



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Special Meeting/Work Session**

Tuesday, November 5, 2013 • 4:00 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building Board Room • Televised by LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Call to Order

Dr. Connie Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call

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

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

Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance.

C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Student Presentation by Engaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE)

Sra. Flores introduced Dr. Federico Marquez of the ENLACE program. Dr. Marquez explained the ENLACE program consists of parent involvement and middle and high school curriculums. ENLACE has a 60% graduation rate with 97%-100% of the graduating students transitioning into community colleges or universities.

ENLACE students Samantha Aguirre from Mayfield High School, and Jacob Rios from Las Cruces High School, presented to the board their plans for the future, thoughts on ENLACE, and their successes from being in the program. The students indicated their appreciation of teachers taking the time to get to know their students and indicated ENLACE students have developed a strong bond amongst each other, supporting each other in their failures and successes.

Sandra Ruiz, a freshman at New Mexico State University, also shared experiences and successes while enrolled in the ENLACE program. Sra. Flores was presented with cards written by students to the board.

Discussion with NEA-LC

Superintendent Rounds invited Patrick Sanchez, Mary Sanchez and Helen Davis, of NEA-LC, to address the board regarding pertinent issues such as New Mexico Teach and Teacher Evaluation System. As of November 5, 2013, 1,613 teachers have responded to the survey regarding attendance vs. sick leave.

Patrick Sanchez discussed NEA-LC's decision to challenge a legal matter with the PED and file a lawsuit. The Jones firm was retained to represent NEA/AFT in the lawsuit regarding New Mexico Teach. Mr. Sanchez also discussed that Parents against Standardization of Students (PASS) and Promise of New Mexico will both be holding forums regarding New Mexico Teach and the new Teacher Evaluation System. He indicated that a statewide rally themed "Take Back our Profession" will be held at LCPS Administration offices on November 20, 2013. Mary Sanchez invited all members of the board to participate in the action on November 20, 2013 indicated that teachers are good people, and not the enemy. She stated her concern that kids are being tested on subjects that they were not even taught and vocabulary is an issue of our students due to the low economic environment this district.

Superintendent Stan Rounds reminded the board that he must be in compliance with state regulations and laws pertaining to the issues at hand, and will maintain compliance for the district. Mr. Rounds shared that the initial proposal to the PED offered eight measures to be used; all of which were denied by the state. LCPS resubmitted the proposal and was again denied. Teaching is an art as well as a science. How do you balance?

Mr. Davis stated his belief the board should publicly state their support of LCPS teachers and asked that a resolution be prepared around Teacher Evaluation System.

Dr. Votaw suggested a work session or board retreat to discuss the issues brought forward regarding the Teacher Evaluation System and also suggested a policy be developed. Dr. Votaw feels a resolution is less powerful than a policy. Dr. Votaw stated she would like to review resolutions from other districts that address the issues and modify those resolutions to conform to LCPS district. Dr. Votaw stated that teachers need to be recognized who are at 85% and that teachers should be celebrated and rewarded regarding their work with resiliency. Dr. Votaw indicated she will be in attendance at the rally scheduled for November 20, 2013.

Sra. Flores agrees with Mr. Davis and Dr. Votaw and would like to see some local control in letting the district choose what it wants and what its teachers need. Sra. Flores will also attend the rally on November 20, 2013.

President Dr. Connie Phillips stated a date will be scheduled for the board's retreat in December and that the issue surrounding high school diplomas vs. certificates of completion will be on the agenda for the board's retreat in December.

IV. BOARD ITEMS

A. New Business

President Dr. Phillips stated that a list of the board committee assignments was placed in each board member's folder. There was no discussion.

B. Review of voting districts for 2014 bond election

Superintendent Rounds discussed the voting districts for the 2014 bond election advising that voting districts were consolidated into 28 voting locations with the majority of the locations held at district school facilities.

The following voting center options were presented:

Option A – Consolidated Voting Locations:

- 28 voting locations (\$24,900)
- Board District 1: 6 locations
- Board District 2: 7 locations
- Board District 3: 5 locations
- Board District 4: 4 locations
- Board District 5: 5 locations

Option B – Voting Centers

- 5 voting centers (\$25,500)
- One center placed in each board district
- Mayfield High School
- Zia Middle School
- Hillrise Elementary
- Fairacres Elementary
- Sonoma Elementary

Brigitte Zigelhofer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Community Partnerships, advised the board of the four new precinct locations: #116 Sonoma South, #117 Red Hawk Northeast, #118 Holman West, and #119 Holman East.

Jo Galvan, Director of Communications and Policy Development, added that although Voting Centers–Option B offers a convenience to voters, Option A–Consolidated Voting locations is recommended due to the greater number of polling locations.

President Dr. Phillips suggested the use of the consolidated locations. Board members agreed to use Option A–Consolidated locations. The voting locations will be adopted into a resolution that will come before the board for approval at the next regular board meeting.

B. Update on Beginning Teacher Induction Program

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo presented to the board an update on the Las Cruces Public Schools Beginning Teacher Induction Program (BTIP). The program is in its 15th year of service to elementary and secondary teachers. Currently, there are two professional development specialists assigned to BTIP, Jane Gurnea and Peter Dinger, who support 119 teachers as well as offer support to 124 teachers wishing to advance to the next level of the dossier system.

With the implementation of the new teacher evaluation system, it is anticipated there will be a need for additional specialists ready to support teachers at various levels.

Jane Gurnea and Peter Dinger discussed the five pillars supporting LCPS beginning teachers: Jump Start Camp, Mentoring, Observations, Monthly Professional Development Academy and Resources and Materials.

Program formally began in 1999. From August 1999 to April 2013, more than 1,170 teachers have enrolled in the LCPS Induction Program. Over 69% of these teachers

were still employed with LCPS in April 2013, and over 79% of these teachers are still teaching in LCPS or elsewhere. The LCPS Level II dossier initial pass rate of 91% has exceeded the state average.

Mrs. Hall commended the BTIP on their work and Superintendent Rounds agreed with the anticipated need of additional staffing and issues regarding budget. Superintendent Rounds stated that BTIP is a valuable service for the district.

III. OTHER REPORTS

A. District Solar Presentation

By request of members of the LCPS Board of Education, Mr. Dane Kennon discussed a presentation of photovoltaic solar energy that could show potential benefits to the district. Solar energy is purchased two ways: 1) 100% investment capital paid by the district; or 2) use of a third-party purchaser through a purchase agreement. By use of a third-party purchaser, the third-party purchaser provides 100% of the investment capital with minimal cost to the school district. The district then forgoes property to the third-party purchaser. This allows LCPS to purchase energy from the third-party purchaser at a reduced rate which is locked in for a 20 year period.

El Paso Electric Company (EPEC) will provide a \$.02 subsidy on every kilowatt directly to the school district. This subsidy request by EPEC is currently pending approval by the Public Regulatory Commission (PRC).

Sra. Flores asked if each school district had to dedicate 5-7 acres to this array. Mr. Kennon responded no. Mr. Davis asked if wind mills were an option; Mr. Kennon indicated that wind mills were not an option at this time.

B. Approval of Contract Award Recommendation for Las Cruces High School Additions and Remodel Project, Phase I

Superintendent Rounds introduced Mr. Rem Alley of Alley & Associates Architects and invited the board and audience members to join him in the Superintendent's large conference room to view 3D model of Las Cruces High School Additions and Remodel Project, Phase I.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to approve the contract award recommendation for Las Cruces High School Additions and Remodel Project, Phase I. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Davis - The motion passed unanimously.

IV. BOARD ITEMS

A. Board Committee Assignments

President Dr. Phillips advised the board that a list of board committee assignments was placed in each board member's folder for their review. There was no discussion.

B. Review of 2014 bond prioritizations

Jo Galvan, Director of Communications & Policy Development, presented the list of proposed capital outlay items for the 2014 General Obligation Bond election. The list is based on requests from principals, in collaboration with staff and parents. The administration also submitted requests for consideration. Board members have two items for consideration: (1) recommended items for the election totaling \$65 million; and (2) the list of "below the line" items that were not selected for this election. It is recommended that some of the items that were not selected be done with current

funding; be done in the future with SB9 or HB33 funding (because request was not appropriate for bond funding); or be placed as priorities for the next bond cycle (2018). The board will vote on the election at its regular board meeting, November 19, 2013.

Dr. Votaw asked how many items below the line were actual needs vs. wishes and asked if the requests were prioritized. Ms. Galvan responded that at least 95% of the requests are a need and explained that if the item were a wish item, a rationale had to be provided for the request. Dr. Votaw also asked what the process was for selecting classroom furniture and play equipment, i.e. who participates in the selection process? Mr. Terry Dean responded that a survey is done on the quality of furniture in schools and the worst cases have priority. Dr. Votaw also asked who decides what kind of furniture is to be purchased. Mr. Dean responded that the principal working with their staff determines the classroom functionality/configuration. Superintendent Rounds stated that the district has a standard in furnishing furniture and each school preference must be within the district standard. Superintendent Rounds also stated that along with the principals the Physical Plant Department assists in the type of equipment to be purchased as playground equipment requirements are mandated by the Public Schools Facilities Authority.

Sra. Flores asked if below the line items marked “need” are already being addressed at other locations. Ms. Galvan responded that she would mark those that were. Superintendent Rounds stated that access contingency falls within three pots: (1) 2018 cycle; (2) furnishing; and (3) safety.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Votaw to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:35 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.