



MINUTES
Las Cruces Board of Education
Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2013 • 5:00 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building Board Room • Televised on LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Call to Order

Dr. Connie Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Board Secretary Chuck Davis:

- Dr. Connie Phillips, President - present
- Señora Maria Flores, Vice President - present
- Mr. Chuck Davis, Secretary - present
- Mrs. Barbara Hall, Member - present
- Dr. Bonnie Votaw, Member - absent

Superintendent Stan Rounds was in attendance.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes

President Phillips entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings: January, 15 2013, Regular Board meeting; February 5, 2013, Special Meeting/Work Session; March 5, 2013, Special Meeting/Work Session; June 25, 2013, Regular Meeting; and July 1, 2013, Special Meeting. A motion to approve all minutes was made by Mr. Davis and was seconded by Mrs. Hall. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Sra. Flores to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

*F. Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Dr. Phillips called for approval of the consent agenda items: IV.C. Ratification of summer contracts and awards; IV.D. Ratification of summer BARs; Bids and waivers; V.A.1. Approval of bids; V.A.2. Approval of property dispositions; V.A.3. Approval of vendor payments; V.A.4. Approval of BARs; and V.B.1. Approval of student out-of-state travel.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Sra. Flores seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

A. non-agenda items:

Maria Enriquez, grandparent, raised a concern regarding University Hills' new pick-up/drop-off procedures. She said parents are not longer allowed into the cafeteria to pick up children and there is no shade outside for parents. She feels the prior procedures worked well and helped parents meet one another. Before the weather turns colder, she wants the cafeteria reopened, which she also said will prevent student illnesses. Dr. Phillips thanked her for the input.

B. *agenda items: none*

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. *Certificate of Recognition to José Frias*

Superintendent Rounds asked Mr. Frias, Oñate custodian, to come forward in order to be recognized for his artwork that he created for the OHS gymnasium floor. Mr. Frias professionally spray-painted an OHS knight onto the floor on his own time. Several of his co-workers attended the meeting in his recognition. Mr. Frias has been an LCPS employee for one year and he gave credit to his co-workers as he said he was happy to be a part of the Oñate custodial team. Dr. Phillips presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. *New Principals/Administrators*

Superintendent Rounds said this school year has the longest list of new or reassigned principals, assistant principals (AP) and central office administrators since he has been with the district. Many of the administrators were in the audience and were asked to stand as their names were called. The administrators and their positions are: Anthony Plaza – AP, Alameda Elementary; Jeannette Martinez – Principal, César E. Chávez Elementary; James Dickerson – AP, Cesar Chavez; Tiffany Gomez – Principal, Columbia Elementary; Michael Chaires – AP, Columbia Elementary; Priscilla Johnson – Principal, Highland Elementary; Karin Hite – AP, Highland Elementary; Fred Parker – Principal, Hillrise Elementary; Greg Howell- AP, Hillrise Elementary; Judy Foster – Principal, Loma Heights Elementary; Ricardo Rincon – AP, Loma Heights Elementary; Aine Garcia-Post- AP, MacArthur Elementary; Kelly Mahres – AP, Mesilla Elementary; David Rivera – AP, Mesilla Park Elementary; Jeannie Romero-Cundiff – AP, Sunrise Elementary; Laura Flores – AP, Tombaugh Elementary; Janie Rios – Principal, University Hills; Laura Taft- AP, University Hills; Mary Nuñez- Principal, Lynn Middle School; Reynaldo Gomez- AP, Lynn Middle School; Cindy Baker- Principal, Picacho Middle School; Guillermo Carmona- AP, Picacho Middle School; Mike Brewer- AP, Vista Middle School; Terry Romano- AP, Zia Middle School; Josh Silver- Dean of Students, Arrowhead Park Early College High School; Gabby Alaniz- AP, Las Cruces High School; Kathie Davis-Principal, San Andres High School; Leandro Martinez-Administrator, Mesilla Valley Training Center; Lydia Polanco– Interim Director of Elementary Instruction; Wendi Miller-Tomlinson-Interim Director of Secondary Instruction; and Maricela Rincon-Coordinator, Bilingual Programs. They were given a round of applause.

B. *Update on University of Virginia Turnaround Schools Program*

Mr. Rounds said this is the smoothest rollout of a new school year he's ever experienced. In addition, the first few days for the 11 Turnaround schools went well. He said Associate Superintendent Andrea Fletcher continued her work with Turnaround by going with the second cohort of Turnaround principals to Virginia during the summer. Several of the schools held assemblies for their students explaining the turnaround concept. All principals have created their 90-day plans and we are currently meeting and observing teachers, reviewing data, etc. A turnaround support meeting was held for district coordinators and directors outlining expectations and tasks for the upcoming weeks in their adopted turnaround school.

The Board will receive updates on their efforts. Mr. Rounds then asked the Turnaround administrators to stand and be recognized.

C. *Items C., C.1, C.2, C.3 on consent**

D. *Item D on consent**

E. *Report on Summer Professional Academy*

Superintendent Rounds said the 4th Annual LCPS Professional Development Summer Academy was held for teachers and school administrators. Last year, the Common Core rollout was for kindergarten-3rd grade teachers; this year, the rest of the staff is involved. He said the primary focus was to offer professional development connected to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in order to support the upcoming K-12 implementation. The academy served approximately 600 teachers who registered for up to six sessions each across 85 different session offerings. Some of the breakout sessions offered for elementary included refined and newly created pacing guides; math practice standards; bridging ELL strategies within the core; and depths of knowledge. For secondary teachers, sessions included pacing presentations; technology tools that support the Core; and bridging ELL strategies within the Core.

He said the district sponsored a weeklong Secondary Institute for middle and high school teachers to experience a combination of professional development on CCSS topics and content area collaborative curriculum design.

Reflection forms by participants showed that teachers enjoyed the cross-district planning and collaboration on the curriculum design of their respective courses. With that in mind, the instruction team determined that each grade level/content area would have 3.5 hours of collaboration time during the Fall Professional Development days in order to honor the expressed needs of the teachers. This collaboration will encourage and allow consistency from school to school in the grade level/content area classrooms.

F. *Certified/Classified Employee Report*

No comments on the report were made. Superintendent Rounds requested a personal point of privilege and asked for Karen Robles to come forward. He said Ms. Robles joined LCPS in 1991 as the secretary to the Superintendent. Through the years, her duties expanded and she advanced to administrative assistant to executive assistant and finally to chief of staff. Mr. Rounds said Ms. Robles became his right-hand person. He mentioned her many talents and skills and her extreme dedication to the school district. Mr. Robles officially retired on August 1, 2013. She will continue with LCPS on a part-time contract as Special Assistant to the Superintendent in order to stay involved with the Early College High School II project, legislative priorities, and working with Herb Torres on the charter multi-school campus at the Court Youth Center, and with collective bargaining. The Superintendent thanked her and wished her a great retirement.

President Phillips then presented her with a gift from the Board of Education. She also remarked that Karen's work on behalf of the Board is appreciated and that it's bittersweet when someone retires, especially someone with her level of experience. Ms. Robles received a standing ovation and a round of applause. Ms. Robles briefly thanked everyone and said she has been proud to the district over the years.

Superintendent Rounds also announced that Herb Torres has been named as the Special Master to oversee Las Montañas Charter High School. The former LCPS Associate Superintendent has more than 30 years' administrative experience and his extensive background will be extremely helpful as the Special Master.

V. OTHER REPORTS

A. Finance

Items #1, #2, #3, #4 on consent*

5. *Fourth Quarter Reports for LCPS, Las Montañas Charter High School, and La Académica Dolores Huerta Charter School*

Terry Dean, associate superintendent for finances & technology, reported that Las Montañas ended the fiscal year with \$294,466 in cash in the operational fund; this is an increase of \$130,000 over what was projected. Regarding the end of year for La Académica Dolores Huerta, it had projected \$82,000 in cash balance and ended with \$83,000. There were no problems with the reporting.

Mr. Dean reported that the report for LCPS reflects the beginning and end of the fiscal year. As of June 30, 2013, the district reports a \$13.14 million cash balance; the projection was \$10.2 million. The year-end cash balance is 77% of the fund revenue for the year. When the district budget was adopted earlier in the summer 2013, he said one area of concern was to make up a \$4 million shortfall. He said the cash balance will help to offset that amount. In federal funds, the district is still awaiting on \$1.35 million in reimbursements for the 2012/13 fiscal year. The total budget expenditures for the year was \$261,187,303.

6. *Approval of amendment to Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan (Cafeteria Plan)*

Mr. Dean reported that employees will have an option to have their insurance premiums deducted from their paychecks pre-taxed. When an employee signs up, he/she is committed for an entire year, Dec. 1-Nov. 31.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Sra. Flores to approve the amendment to Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Instruction

Items #1 on consent*

2. *Approval of Title IX Assurance for Secondary Schools*

Joy Walkey, Principal on Special Assignment for Instruction and Title IX Administrator, said that to maintain compliance with the New Mexico Schools Athletics Equity Act, all public schools, no later than August 31, must submit an assurance of compliance with Title IX to the School Board for approval. The assurances are needed in 10 key areas of Title IX: access to higher education, athletics, career education, education for pregnant and parenting students, employment, learning environment, math and science, sexual harassment education, standardized testing and technology. She said once the Board gives its approval, the assurance form will be sent to the NM Public Education Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hall to approve the assurance of Title IX compliance. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Operations

1. *Construction Projects Report*

As part of the Construction Projects Report, Dr. Phillips asked how the Las Cruces High School renovations are proceeding. Gloria Martinez, construction projects director, said the early work package is done in front of the school, and signs have been erected to direct students, parents and visitors to the correct parking and drop-off areas. The final

drawings for Phase I will be sent to Public Schools Facilities Authority and then the project will go out for bid. Phase I construction should be underway by late November/early December. In answer to Sra. Flores' question, Ms. Martinez said the large pile of dirt across the street from the school will be re-used in the renovations.

2. *Approval of School Bus Inspection Contract for SY 2013-14*

Transportation Director Larry Altamirano said the state requires all buses to be inspected twice a year. The inspection contract for the 2013/14 school year is with Southwest Safety Ltd. The company will look at wheels, brake pads, oil, and more. The report can be reviewed online. Any bus that does not meet the requirements will be pulled out of service until it is fixed and re-inspected.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hall to approve the bus inspection contract. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. *Approval of LCPS and Town of Mesilla School Resource Officer Service Contract*

Todd Gregory, safety and security coordinator, said LCPS has had a long-standing contract with the Town of Mesilla to obtain police service from the Marshal's Department. The contract for a School Resource Officer (SRO) is for \$49,000, from August 12, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The SRO will assist at Zia Middle School, San Andres High School, and at other schools on an as-needed basis.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Sra. Flores to approve the SRO contract. The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. BOARD

ITEMS

A. *New Business*

1. *Adoption of 2013 Open Meetings Act Resolution*

Mr. Rounds reported that the Open Meetings Act Resolution includes language from the new law requiring that meeting agendas be available at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. It also references that following emergency meetings, the Board must notify the Attorney General as to the reason for the meeting.

A motion was made by Sra. Flores and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the Open Meetings Act Resolution. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. *Discussion of 2014 NMSBA Resolutions*

Dr. Phillips said each Board member has received a copy of the Resolutions that have been considered in the past. It has been requested that the Resolutions be discussed at the September 13 Retreat so that the Board can vote on them on September 17, 2013. She said some Resolutions may be removed from consideration while others may be added. Sra. Flores requested that drug abuse prevention be considered for a Resolution. In addition, she would like to consider the counselors/nurses/social workers' issues with regard to the tier salary schedule.

3. *First Reading of Policies:*

a. *Policy BA and Regulation BA-R, Board Goals*

Jo Galván, communications & policy development director, requested revision to Policy BA, Board Goals. A new Position statement has been added. She said most of the changes are need within the Regulation – BA-R. It outlines the four major goals that the Board has been using during the past year: student success, communication and trust, quality in human resources, and budget and facilities

management. Ms. Galván requested that the Policy and Regulation be approved after two readings, which will be at the next regular meeting.

b. Policy JLCD, Revision of Administering Medicines to Students

Ellen Williams, health services director, presented for first reading the revisions recommended for Policy JLCD. She said because of the increase in the prescribed use of narcotic-containing medications, and the implementation of the New Mexico Cannabis Program, it is recommended the policy be updated. Ms. Williams said prior to the next reading, the words “treating physician” in section IV.4., will be changed to “health care practitioner.”

Dr. Phillips said the policy will be open to the public for review and input and will go through three readings.

c. Policy JFA, Revisions to Admission Procedures

Dr. Steven Sanchez, Deputy Superintendent, said Policy JFA was last approved in 1995. He said the policy’s purpose has been revised; a background statement has been added; the district-approved enrollment form has been identified; and language has been included regarding homeless students.

Mr. Rounds said the Policy will go through two Board readings.

4. Approval of name change for Mesilla Valley Training Center to Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School

Superintendent Rounds announced that Dr. Leandro Martinez is the new administrator at Mesilla Valley Training Center (MVTC), which is recommended for a name change to reflect its new mission. He said MVTC has opened this school year as a full day, alternative middle school program for 7th and 8th graders. He said through an integrated learning model, known as LEAP (Leading Edge Alternative Program), the school has been re-missioned. It currently has 24 students and he is projecting an enrollment of 250 by the time it is fully operational. He said much like the JUMP classrooms, this program will focus on an interdisciplinary curriculum with a vocational lab setting where they can apply their core content skills. The name change requested is the Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School.

Mr. Davis asked how the students are being selected. Superintendent Rounds said the students are identified by their “home” school counselors and teachers. He said a white paper will be developed for the Board on the specifics of the selection process. Transportation is being offered, similar to the middle school magnet programs that have a transportation hub from the other middle schools. There are currently 3 girls and 21 boys enrolled. Mr. Rounds is considering bringing in 6th graders, too.

Mr. Davis made a motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Hall to change the name to Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Ratification of name change for San Andres High School to Rio Grande Preparatory Institute

Superintendent Rounds said it is recommended that the name for San Andres High School be changed to Rio Grande Preparatory Institute. Unfortunately, San Andres has suffered from poor performance for many years; the new name will send a message that the school, and the culture of the school, is no longer what San Andres used to offer.

Principal Kathie Davis said the school’s mission will be “school to work and beyond.” Teacher Jazmine Carr said she already sees a lot of enthusiasm with the students.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Sra. Flores to ratify the name change to Rio Grande Preparatory Institute. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. *Ratification of 2013-2015 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the LCPS Board of Education and CSEC-LC*

Mr. Rounds said as part of the Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Classified School Employees Council (CSEC) of Las Cruces, the 2013/14 salary schedules have been included, in addition to a Memorandum of Understanding to study uniforms for classified employees. The term of the Agreement will be July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015. No later than March of each year of the Agreement, the parties will begin to negotiate on Article XX (Compensation) and up to three additional “re-openers” presented by either side. The Agreement has already been ratified by CSEC.

Mr. Rounds introduced the Board’s chief negotiator Herb Torres who thanked both teams for their work. In addition to the items mentioned by the Superintendent, Mr. Torres noted that campus security guards will work an additional 30 minutes each work day; all CSEC employees who don’t use more than five days of sick leave will get a paid, personal day the following school year; salary increases range from 1.5 to 5 percent.

As a side note, Mr. Torres said he has met with CSEC representative Irma Valdespino regarding a change need to the language regarding “breaks” for nutrition service workers. A clerical error was not caught in time for this presentation.

Mr. Davis said one section of the Agreement also addresses domestic partners, which, just recently, have been issued marriage licenses in Doña Ana County. Mr. Torres said language revisions will be addressed at the next negotiations.

Ms. Valdespino said the negotiations were challenging due to the fact that the Legislature is not funding public education adequately. She said a 1 percent raise provided by the Legislature is not sufficient.

On a personal note, she thanked Karen Robles for the good relationship she maintained with CSEC; Ms. Valdespino congratulated her on her retirement.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hall to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between LCPS Board of Education and CSEC-Las Cruces. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mrs. Hall reported that she attended the LCPS administrative retreat and teachers’ meetings before school. She is impressed with what the administration has used for professional development training for administrators and teachers and in looking at the teacher evaluation in-depth.

Sra. Flores went to the Rio Grande Preparatory Institute and Tombaugh Elementary on the first day of the school year. She also remarked that at the end of last school year, she went to the Physical Plant Department and never got a chance to thank Director Bobby Stout for the tour. She was impressed with what she saw.

Mr. Davis reported on his trip to Chama, New Mexico, where the Legislative Education Study Committee was meeting. He was impressed with the work of the LESC, which maintains a focus on children.

VIII. UPCOMING

EVENTS

A. *Calendar of Events*

Superintendent Rounds mentioned that on Monday, August 26, will be a reception, unveiling the new synthetic turf at the Field of Dreams, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Halls to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:39 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Jo Galván.