

**CIELO VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 11, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Mike Adjemian. Josh Herrera led the Association in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following that all present introduced their selves and said what street they live on. Our first speaker was Al Velarde, El Paso ISD school board member representing the Burges and Jefferson areas. He has been involved in the preparation for the complete remodeling of Burges High School. Many months of meetings and gathering information about what the community, students, parents, teachers and administrators want for their school have guided the architects in designing buildings that reflect all of the input. Each school's wants and needs differ, so each is individually designed to reflect this input from stakeholders. The architects will reflect this input in the school they design. A furniture Expo took place at Burges showing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom furnishings that differ dramatically from 20<sup>th</sup> Century furniture. The classrooms of the future will not have the traditional rows of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Groundbreaking has begun with outdoor areas such as playgrounds and athletic fields. The architects incorporated input from Burges stakeholders in their design.

Athletic improvements were included in the bond so outdoor athletic facilities have been updated including resurfacing the track, improving the playing fields and updating outdoor lighting. The district has a timeline for updating all school playing fields. They work on three schools at a time. All the high schools have lighted baseball fields.

The districts buses were so old that they were dangerous. Twenty-one buses for special needs students have been replaced. Buses for regular education students are scheduled to be replaced.

Many schools will get security lighting, some will get fencing. Students will swipe cards to get in and out of schools. Magoffin and Zach White will get security fences. Playgrounds will be improved starting with elementary schools. MacBook laptops have been purchased for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. All their textbooks will be on the laptop so the district will not buy textbooks.

The Power Up El Paso program will have our students better prepared for the new world. At present 3500-5000 students connect to the district's network in the evening hours. The district will ensure that students in homes without Wi-Fi will be able to connect to Wi-Fi through the district.

The district is presently working on 17 schools at this time. The work will be completed in five years. The district will rebuild or refurbish 20 schools.

Burges High School will have a large enclosed courtyard. Classes can take place in this area. Movies can be shown there. Many activities will take place there and it will be a place for students to hang out.

The total project budget for Burges is \$56,783,048. The program contingency fund is 5% of the budget. This is available districtwide. It is a back-up to ensure projects have cash to complete projects. Schools can borrow back and forth from this fund. Jefferson will need contingency funds.

Designers have been asked to create designs using 90% of money set aside. We hope the budget sets aside what is needed. If we run out of money we can go to the savings account, the 10% set aside. This is a five year project. We price today, but prices may go up over five years.

**CIELO VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 11, 2018**

Natural disasters such as hurricanes will drive up prices. The contingency fund is for such unplanned increases. The architectural design has a contingency fund because a design may have to be redesigned due to a change such as using a different building site. As an example, Burges must use concrete where they now have asphalt which increases the cost. Burges will move students around as building is ongoing. They will not need portables.

Details can be found on the website. Log on to EPISD.org. An overview appears. Chose a specific school and you will see major projects online.

The School Board members promised voters that building projects would be (1) Transparent (2) On budget (3) On time (4) Engaging the community. Presently the project is in the blueprint/ design stage. When this stage is completed the construction will be put out for bids. The School Board did not approve the design because our local contractors were up in arms. The Board cannot prioritize to suit local contractors. They asked, "What experience do you have working with EPISD?" The first contractor had no experience with EPISD. Evaluators found that he gave a three year guarantee rather than a one year guarantee for completion. He had been given points where he shouldn't have been given them. Phase One was used to weed out bidders who were not qualified objectively.

The architects and the builders must work together. If we begin building without a clear plan we may have to scrap and do over. The district wants design, bid, build, but flexibility is paramount as a design may not fit once building begins. The architects will continue to design as needed.

Burges will have Fine Arts in one area. There will be space set aside for the production of plays. Locker rooms will be around the gym. Classrooms will be above the open space of the first floor.

Bonham students will go to MacArthur. Bonham property has commercial value. It is hoped that apartments will be built in the area, increasing enrollment at MacArthur. Burges enrollment is expected to go from 1300 to 1500. We are making our schools have great physical layouts to compete with charter schools in strip malls.

When Mr. Velarde finished his presentation, four items were raffled. Then two candidates for Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace spoke to us. The first candidate was Spanky (Adolfo) Sanchez. He stated that he had been raised with a strong sense of community. He had been a teacher and a coach at Socorro High School, head basketball coach at San Elizario, where he helped raise money for the students, and became head basketball coach at Burges. He was offered the position of Assistant Principal at San Elizario. Presently he has been at Eastwood High School for seven years. He is in charge of truancy. He took truants to court to scare them straight. In the last four years of taking students to Truancy Court he has had only one student who didn't change his ways. As Justice of the Peace he would serve the Burges, Bowie, Jefferson, and Austin. He could continue helping students as Justice of the Peace.

**CIELO VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 11, 2018**

The second candidate was Josh Herrera. He said that his children are young, but one day will go to MacArthur and Burges. He is a graduate of Cathedral. His first job here was with the District Attorney for a couple of years. He has worked as a defense attorney and as a prosecutor.

He is a jail magistrate now. He would bring experience if elected Justice of the Peace. Supporting people is important, whether as a judge or a lawyer. Clients go to court and have no idea what to expect. They are frightened. They need guidance. They get very upset if they think the judge does not understand them. Equality is important. They want to feel that they have been properly represented and listened to. Josh Herrera has had ten years of courtroom experience. He wants to be a judge who will make the experience be a positive for all.

Mr. Adjemian reported that the luminarias along Edgemere Parkway on Christmas Eve were a success. One thousand bags were put out. All the bags, sand, and candles were donated as was the labor involved with filling the bags, placing them, lighting them, blowing them out, collecting them, and disposing of them. Mr. Lugo of Bordertown Consumables donated the candles.

Mr. Adjemian asked for a volunteer to be our Third Vice-President. Josh Herrera volunteered and was elected.

Mr. Adjemian will work on updating our rolls. An application will be sent to all inactive members asking them to reapply for membership and pay their dues.

Our fund raiser will be selling tickets to the Lunch Box. Tickets will be \$9 each and each of the active members will be asked to sell 15 tickets. Sales will be for February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our spring picnic will be in Memorial Park with all the neighborhood associations from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday

Judges are needed for a Debate Tournament at Burges on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 8:00 am until noon on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Meals will be provided. Donations of water, chips, and soda would be appreciated. A sign-up sheet is available on the table where members sign in for meetings.

The treasurer's report was read. It was moved and seconded that it be accepted. Another round of raffle tickets was drawn with four more winners.

Cassandra Brown sent an update to us. There are no plans to begin more beautifying or landscaping on Edgemere. She reprogrammed some expenditures and found money for repairing major arterials such as Hawkins, Gateway, Airway, and Viscount.

We can sign up to receive her newsletter. She has had 440 requests for street repairs in six months.

She will continue to have monthly meetings, and will change the venue every month, She has scheduled a meeting in February at Village Inn.

**CIELO VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 11, 2018**

Coach Rutledge told us that people who park in a vacant lot by the Whataburger on Airways are having their cars towed. Apparently the towing companies are making money by making a deal with absentee property owners to tow the cars.

The barrels on the Edgemere overpass appear without warning when a car goes over the bridge. This could cause a serious accident as drivers swerve to avoid hitting them.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 7:50.