Freddie Arteaga, Raymund Lu, Andrew Jaramillo, Briseida Valencia, and Eric Hall.
- Absent: Ken Rausch, Veronica Larios, Marling Ronquillo, Carol Truscott, Dario Macias, Jody Zeto, Robert Medina, and Barry Dragon.
- Ryan thanked everyone for attending and informed committee that Mr. Barry Dragon would not be present. However, Mr. Eric Hall, from Eric Hall & Associates, would be the facilitator tonight. Eric Hall & Associates works along with Bob Mata from LACOE and is the fiscal consulting arm of the LACOE District Assistance and Intervention Team (DAIT). He is working on several districts as DAIT deals with instruction and fiscal related issues, and the BAC is a very important component of the DAIT teams implementation strategy.
- Mr. Hall began his PowerPoint presentation of tonight's agenda. Items to be addressed and discussed will be:
 - State Budget Update
 - District Expenditure Distribution
 - Financial Statements and Potential Impact of Trigger
 - LACOE Certification Letter
 - Small Group Discussion
 - Next Steps
- He further explained that group will break into smaller groups to gather input and to make sure each group is made up of a representative member (student, parent, staff, and community).
- Before groups began, he reminded all that as information is gathered, to write down all ideas and suggestions to save the District money, and present those ideas at end of session. Such ideas and suggestions will be compiled over the course of the BAC, and presented to the Superintendent, who will then present to the Board.
- Other districts have faced salary reductions, layoffs, furloughs, but the EMUHSD has managed to avoid these measures, for the most part, through these years. It's unfortunate now that due to more additional State cuts and reductions, they will definitely impact our budget and reductions are required.
- Mr. Hall asked the audience if there were any comments. Ronda Logan, employee, CSEA rep, parent, and community member stated her position for the past 30 years and wanted to give her perspective of the situation on previous years where cuts were made. She felt it has impacted the students due to some programs and services being cut. As there is such a diverse group here tonight, she wanted all to keep in mind the impact the students will feel if cuts are made. They're asking for more, giving us less. Keep in mind the cost of hiring top quality administrative personnel, and sacrificing the classified staff such as maintenance, aides, and services.

- Larry Fry, EMPD officer, stated that he was at the meeting for the City of El Monte and all were informed of the upcoming changes in the funding of the Redeveloping Agencies and the revenue cuts to school districts. Mr. Hall explained the funding process and commented that the dissolution of RDA's is a much lower funding percentage to schools than what is believed. Major impact is directly to the city's budget and funding.
- Mr. Hall further explained the potential tax initiative coming to the November 2012 ballot, often referred to the "5.8 billion School Funding Initiative". It's geared to support police, firemen and education. LACOE is requesting districts take fiscal prudence in the event measure doesn't pass. It will affect Special Education transportation and that will be a major issue.
- As Mr. Hall continued with PowerPoint presentation, he explained the graphs and charts that denote patterns of expenditures and the how the "one-time" programs that brought in revenue, are now discontinued. He also reflected how the budget will be affected since that revenue is reduced or cut.
- Multi-year projection charts indicated beginning balances and as the horizontal lines reflecting revenues and expenditures widen, the gap broadens, increasing the deficit.
- Mr. Hall went into detail the LACOE certification letter that was sent to the EMUSHD requesting a fiscal stabilization plan be submitted by the end of February. Ryan explained that it wasn't so much lack of paperwork, but that LACOE wanted to see what was being done to lower our expenditures moving into the future.
- At 6:55 p.m., Mr. Hall read the ground rules and asked groups to form and begin brainstorming until given time of 7:20 p.m.
- Group sharing began at approximately 7:25 p.m. The four groups were asked to read reduction idea lists. Various suggestions and ideas were presented. The overall consensus is to keep cuts as far away as possible from the classroom. One of the concerns was the letter received from LACOE. Ryan informed that a copy of that letter would be available at next meeting. Some of the suggestions are direct savings as some are not tangible. Some will create a savings to the district, such as savings in energy or hours worked.
- After all lists were read. Mr. Hall asked for a quick 30 second input from each member present. The perception and comments were interesting and it was an alarming experience for some members of the community and students hearing it first hand for the first time. Mr. Arteaga asked everyone to keep in mind these are ideas and suggestions and give respect to the rest of the committee.
- In closing, and keeping in mind what Mr. Arteaga suggested, Mr. Hall asked the committee and ask all to report back to their constituents, to broaden the net, to collect and gather information and bring back to next meeting.
- Discussion took place related to frequency of upcoming meetings. Mr. Mata suggested Ryan to appoint dates for future meetings. Those that can attend will be giving input.
- Next Meeting Dates—February 2, 8 (or 9), 16, and 23 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the PDC at South El Monte HS.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by:

Amparo Becerra