



## MINUTES

### Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

#### Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2013 • 6:30 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 6:30 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. *Pledge of Allegiance*

President Phillips led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

### D. *Performance by Mesa Middle School Orchestra*

The audience enjoyed a performance by the Mesa Middle School Orchestra comprised of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students led by their Director, Eric Rangel.

### E. *Approval of Minutes*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2013 Work Session and the November 19, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

### F. *Approval of Agenda*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

### G. *Approval of Consent Agenda Items*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Dr. Bonnie Votaw to approve the consent agenda items, which are V.A.1. approval of Property Dispositions; V.A.2. approval of Budget Increases/Adjustments; V.B.1. approval of Student Out-of-State Travel; and VI.A.1. Second Reading and approval of Policy DJ, Procurements. The motion passed unanimously.

## II. PUBLIC INPUT

### A. *Non-agenda items*

Leticia Soto addressed the Board in regards to CARE (Cancer Aide Research and Education) a non-profit organization with funds raised going directly to cancer stricken patients. Ms. Soto stated that this organization is greatly needed in Doña Ana County and there is no other like it. The organization would like visit schools to provide awareness to students. Ms. Soto added the organization received a Proclamation from the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County designating the month of February Lavender Cancer Awareness month for all types of cancers.

Bill Connor, a facilitator with the Doña Ana County Legislative Coalition, stated the Coalition is diligently working on the LCPS agenda items for the upcoming legislative session. The priority agenda items are in final form and will be forwarded to Mrs. Leslie Cervantes for distribution to the Board. Agenda items include the Board of Education's priority items of: Teen Substance Abuse Awareness, Educational Funding and Turnaround Initiatives.

Dr. Constance Wash, Director of CARE, stated the organization's sole purpose is to help cancer patients fight cancer. Dr. Walsh has been an oncologist since 1990's and stated that the cancer battle is never ending. The CARE organization assists cancer patients and their families to pay utility bills, house payments, and air fare costs to MD Anderson, etc. The organization would like to assist in educating our students in all the different types of cancer and provide information to the families within our district.

Yoli Diaz, CARE board member, provided a pamphlet to the Board containing information on CARE and the services it provides to the community. CARE supports local Doña Ana County cancer patients. Ms. Diaz also read from the Proclamation that cancer is the number one cause of death in Doña Ana County.

Jeffrey Field, a retired elementary school teacher and now a high school substitute asked why students do not know who Edward Snowden is, and stated that he found it to be unacceptable. Mr. Field read to the Board from a timeline regarding surveillance by the U.S. government. He believes students must be warned that everything online is subject to confiscation by the U.S. government.

Melissa Mullinax, community member, spoke regarding her appreciation of teachers.

B. *Agenda items – None.*

### III. RECOGNITIONS

A. *Vista Middle School Fuel Challenge Team*

Superintendent Rounds recognized the Vista Middle School Fuel Challenge Science Team comprised of 17 Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) students led by their teacher, Joshua Wisner. The Challenge Team brought home five trophies and a total \$1,000 in prize money from the Alternative Fuels Challenge held November 16, 2013 in Albuquerque in which 42 teams from across the state participated. The Challenge Team's trip to the competition was partially funded by funds generated for LCPS by the Spaceport gross receipts tax.

B. *Teachers Moving from A/B Schools to D/F Schools*

Superintendent Rounds recognized six teachers who met the criteria for moving from an A/B rated school to a D/F rated school. Pursuant to the 2013 General Appropriation Act, the six teachers received a \$5,000 stipend reward for moving from an A/B rated school to a D/F rated school. The teachers who were recognized are Victoria Medina, Evangeline Barela, Brenda Ruvalcaba, Tomas Diego, Deborah Yvette Nevarez and Rae Jean McKinney.

C. *Fall Sports State Champions*

Superintendent Rounds recognized the 5A Fall Sports Champions: The Las Cruces High School Boy's Soccer Team and the Las Cruces High School Football Team.

### IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. *Update on Court Youth Center Project*

Superintendent Rounds stated the Board received an update on the Court Youth Center Project at the Joint Work Session held with the City of Las Cruces on December 3, 2013. Superintendent Rounds reminded the Board that we are constructing a charter center that will house J. Paul Taylor and Alma d' Arte. There were no comments from the Board.

*Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Preliminary Approval of the Expanded Charter School Campus Project to Include Both Renovation and New Construction at the Court Youth Center Site*

Superintendent Rounds advised the board anticipating costs for the renovation of the Court Youth Center and the new construction site to be slightly over \$9 million dollars. Of which, \$4 million dollars is allocated for the renovation of the current facility (which is on the February 4, 2014 bond

election proposal) which will house Alma d’Arte and \$5 million dollars is allocated to the construction of a new building which will house the J. Paul Taylor Academy.

A motion was made by Dr. Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Preliminary Approval of the Expanded Charter School Campus Project to Include Both Renovation and New Construction at the Court Youth Center Site. A roll call vote was taken. Sra. Flores - “aye;” Dr. Votaw – “aye;” Mr. Davis – “aye;”, Mrs. Hall- “aye” and Dr. Phillips – “aye.” The motion passed unanimously.

*Discussion on LCPS Alternate Demonstration of Competency framework*

Superintendent Rounds discussed the complex set of circumstances regarding graduation regulations imposed by the State. The Superintendent and the Board has been working for months to ensure the maximum number of students will graduate this year meeting the standards of the State of New Mexico. End of course exams and the passing of all NMSBA test sections are a requirement for the graduation process and are also a part of teacher evaluation system under the state’s new model which has caused great concern to the district’s teachers and amongst administration. The Secretary of Education designate has prompted regulations through the Administrative Code which sets a legal foundation in which the district must follow. A draft of a rubric/portfolio of Alternate Demonstration of Competency was provided to the board. The Board also received a draft of a proposed Resolution and policy review and potential adoption at the January 21, 2014 regular board meeting.

Dr. Votaw asked if timing is adequate to fulfill requirements for this year’s graduating seniors. Superintendent Rounds responded “yes” and Dr. Sanchez concurred.

Sra. Flores provided to the Board copies of Resolutions used in the Santa Fe Public Schools and asked if the LCPS proposed Resolution and policy would be posted on school’s website for teachers and the community to review. Superintendent Rounds stated the policy and Resolution are in draft form, but could be posted on the school’s website if that is the agreement of the Board. The Board agreed the proposed draft Resolution and policy, in “draft” form, would be posted on the school’s website for public comment.

Superintendent Rounds stated the intent of the Resolution was to develop a protocol for incoming Freshman and for Seniors who are currently effected. He also stated a waiver request to the state was drafted as well regarding the request for band and dance credits as a fulfillment of the physical education credit requirement for graduation.

*Discussion on draft Resolution regarding Local Control*

Supt Rounds spoke regarding a challenge of state and federal efforts to have state Board of Education’s release local control to government entities. The proposed Resolution drafted is for local school boards to gain and retain local control. The Resolution lays out the foundation for local control and requests the Public Education Department to support local boards and Superintendents to allow adequate time and resources to successfully implement reform, and to allow districts the flexibility to design their own system to meet the state’s accountability standards.

*Discussion on proposed Resolution regarding Teacher Evaluation*

Superintendent Rounds discussed the request within the proposed Resolution to delay the full implementation of the Teacher Evaluation System for at least one year. Currently classroom observation is used to evaluate teachers. The new Teacher Evaluation System would implement classroom observation, teacher attendance and student performance on tests as tools in evaluating teachers. The Resolution proposes the use of the Danielson Framework for teacher evaluations this year, and to establish a statewide task force comprised of school board members, superintendents, principals and teachers to review and pilot the current teacher evaluation system and suggest a date for full implementation based on the pilot results.

Sra. Flores requested additional language to the proposed Resolution regarding the redundancy of student testing adding that high school students are required to take the NMSBA twice. If a student passes all sections of the NMSBA once; they should not have to test on the sections a second time. Superintendent Rounds advised that the district is asking for waiver of the timeline to be moved to April 2014.

Mrs. Hall appreciates the work the staff did in preparing the draft resolutions in such a timely fashion.

Mr. Davis asked about timelines for the Resolutions to be possibly adopted at the January 21, 2014 regular board meeting. Dr. Votaw responded that a timeline will be developed based on the discussions at the retreat held yesterday and Tina Gonzalez will provide that information to the board through the Minutes of the board's retreat.

*B. Certified/Classified Report*

Mr. Davis questioned the Superintendent's signature not being on the report. Superintendent Rounds stated his intent to sign the report. There were no further comments.

*C. Update on Turnaround Schools Initiative*

Mrs. Andrea Fletcher, Associate Superintendent of Turnaround Schools Initiatives, presented to the board an update on Turnaround Schools Initiative. Mrs. Fletcher shared extending the common formative assessment calendar to four weeks has been very successful. Turnaround schools have been focusing on developing cultures of learning for students and adults. Principals are working on further developing a process to provide teachers with face to face coaching conversations with timely feedback on a frequent basis.

Mr. Davis asked if information is being provided to other schools not currently in the turnaround program and Mrs. Fletcher responded that yes it was. Superintendent Rounds shared with the Board that Dr. Sanchez will be providing data regarding the significant increases in Turnaround schools sometime in January or February 2014. Dr. Sanchez also indicated that the information would be available to the Board through the Superintendent's evaluation.

Sra. Flores asked if the walk throughs at Turnaround schools are the same as in other schools and how often do they occur? Mrs. Fletcher responded the walk throughs are different for Turnaround schools, and they occur about 4-5 times per week.

**V. OTHER REPORTS**

*A. Finance: Items #1 and #2 were on consent\* and approved earlier in the meeting.*

*B. Instruction: Item #1 was on consent\* and approved earlier in the meeting.*

*2. Head Start Meal Report*

There were no comments.

*3. Approval of Head Start 2012-13 Annual Report and Program Information Report*

Dr. Maria Artiaga, Head Start Coordinator, requested approval of the 2012-13 Head Start Annual Report and Program Information Report (PIR). The Annual Report was developed to inform the community of the Las Cruces Public Schools Head Start Program and includes the mission and vision of Head Start; data from each program content area, recruitment, and enrollment; as well as a brief outline of the budget.

The 2012-13 Program Information Report (PIR) documents an accumulation of detailed data regarding funded student enrollment, family demographics, program options, program staff and qualifications in each content area, child and family services to include medical and dental information and pertinent information related the Head Start curriculum and assessment tools.

Dr. Votaw shared her appreciation of the Head Start program. Sra. Flores asked if the program is at capacity and Dr. Artiaga responded "yes". Mr. Davis stated he is a believer of the program and was impressed with the report provided by Dr. Artiaga. Dr. Phillips attended the literacy evening at Head Start and enjoyed it.

*C. Operations*

*1. Construction Projects Report*

Gloria Martinez, Construction Projects Director, gave a full report on the construction projects throughout the district. Loma Heights Elementary is on schedule and estimated completion date is May 2014. Notice of Award was issued to Wooten/Sundt for the Las Cruces High School additions and renovations, and architects are currently working on the construction contract. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2014 at Alameda Elementary and architects are working on the design. Contractors are working on punch list items for the Professional Development Center remodel and the Mayfield High School nurse's area remodel. There were no comments from the Board.

2. *Approval of Las Cruces Public Schools 2013-14 Preventive Maintenance Plan*  
Mr. Dane Kennon, Associate Superintendent of Operations, presented to the board a request for approval of the LCPS Preventive Maintenance Plan. The Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) requires that all New Mexico public school districts have a Preventive Maintenance Program to ensure that the physical condition, educational suitability and physical infrastructure of all public school facilities within the Las Cruces Public Schools meet an optimum level district-wide. It also ensures the design, construction and maintenance of school sites and facilities, encourages, promotes and maximizes safe, functional and durable learning environments. Mr. Kennon also stated that the mill levy is on the 2014 bond election and funds from the mill levy are used for preventive maintenance. Mr. Kennon introduced Bobby Stout, Physical Plant Director, for questions.

Mr. Davis recommended an attachment be added to the Plan regarding requests for work orders from principals. Superintendent Rounds recommended to the Board approval of the Plan and technical modifications be made after discussion with PSFA regarding the proper procedural process as principals sometimes change annually.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Dr. Bonnie Votaw to approve the 2013-14 Preventive Maintenance Plan. The motion was approved unanimously.

## VI. BOARD ITEMS

- A. *Old Business: Item #1 was on consent\* and approved earlier in the meeting.*
2. *Approval of La Academia Dolores Huerta's Request for Relocation of Present Facility*  
Superintendent Rounds stated that he met with Octavio Casillas, Principal, La Academia Dolores Huerta, and asked that the Board approve La Academia Dolores Huerta Governance Council's request to move forward in exploring options to relocate from its present facility located at 1480 N. Main Street to an alternate facility in accordance with all applicable state laws and regulations. Superintendent Rounds stated that the request for enrollment increase is not an appropriate action at this time and Principal Casillas agreed.

Dr. Phillips reminded the Board that the action taken tonight was only in regards to the approval of a new facility, not the increase in student population.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Sra. Maria Flores to approve La Academia Dolores Huerta's Request for Relocation of Present Facility. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Rounds stated his well wishes for La Academia and also offered the assistance of Associate Superintendents Dane Kennon and Terry Dean to La Academia in moving forward.

Principal Casillas stated his appreciation of the wonderful support LCPS has provided to La Academia and thanked the Superintendent and the Board. He also invited Board members to La Academia's annual performance in February at the Onate High School Performing Arts Center.

3. *Adoption of Resolution Amending the Resolution and Proclamation of Special School Bond Election and Special Public School Buildings Tax Election*  
Superintendent Rounds advised that subsequent to the approval of the Resolution by the Board on November 19, 2013, one of the voting precincts, Grace Covenant Church located at 3111 N. Main, refused to participate as a voting location. It is proposed in the amended Resolution that precincts #26-Country Club, #89-Elks Club South and #99-Elks Club West be consolidated into the Jornada Elementary School district.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to adopt the Resolution Amending the Resolution and Proclamation of Special School Bond Election and Special Public School Buildings Tax Election. A roll call vote was taken. Sra. Flores - “aye;” Dr. Votaw – “aye;” Mr. Davis – “aye;”, Mrs. Hall- “aye” and Dr. Phillips – “aye.” The motion passed unanimously.

4. *Adoption of Amended Resolution and Proclamation of Special School Bond Election and Special Public School Buildings Tax Election*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Dr. Bonnie Votaw to adopt the Amended Resolution and Proclamation of Special School Bond Election and Special Public School Buildings Tax Election. A roll call vote was taken. Sra. Flores - “aye;” Dr. Votaw – “aye;” Mr. Davis – “aye;”, Mrs. Hall- “aye” and Dr. Phillips – “aye.” The motion passed unanimously.

5. *New Business*

There was no new board business.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Mrs. Hall attended the Aspiring Administrators meeting. Sra. Flores wished families, students and staff happy holidays.

Dr. Phillips met with Dr. Marci Oxford regarding the Virtual Learning Academy and learned about the “blended learning” concept of the program. Dr. Phillips stated that she has received great feedback from parents and students regarding their positive experiences with online learning.

**VIII. UPCOMNG EVENTS**

A. *Calendar of Events*

Dr. Phillips said a calendar of events was placed in each board member’s folder for their review. There were no comments.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Sra. Maria Flores and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.