



MINUTES
Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2013 • 6:30 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building Board Room • Televised by LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Call to Order

Board President Dr. Connie Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Mr. Davis. Those present:

- Dr. Connie Phillips, President
- Mr. Chuck Davis, Secretary
- Mrs. Barbara Hall, Member
- Dr. Bonnie Votaw, Member

Those absent:

- Señora Maria Flores, Vice President
- Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Phillips led the audience in the Pledge.

D. Performance by Sierra Middle School “Soundsations”

Under the direction of John Collaros, the Soundsations performed “For Good” by Stephen Schwartz and Mac Huff.

E. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Phillips entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from the Retreat held on February 25, 2013, and from the Regular Board Meeting held on February 26, 2013. A motion was made by Dr. Votaw and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was approved unanimously.

F. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Phillips called for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

*G. Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Dr. Phillips called for approval of the consent agenda items: V.A.1, Approval of budget increases/adjustments; V.A.2, Approval of bid award; V.A.3, Approval of property dispositions; V.A.4, Approval of vendor payments; V.A.5, Acceptance of Donation – Mayfield High School Art Department; V.A.6, Acceptance of Donation – Student Incident Reporting Software; V.B.1, Approval of student out-of-state travel; V.B.2, Approval of 2013/14 Head Start Budget; and VI.A.7.a-c, Third reading and approval of policies DA – Fiscal Management Goals and Rescission of Policy #500; DI – Fiscal Accounting & Internal Controls; and DKC – Travel and Per Diem Payments and Rescission of Policy #512. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

- A. *non-agenda items*
None.
- B. *agenda items*
None.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. *Health Occupation Students of America Awards*

Superintendent Rounds announced multiple awards were earned by students from Las Cruces and Oñate high schools at the New Mexico Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) Annual State Leadership Conference held February 28-March 1, 2013 in Albuquerque. The students competed in 33 health-related fields. The students and advisors from Las Cruces High School were recognized for their 16 gold, eight silver and nine bronze medals; 16 students qualified for the national HOSA convention to be held in Nashville in June.

Also recognized were 14 Oñate High School students who won a total of 16 gold, four silver and five bronze medals. And, for the second year in a row, the Oñate Health Occupation Students of America program has been recognized as the outstanding HOSA chapter in the state.

B. *Middle School Science Olympiad*

The Superintendent and Board recognized the Sierra Middle School Science Olympiad team and their advisors. Student teams from three LCPS middle schools (Sierra, Vista, and White Sands) competed in the State Science Olympiad last month, in Socorro, at New Mexico Tech with the Sierra team finishing fifth overall.

Mr. Rounds announced that the Sierra students won a total of 27 medals in 23 individual subject events such as mousetrap vehicle, anatomy, food science, heredity, helicopters, disease detectives and road scholar. The Sierra team had previously placed first overall at the regional qualifier in Silver City, NM.

C. *MATHCOUNTS Competition*

The Superintendent introduced students and sponsors from Sierra and Lynn middle schools who competed in the February 16, 2013 MATHCOUNTS competition at New Mexico State University. Sierra Middle School eighth-grade student Renata Starostka was the overall individual winner in the regional competition. Four students from Lynn comprised the competition's second place team: Roy Geiger, Nathan Rydecki, Sarah Sowards and Austin Hillis. The five students will compete in the state MATHCOUNTS competition, March 30 in Albuquerque. MATHCOUNTS provides fun and challenging math programs for middle school students to increase their academic opportunities.

D. *Spanish Spelling Bee Winners*

Recognized were the winners of the District Spanish Spelling Bee, held February 22 at Oñate High School. Camino Real Middle School seventh grader Azul Toledo took first place; Doña Ana Elementary School fifth grader Ernesto Castillo was second; Mesa Middle School seventh grader Jessica Nuñez was third. Azul advances to the state Spanish Spelling Bee, April 13, at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

E. *Olivia Weinbaum, El Paso Times Spelling Bee Champion*

The Board and Superintendent recognized Olivia Weinbaum, an eighth grader at Lynn Middle School, who survived nine sudden-death rounds to win the 69th annual El Paso Times Spelling Bee February 23 in El Paso. She out-spelled 164 other school spelling champs. She is now preparing for the Scripps National Spelling Bee, May 28-30, in Washington, D.C. She

is a recurring contender: in fourth grade she made it to the finals; in sixth grade she finished in seventh place; in seventh grade she placed fourth, and this year winning the event.

F. Nicolette Young, 2013-14 Second Vice President - New Mexico Association of Student Councils

Also recognized was Centennial High School Student Body President Nicolette Young who was elected in February as second vice president of the New Mexico Association of Student Councils for the 2013-14 school year. She was elected for the post at the association's spring conference in Albuquerque. Nicolette and 17 other members of Centennial's student government were among 950 students from across New Mexico to attend the conference. Mr. Rounds said as a first year high school, Centennial's student government has worked hard to establish a strong atmosphere for its the student body that builds spirit, pride and tradition. Centennial is the only LCPS school that belongs to NMAASC.

G. Winter Sports State Championships

Kudos were given and photos were taken of the two winter sports state championships — both from Las Cruces High School.

First recognized by the Board and Mr. Rounds was student Dylan Udero, the New Mexico state wrestling champion in the 106-pound class. Congratulations were also bestowed to LCHS Head Wrestling Coach Kevin Marks and assistant coaches Tim Bravo, David Udero (Dylan's father) and Todd Allred. Dylan, a freshman with a cumulative GPA of 3.5, finished with a perfect record of 33-0 and is the 106-pound state champion.

The second champions recognized were the 2013 Las Cruces High School Boys' Basketball team; they finished the season with a record of 24-7 and a state championship, under Coach Benjamin. Coach Benjamin said the seniors have done little else but academics and Bulldawg basketball. When the seniors were freshmen, several of them would practice for four hours on Saturdays – two hours with the JV and two hours with the Varsity. During the past two years, these athletes have not lost a single district game, winning back-to-back district championships in District 3 5A.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Rounds provided the Board an update on the Legislative session, which adjourned the previous Saturday. He said House Bill 2, the General Appropriations Act, has an increase in the base funding (State Equalization Guarantee) of just under four percent. This includes a higher contribution level for employee ERB contributions; an increase in insurance against the employee salaries (level still not known, possible 8-12 percent); and an average one percent employee salary increase. He said it is likely that most employees will take home less pay after the increase.

He reported the Legislature did not enact NM Education Secretary-designate Hanna Skandera's reform agenda beyond what's already in place. Some legislation will have a positive impact on the district. The Governor has 30 days in which to act on legislation. One significant item is funding for K3+ for students who are non-readers. LCPS submitted an application to serve 1,680 students this upcoming summer, an increase beyond the 900 previously served. Mr. Rounds said K-3+ gives 25 additional school days to improve reading skills. He is optimistic it will be signed. Secondly, there is \$11 million for Prekindergarten programs. And finally, the district does not yet know the fiscal impact to the state for the maintenance of effort dilemma, which will have an impact on LCPS staffing and salaries. The Board was provided a list of bills that were passed by both houses of the Legislature.

B. Discussion of SY 2013-14 Middle and High School Schedules

The Superintendent reminded the Board that all middle and high school principals were asked to develop schedules that are alike. For high schools, he provided the Board with a “blended block” schedule. Mr. Rounds described the schedule and pointed out that it will provide flexibility on how students can select courses; some courses, such as advanced placement chemistry, can be double-blocked while others can be yearlong. From a teacher planning day scenario, the schedule protects the agreements made with the bargaining unit in terms of instructional time and planning time; it also allows time for PLCs and IEP meetings. The high school schedule has 82 minutes per block; on Fridays, every class meets; dual-credit can still be accommodated. It helps students who move from one school to another and will allow consistency among schools. Following the Board’s input, Mr. Rounds said he will announce this high school schedule for 2013/14.

Dr. Votaw commented that it might seem like a radical change for some staff. She appreciates the work that went into developing it and recognizes compromises were met. She wants the administration to evaluate the schedule on an ongoing basis, and that the K-12 surveys be utilized so that students, staff, and parents can comment on their experiences with the new schedule. She also pointed out that counselors will have to ensure students have the correct number of credits to graduate under the new schedule.

Dr. Phillips inquired as to whether all the schools will have the same classes double-blocked; she was told yes. It was recommended that the climate surveys also include information about the double-blocking which will help determine whether changes need to be made in the future. Mr. Davis asked whether busing will be adjusted. Mr. Rounds said that there will be enough time to do the elementary bus run, followed by the secondary bus run, including the magnet program students; however, it will be tight. He said administration is working with the bus contractor, STS, on the schedule. Mr. Davis suggested that the surveys also include the bus scheduling.

The high school schedules have been discussed among limited personnel; it will now be shared on a wide-scale basis, particularly in light of Next Steps planning to be held soon.

Superintendent Rounds proceeded to explain the middle school schedule, which offers a seven-period day with instruction beginning at 8:33 a.m. All middle schools would have a 1st period advisory and provide a 30-minute lunch. Teachers will teach six of seven classes and will have 261 minutes of planning. The schedule will provide time for PLC data review, morning duties, increased advisory times, and case management during advisory time. Dr. Votaw asked how much of a shift this plan would require. Camino Real Middle School Principal Ralph Ramos said the teaming and the middle school concept would remain; PLC time is embedding in the common planning period during the day; and time is available for data meetings.

Dr. Phillips asked about the advisory period and was told that it is primarily for progress monitoring, providing students with progress reports to send to parents, silent reading, attendance reviews, one-on-one conversations with the teachers, and test preparation skill building. Dr. Phillips asked that advisory periods be evaluated as to how the time is utilized.

C. Discussion and approval of SY 2013-14 Calendar – Supt. Rounds

The Superintendent informed the Board that beginning with the 2013/14 school year, the district will no longer have balanced calendar schools. He worked with the staffs from MacArthur and Booker T. Washington elementary schools to assist with the transition to the regular (traditional) calendar. Mr. Rounds said the most significant reason for returning to the

traditional calendar is that data did not show that the balanced calendar improves student achievement over the traditional calendar. He then asked Jo Galván, director of communications, to present the proposed 2013/14 school calendar. She introduced members of the calendar committee, representing parents, teachers, principals, and classified staff. Among the issues in developing a calendar are: meeting the mandated hours of instructional time; having 183 teacher contract days; and aligning with NMSU's spring break. In the future, calendar committees may want to re-discuss whether to give teachers additional days to prepare elementary report cards (if the cards stay at their current length) and where to place the snow day within the calendar year. She then made a comparison with the current year's calendar with the proposed calendar, citing the differences. One of the more significant changes is that snow day has been placed after Memorial Day, on Tuesday, May 27, 2014, for staff only. Students would not have to make up the day (in the event of inclement weather) because they exceed the amount of mandated instructional time; however, staff would have to make up the day. Graduation dates and times have not been determined at this time.

Mr. Rounds explained that graduations normally would be scheduled for May 17-18, 2014; however, the New Mexico Activities Association, by its bylaws, has placed spring tournaments during those days — a yearly conflict. Based on the Board's concerns that seniors have to choose between their tournament and attending their graduation, Mr. Rounds said other options are being discussed, such as holding a graduation(s) on a Sunday. The Board discussed whether that would impact families coming from out-of-town. The administration will provide the Board some options to consider. Dr. Phillips wanted more input on the graduations and suggested the calendar be passed without the graduation dates; those can be determined later. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to approve the 2013/14 school calendar without graduation dates. The motion was passed unanimously.

D. Head Start Meal Reports

There was no discussion.

E. Certified/Classified Employee Report

Dr. Votaw said she appreciates the brevity of the HR reports.

V. OTHER REPORTS

A. Finance

*1., 2., 3., 4., 5., 6. – Consent items **

B. Instruction

*1., 2. – Consent items **

3. Approval of 2012-13 Head Start Self-Assessment Report and Ongoing Monitoring Policy and Procedure

Director of Federal Programs Erlinda Martinez said once a year, an assessment is done for program effectiveness and progress. The process involves parents and community members to review the quality of children's prekindergarten services. The assessment, which included school visits Nov. 19-30, 2012, was assisted by HELP – the Health Education Livelihood Program. Ms. Martinez said administration received their findings and did a self-assessment, addressing strengths and areas for improvements.

Dr. Votaw asked what will be different for children as a result of the self evaluation. Ms. Martinez said in all preschool programs, the curriculum and materials would be aligned; a curriculum guide will be developed on how to support common core standards; the policy

manual will be revised; programs will meet all compliance areas. A motion was made by Dr. Votaw and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the self-assessment report and the ongoing monitoring policy and procedure. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Operations

1. *Construction Projects Report*

There was no discussion.

2. *Approval of Real Property Purchase Agreement*

Associate Superintendent for Operations Dane Kennon said a piece of property located at 1040 Brownlee, northeast of MacArthur Elementary, is recommended for purchase for school usage. The .16-acre tract will also be paved and fenced at a total cost of \$31,485.50. The school's staff has parked there for quite a while. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hall to approve the purchase agreement. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. BOARD ITEMS

A. Old Business

1. *Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Approval of Early College High School II Development Agreement and Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase Agreement*

Superintendent Rounds said the Board will take action on three items (A.1, A.2, and A.3) to proceed with the Early College High School II project. In order to proceed with the school, the district needs to begin building and to secure the loan, not to exceed \$15.5 million. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to adopt the resolution authorizing the approval of Early College High School II development agreement and tax-exempt lease purchase agreement. A roll call vote was taken, as follows: Mrs. Hall – aye; Dr. Votaw – aye; Mr. Davis – aye; Dr. Phillips – aye. The motion passed 4-to-0.

2. *Approval of Early College High School II Development Agreement*

A motion was made by Dr. Votaw and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve Early College High School II development agreement. A roll call vote was taken, as follows: Mrs. Hall – aye; Dr. Votaw – aye; Mr. Davis – aye; Dr. Phillips – aye. The motion passed 4-to-0.

3. *Approval of Early College High School II Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase Agreement*

A motion was made by Dr. Votaw and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the Early College High School II tax-exempt lease purchase agreement. A roll call vote was taken, as follows: Mrs. Hall – aye; Dr. Votaw – aye; Mr. Davis – aye; Dr. Phillips – aye. The motion passed 4-to-0.

Mr. Rounds asked that the motion be restated to not only approve the tax-exempt lease purchase agreement but to also authorize the Superintendent to execute such additional documents as may be necessary to finalize the refinancing package and to close on the real estate portions of the transactions. A motion was made by Dr. Votaw and seconded by Mr. Davis to restate the motion as presented. A roll call vote for the restated motion was as follows: Dr. Votaw – aye; Mrs. Hall – aye; Mr. Davis – aye; Dr. Phillips – aye. The motion passed 4-to-0.

4. *NMSBA Excellence in Student Achievement Award*

President Phillips said the Board received good recommendations for the NMSBA (New Mexico School Boards Association) award. She suggested they could also consider a corporation as a nominee. She said the Board will vote on a ballot for their selection. Mr.

Davis asked about the criteria. Dr. Votaw said the title of the award is somewhat confusing as to who should be nominated. She suggested the Board create its own achievement award for the three individuals who were nominated and also recognize the company that was nominated. Dr. Phillips agreed there are many others who are deserving; and at its discretion, the local Board could select individuals through an open nomination process. A recipient may be staff, parent, student, a school, or a volunteer. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hall to nominate Comcast Cable for the NMSBA Excellence in Student Achievement Award and to recognize the three individuals with a Las Cruces Board of Education Excellence in Student Achievement Award. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Rounds said Brigitte Zigelhofer, administrative assistant, will have awards made for the individuals.

5. *Healthy Foods Community Initiative Update*

Dr. Phillips said the Board previously discussed establishing a community group with representatives from the Superintendent’s Office, NMSU, Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, Student Health Advisory Council and LCPS administrators to address a proposed resolution regarding healthy food choices near schools. She asked about having a Board member also on the committee. She and Sra. Flores are willing to serve. Mr. Davis preferred that the Board not have a member on the committee since the group will be presenting a resolution for the Board to consider. Discussion followed as to whether a Board member should be on the committee. It was decided that a Board member would not be named to the committee. Dr. Votaw suggested more discussion was needed at another retreat or work session. In addition, she felt the Board’s initial interest was to focus on developing incentives for healthy food choices rather than banning junk foods near schools. After the committee has an initial meeting, Dr. Phillips said the committee can then meet with the board to have an open discussion in a retreat or work session.

6. *Second Reading of policies*

a. JJID – Student Physicals for School Athletes

Athletics Director Ernest Viramontes presented the policy for second reading. Based on Board member requests during a previous meeting, language in the regulation was amended to allow the School-Based Health Centers as an option for physicals, and to require the school to create a list of names of students who received a physical at school. Dr. Votaw commented a strong communication piece is needed with students and parents so they are not deceived by someone trying to take advantage of them. She wants it to be very clear what the student exam is and what it is not. Superintendent Rounds said that will be codified in the regulation. Prior to approving the policy, Mr. Davis asked that the regulation be brought to the Board at its next meeting. The policy’s third reading could take place after the regulation review.

7. *Third reading and approval of policies**

a., b., c. – *Consent items*

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Dr. Votaw: Visited Mesilla Elementary classrooms with Mrs. Hall; With Dr. Phillips, she went to MHS’ Institute for Parent Engagement (IPE) graduation – a very ceremonial time and well done with strong parent participation; in reviewing the new web site and board webpage, she found it difficult to find the minutes and the Board packet. Mr. Rounds said the site is still under construction and they can go to the previous website – old.lcps.k12.nm.us. Regarding tonight’s agenda, Dr. Votaw enjoyed the recognitions and thinks the district should have a large, yearly spring celebration (televised) to recognize schools, students and

staff; Dr. Votaw took the K12 climate survey, which she liked, and wants LCPS to continue using the tool.

Mrs. Hall: She visited the Physical Plant Department and heard they rarely get visitors; she reminded everyone that the LCPS Foundation Board scholarships are due April 19; Mesilla Elementary was a good visit; Lynn Middle School's IPE graduation was well attended.

Mr. Davis: He said Lynn's IPE graduation was impressive and is a great program; he misses the Board's meeting archive on the website but was informed it is being recreated; he said House Bill 21 was passed and the requirement for posting public agendas was extended from 42 to 72 hours for any meeting.

Dr. Phillips: She made a visit to La Academia Dolores Huerta charter school; she enjoyed the band and choir concert at the OHS Performing Arts Center for Camino Real Middle School and Centennial High School band and singers; she also congratulated the parents and Ms. Olga Hawkins from the Superintendent's Office for the successful IPE graduations. Mr. Davis asked about the schools that will move into IPE next school year. The Superintendent said as many as 12 could be involved. He added that 160 parents completed the program, which is phenomenal as a first-time effort.

VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Calendar of Events

- April 2, 2013, work session needs to be rescheduled since Dr. Votaw and Superintendent Rounds will be gone. It will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2013, beginning at 3:00 p.m. for a closed personnel session, followed by a 4:00 p.m. work session. Dr. Votaw can call into the meetings.
- April 8, 2013, at 9 a.m. will be an employee discharge hearing.
- Mr. Davis asked whether an outline for the strategic plan will be forthcoming; the Superintendent said a mid-April retreat format is being considered.
- Closed session on April 16, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss guidance on the collective bargaining agreement.
- Mid-April Board retreat for an update on UVA turnaround schools initiative and to obtain Board input; tentatively set for Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- A Board Retreat in June is needed to set the Board and Superintendent goals; tentative - June 4, 2013, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hall to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:54 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Jo Galván.