

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education held Tuesday, December 4, 2012, Administrative Board Room; televised by LCPS-TV.

Members Present:                   President Dr. Connie Phillips  
  Vice-President Maria Flores  
  Secretary Dr. Bonnie Votaw  
  Member Chuck Davis  
  Member Barbara Hall

Superintendent Rounds was in attendance.

President Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and Dr. Votaw took roll.

President Phillips called for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

*Superintendent's Report*

Vista Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade students Jacob Hammond, Tayler Davis, Michelle Roybal, Michael Garcia, Annie Quintana, Brenden Martinez and Leeanne Vandevender spoke to the Board about the VMS Student Renaissance Program. The programs purpose is to recognize students for academic accomplishments, advanced behavior, and overall improvement of school culture. For example, based on grades, students receive a purchase card to buy spirit items sold through the Renaissance store... The Teacher's choice awards are given to students who best exemplify character counts. Teachers are also awarded for their hard work when students select them as "Teacher of the Week". Honorary luncheons are held every nine weeks to celebrate students with good GPA's and straight A's. Fundraising is critical to the program. Local businesses are asked to sponsor club activities and students participate in fundraising events.

*Early College High School II – Architectural Drawings*

Supt. Rounds began by recognizing Jason Clark, Studio D Architects, and Mickey Clute, Gen Con Construction, who were present in the audience. The ECHS II site is located adjacent to the Arrowhead Park ECHS site. The NMSU Board of Regents will vote soon to lease the land to the district through the Arrowhead Park Partners. Schematic drawings of the proposed new ECHS II facility were presented for the Board's review. The school will be sized for 250 students (approximately 45,000 square feet). Approximate cost of the facility is \$12 million. Curriculum will focus on medical and health career pathways.

Building 1 will house a laboratory. APECHS instructors were consulted on classroom design and layout. Building 2 is a classroom building. It has 6 quadrant driven classrooms, all equipped with Smart Boards and other electronic equipment. The multipurpose building (Building 3) contains a specialized simulation room designed like an emergency room, including patient intake and exam room areas. The building will also contain a large meeting space that can seat 250 people for student presentations, community meetings or continuing education trainings. Administrative offices for a dean of students and advisement staff will be contained within the multipurpose building. A veterinary technology laboratory is also part of the design.

With board approval of the schematic design and architectural plans, construction can begin on March 13, 2013. Estimated construction completion date is May 14, 2014. School opening is projected for late summer/early fall 2014.

*ECHS II Development Agreement and Tax Exempt Lease Purchase Agreement*

Supt. Rounds presented the proposed Development Agreement and Tax Exempt Lease Purchase Agreement for review and discussion. Both agreements are almost identical to those approved for Arrowhead Park ECHS. The loan interest rate is 1% less than ECHS I. Recommendation is to purchase Arrowhead Park ECHS I with 2014 bond funds. The document is still in draft form because specific terms are in negotiation. The agreements will be finalized and brought for approval at the February 26, 2013 regular board meeting.

*Institute for Parent Engagement (IPE)*

The program is designed to create a culture of collaborative advocacy for every student. Curriculum is focused on increasing parent involvement in student academic achievement with a focus on college readiness. It is a nine-week institute with curriculum developed for elementary, middle, and high school parents. The first phase of the program rollout will be pilot programs at Lynn Middle School and Mayfield High School. Kick-off is January 14, 2013. Recruiters will begin parent contacts on January 7. Classes, taught in English and Spanish, are one and a half hours per week and will be offered in both the morning and evening. Sra. Flores expressed her support.

*Spaceport Gross Receipts Tax Update:*

Bobbi Eichorst, Secondary Math and Science Specialist, provided the Board an update of 2011-12 Spaceport tax activities. The Spaceport tax supports focused curriculum for middle schools as it aligns to high school, and high school curriculum as it aligns to college readiness. Summer learning opportunities in engineering, rocketry and robotics are also funded through Spaceport gross receipts tax. LCPS is also committed to focus spending on providing teachers opportunities to attend professional development. Project Lead the Way curriculum in middle and high schools provide students opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. Student trend data was briefly reviewed. Feedback from a parent survey shows an increase in parent satisfaction levels with student progress in mathematics. Sra. Flores challenged Ms. Eichorst to increase student participation in Spaceport programs.

*Healthy Foods Community Initiative*

Kari Bachman, NMSU Cooperative Extension Services Coordinator, presented the Healthy Foods Zone Initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to create a healthy food zone around schools through a city ordinance that will specify how close to schools new fast food establishments can be located and encourages approval of vendors that only sell healthy food options. Existing development around schools would be grandfathered into the ordinance. Benefits of the zone include fewer students leaving campus for lunch, safer roadways and parking lots, more students eating at school resulting in increased revenues. Ms. Bachman requested the Board pass a referendum in support of a Healthy Foods Zone Ordinance. Discussion will continue at an upcoming Board Retreat.

*Policy KB- Parent Involvement and Family Engagement*

Leslie Cervantes, community relations coordinator, presented Policy KB – Parent Involvement and Family Engagement for second reading and discussion. The revisions recommended by the

Board are highlighted for review. Dr. Votaw requested the “Purpose Statement” be modified to correct sentence structure. The policy will go forward for third reading and approval.

No public input was received

*Closed Session*

At 5:54 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to recess the work session to allow the Board to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation matters. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Hall “aye”, Dr. Votaw “aye”, Sra. Flores “aye”, Mr. Davis “aye” and Dr. Phillips “aye”. The motion carried.

At 6:14 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Hall to reconvene the work session. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Hall “aye”, Dr. Votaw “aye”, Sra. Flores “aye”, Mr. Davis “aye” and Dr. Phillips “aye”. The motion carried.

President Phillips reported that the Board met in closed from 5:54 p.m. to 6:13 p.m. to discuss pending litigation matters. No other matters were discussed and no action was taken.

There being no further business to discuss, at 6:15 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Sra. Flores to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Brigitte Zigelhofer.