



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
319 West Fourth Street
Weslaco, Texas

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:
Place:
Date:
Time:



Special Meeting
WISD Boardroom
October 3, 2016
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order by Erasmo Lopez, Vice President.
- II. A quorum was established. The following board members were present.

Erasmo Lopez, Vice President
Adrian Gonzalez, Trustee
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee
Dr. Richard Rivera, Trustee

David Fuentes and Oscar Caballero were absent.

Mr. Lopez announced that Mr. Caballero's father had passed away on Thursday, September 29th. He asked for a moment of silence for prayer for the family.

- III. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Temporarily Include Knapp Medical Center on the Exclusive Provider Level of the Weslaco ISD Health Benefit Plan while the Parties Negotiate an Acceptable Pricing Structure

Mr. Erasmo Lopez and Mr. Andrew Gonzalez placed this item on the agenda to ensure that WISD employees have the opportunity to receive services in Weslaco. Mr. Lopez informed the public that Mr. De La Rosa is in the process of continued negotiations with Knapp Medical Center.

Mr. De La Rosa provided the following information:

A meeting with the CEO of Knapp Medical Center was held on September 13, 2016; however, nothing was resolved. The district followed up with a letter to Knapp Medical Center which included an offer. The district received no response. An email was also sent to Dr. Lopez last week. As of today, the district has not heard from Knapp Medical Center.

Dr. Rivera questioned the action being taken on this item and what it meant for district employees.

Mr. De La Rosa explained that the intent of placing this item on the agenda by Mr. Lopez was for the purpose of including Knapp Medical Center in the EPO Benefit tier while a pricing solution could be negotiated. The EPO pricing structure will allow WISD

employees to utilize the facility at a \$250.00 deductible. In May 2016, Knapp Medical Center declined being on the PPO network and instead chose to be an out of network provider. Hence, WISD employees will have to pay a \$1,000 deductible when utilizing their facility.

Mr. Lopez did not want to steer people away from Weslaco in a medical emergency as a result of the higher deductible. He wants to make sure that the employees are taken care of.

Adrian Gonzalez pointed out that WISD is the largest employer with Knapp Medical Center being the second largest; therefore, he is very surprised that Knapp took this course of action.

Andrew Gonzalez wanted to know if the agreement could be dated back to the first of September. Mr. De La Rosa informed the Board that Knapp would have to agree with the pricing structure. Since the district currently has six (6) claims in process, it would make sense to go back to the September 1st date because it would be mutually beneficial for the employees and the District. He pointed out that the Board has gone above and beyond in taking steps to resolve this matter.

Dr. Leo informed the Board that during the meeting held with the CEO of Knapp Medical Center, both Mr. Erasmo Lopez and Mr. Andrew Gonzalez were adamantly in support of our employees and this district. Our school attorney urged Dr. Lopez to take the message to his corporate officers in California, advising them that the District is willing to work closer in bringing the pricing to a level acceptable so the district and hospital can both benefit. Dr. Lopez was open to work with the District but stated that he was not authorized to make any decisions. Dr. Leo commended the Board for taking the initiative for placing this item back on the agenda in an effort to try and resolve this matter.

After a brief discussion on the timeline, Mr. De La Rosa recommended that the District set a timeline of December 31st.

Adrian Gonzalez made the motion to set a timeline of December 31, 2016 to negotiate a deal with Knapp Medical Center and to include them on the Exclusive Provider level. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Dr. Rivera questioned whether Knapp Medical Center wanted to be on the Exclusive Provider plan or if they wanted something else. He stated, "I wonder if their issue is because they want to be the only hospital on the EPO and not anyone else."

Mr. De La Rosa clarified that Knapp Medical Center wants to be on the Exclusive Provider plan using their pricing structure, which is not advantageous to the district. This action will temporarily include Knapp Medical Center on the Exclusive Provider plan using the old agreement until negotiations can be made.

The Board voted in favor of the motion made by Adrian Gonzalez and seconded by Andrew Gonzalez to set a timeline of December 31, 2016 to negotiate a deal with Knapp Medical Center and to include them on the Exclusive Provider level.

IV. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 6:14 p.m. to discuss the following item:

1. Confer with Legal Counsel Regarding Superintendent Search
(Tex. Gov't Code 551.071 and 551.074)

Adrian Gonzalez left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

V. Possible Action, If Necessary, on Items Discussed in Closed Meeting

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:31 p.m.

1. Confer with Legal Counsel Regarding Superintendent Search
(Tex. Gov't Code 551.071 and 551.074)

Non-action item.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.