



MINUTES

Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 • 6:30 p.m.

LCPS Administration Building Board Room • Televised by LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Call to Order*

President Dr. Connie Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 MHS Madrigal Singers led by their Director, Derek Gilmour.

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 7, 2013 Special Meeting, December 9, 2013 Retreat and the December 10, 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 Dr. Bonnie Votaw to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

G. *Approval of Consent Agenda Items*

A motion was made by Dr. Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the consent agenda items, which are V.A.1. approval of Property Dispositions; V.A.2. approval of Budget Increases/Adjustments; V.A.3. approval of Vendor Payments; and V.B.1. approval of Student Out-of-State Travel. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

A. *Non-agenda items*

Dr. Jaime Castillo, parent, spoke to the board regarding the administration at Desert Hills Elementary.

Kris Nielsen, Statewide Grass Roots Movement New Mexico Refused the Tests, spoke to the board regarding the standardized tests students are subjected to.

B. *Agenda items*

None.

III. RECOGNITIONS

- A. *Dr. Sandra K. Nakamura Professional Development Excellence Award*
Superintendent Rounds recognized Christine Woods, a second grade teacher at Hillrise Elementary School and Tamara Miller-Dwake, a science teacher at Arrowhead Park Early College High School, as the recipients of the 2013 Dr. Sandra K. Nakamura Professional Development Excellence Award.
- B. *National Board Certified Teachers*
Superintendent Rounds recognized seven teachers who met the requirements of becoming National Board Certified Teachers. The national certification is based on portfolio entries, classroom videos working with students, analysis of student work and six intensive exams. The teachers recognized were: 1) Charlene Bencomo, teacher at Sonoma Elementary School, who received her certification in Early Childhood Through Young Adult Exceptional Needs of Specialist; 2) Amy Lopeman, teacher at Lynn Middle School, who received her certification in Early Adolescence Science; 3) Josh Silver, Dean of Students at Arrowhead Park Early College High School, who received his certification in Adolescence and Young Adult English Language Arts; 4) Mindy Tapia, first grade teacher at East Picacho Elementary, who received her certification in Early Childhood Generalist; 5) Joyce Unglaub, Developmentally Delayed preschool teacher at Sonoma Elementary School, who received her certification in Early Childhood Through Young Adult Exceptional Needs Specialist; and 6) Michelle Brooks, who has moved to Silver Springs, Maryland, earned her certification in Reading-Language Arts Early Childhood and Middle School.
- C. *New Mexico Alliance for School Based Health Care*
Superintendent Rounds introduced Dr. Earl Nissen and of the New Mexico Alliance for School Based Health Care and Laura Mandobauch of Teen Pregnancy Prevention Work Group who recognized Sra. Flores for her advocacy in school based health care and teen pregnancy prevention. Sra. Flores was presented with an award. Dr. Nissen also stated that LCPS now has school based health centers at all schools. La Clinica de La Familia has a center at Centennial High School and will be expanding to Rio Grande Preparatory Institute; Ben Archer has a center at Mayfield High School.

President Phillips recognized Mr. Ray Jojola, White Sands Missile Range school liaison. Mr. Jojola is PCSing (Permanent Change of Station) to Ft. Collins, Colorado. The Board thanked Mr. Jojola for all he has done for our students and the district.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. *Naming of Early College High School II*
Superintendent Rounds asked the Board to formally adopt Arrowhead Park Medical Academy as the official name of the district's second early college high school. The name Arrowhead Park Medical Academy was born by Arrowhead Park Early College High School staff. When fully operational, the school will enroll a maximum of 250 students. It will attract students interested in pursuing advanced studies in the medical and health related fields and will draw students from the existing high schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to adopt Arrowhead Park Medical Academy as the official name of Early College High School II. Sra. Maria Flores opposed the approval stating she would prefer the name Science Academy or Health Services Academy instead of Medical Academy. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1.

Spaceport 2012-13 Annual Report

Superintendent Rounds shared with the Board the 2012-13 Spaceport Annual Report which outlines the district's use of funds set aside from the Gross Receipts Tax funding in the Spaceport grant. The district uses \$1.2 million dollars annually to support literacy, math, science, and technology. The funds are also used to expand student opportunities the aerospace industry job market; support expansion and improvement of existing science, engineering, technical, and mathematics programs; and ensure that a portion of the funds support professional development in collaboration with New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College.

Dr. Votaw commented that she has been on the advisory board since its inception and is interested in having further discussions regarding when funding is no longer available, and what do we sustain from the experiences we have been providing for students so future students can still have the same experiences? Superintendent Rounds responded that sustainability is certainly the issue albeit short or long-term, and it is our job to make sure it happens for our kids.

Mr. Davis stated his understanding of the funds being allocated for science programs, and asked what the duration of the funding is? Dr. Votaw responded that the funds are from a limited tax funding; a contribution from the County of \$1,000,000,000. When that tax funding is exhausted; the funds will cease. Superintendent Rounds responded there is an approximate duration of twelve years of the funding before the funds are exhausted. Superintendent Rounds also stated this is a direct grant from the County to the District and not a district imposed tax like mil levies.

Approval of Resolution regarding LCPS Alternate Demonstration Competency

Dr. Steven Sanchez, Deputy Superintendent, requested approval of the Resolution regarding LCPS Alternate Demonstration Competency. The resolution states its intent to address students who have successfully met all graduation requirements, but who have failed to demonstrate competency on the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment or the end-of-course exams as directed by the Public Education Department. The resolution has been reviewed by a team comprised of teachers, school administrators, and counselors who have analyzed of each student to ensure that all 29 course credits have been earned by the student and identify students who are missing one or more components of the standardized test. These students will begin filling out the alternative demonstration of competency with their school counselor and parent. The procedures are carefully noted in Policy IKFC and its accompanying regulation.

President Phillips opened the floor for discussion by the Board. She stated Board members have received several emails regarding the resolutions; particularly from the business community. Dr. Votaw proposed a discussion on resolutions independently, and stated her concern in regards to this year's graduating seniors. Mr. Davis believes a work session is needed for an in-depth discussion of the resolution, but stated action should be taken now on approval. Sra. Flores stated emails received from community members were more directed to the local control and teacher evaluation resolutions.

President Phillips asked how many students are currently affected by the new graduation requirements imposed by the State, and Dr. Sanchez responded between 60-100 students from various high schools.

A motion was made by Dr. Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Sra. Maria Flores to approve the Resolution regarding LCPS Alternate Demonstration Competency. 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.

Approval of Resolution regarding Local Control

Superintendent Rounds requested the board approve the Resolution regarding local control to school boards of education. Local school boards are currently subject to numerous constraints at the state and federal levels. Social, political, legal and judicial climates all have a bearing on what schools boards may or may not do, and how they do it. Major policy decisions are at the state and national legislative levels, and in some cases by federal and state courts, and not at the local level.

Dr. Votaw asked that adjustments be made to the "whereas" clauses that are repetitious without changing the content of the resolution. Dr. Votaw stated she asked for this resolution based on her belief that this year's seniors would not be in the position they currently are in, had this board had more control. The Board would not have made the decision that put seniors in jeopardy which is good reason in and of its self for school boards to have local control.

Sra. Flores stated she found the emails received from the business community to be somewhat puzzling as the Board has worked together hand-in-hand with the Bridge of Southern New Mexico and the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce. She believes it is more of a political motion from the business community, and is happy to speak to them in regards to the Board needing some local control. Mr. Davis agrees with Sra. Flores and believes the business community does not recognize each school's needs. Mrs. Hall believes the resolution should pass to set as standard to other districts.

President Phillips spoke to the Board regarding her belief that the business community is sharing its concerns regarding what is best for our kids. She would like to find ways to reach out to the business community to explain what we are doing with our kids. Dr. Votaw believes the business community will be more understanding of what the Board is trying to do with an explanation to them to assure them it is the best way for our students and not the Board’s way.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Sra. Maria Flores to approve the Resolution regarding Local Control. 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 with amendments.

Approval of Resolution regarding Teacher Evaluation

Superintendent Rounds requested the Board approve the Resolution to delay the full implementation of the New Mexico Teacher Evaluation System for at least one year. This resolution is driven by the fact that the Public Education Department has yet to release the methodology it will use for calculating how student achievement will be used to evaluate teachers and the understanding of the board that the development of a fair and rigorous evaluation system takes time to pilot and the results of the pilot should allow for improvements to the final evaluation system.

Dr. Sanchez shared grammatical changes made as suggested by board members and stated the final resolution with changes was included in their packet. Changes made did not reflect the content of the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Dr. Bonnie Votaw to approve the Resolution regarding Teacher Evaluation. 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.

- B. *Certified/Classified Report*
There were no 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 that the University of Virginia held the Turnaround Mid-Year Retreat in Albuquerque last week which was attended by principals, assistant principals, instructional specialists, and teachers new to turnaround this year. Also in attendance were the directors of Federal Programs, Elementary Instruction, Accountability, Assessment and Research, the coordinator of the Professional Development Center and the Superintendent.

Mrs. Fletcher shared that Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, author of Leverage Leadership and Driven by Data, led the group through a presentation on how leaders can effectively engage teachers in discussions to address student misunderstandings and gaps in learning. Administrators including Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Dr. Steven Sanchez and Superintendent Rounds joined teachers from turnaround schools in their second year and attended the second part of the program which focused on re-energizing staff as they continue their difficult work and create sustainability.

District and school teams, with input from teachers, are currently creating their 90-day plans based on priorities established during the retreat.

V. OTHER REPORTS

- A. *Finance: Items #1, #2 and #3 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.

C. *Operations*

1. *Construction Projects Report*
There were no comments.

Superintendent Rounds noted the absence of Associate Superintendents Terry Dean and Dane Kennon and thanked the Board for their excusal.

VI. BOARD ITEMS

A. *Old Business:*

1. *First reading and approval of Policy IKFC Alternate Demonstration of Competency*

Superintendent Rounds stated this policy is on a fast track and asked the Board to waive the second and third reading of this policy and move forward to approval. Dr. Sanchez informed the Board that the policy establishes a process for the implementation of an alternate demonstration of competency for students in compliance with state statute and regulation. Through this policy, the Board asserts that students who are unable to demonstrate competency using traditional assessments should have the right and opportunity to demonstrate competency through alternative means. The policy specifies that in order to qualify to participate in the alternate demonstration of competency, a student must complete all credit requirements as specified by New Mexico state statutes and the Las Cruces Board Policy and Regulation IKF; and participate in the Public Education Department's alternate demonstration of competency through established end-of-course exams. The policy further directs the Superintendent to develop an alternate demonstration of competency that is complete and scoreable, addresses academic content standards, and provides for a student demonstration of competency using a portfolio process.

Mr. Tim Hand, Accountability, Assessment and Research statistician, reviewed the Alternate Demonstration of Competency rubric with the Board and discussed its validation.

Dr. Votaw stated she likes giving students some way of demonstrating proficiency and the real need for alternatives. She further stated that some students just don't test well and was pleased with the rubric provided. She hopes to receive an evaluation of the process and how well it works for students by the end of the school year.

Sra. Flores commented on student complaints received by the Board regarding lack of relevance of testing and Mr. Davis again interjected his wish for a work session for further discussion.

The Board thanked Mr. Hand for his work, and Dr. Sanchez stated the district will be ready to provide feedback to the Board in a retreat setting regarding this process by April 2014.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Sra. Maria Flores to approve Policy IKFC Alternate Demonstration of Competency. 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.

B. *New Business:*

1. *Approval of Operating Agreement between NMSU Board of Regents and DACC Advisory Board*

Mr. Andy Burke, interim president of DACC, presented to the Board substantive changes to the 2010 Operating Agreement between the NMSU Board of Regents and DACC Advisory Board. Mr. Burke thanked President Phillips and Mr. Chuck Davis for their years of service on the DACC Advisory Board, and welcomed Dr. Votaw and Mrs. Hall to the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Dr. Bonnie Votaw to approve the Operating Agreement between NMSU Board of Regents and DACC Advisory Board. 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.

2. *Discussion regarding NMSBA 2014 Excellence for Student Achievement Award*

The Board was in agreement to accept nominations from school principals and will set a deadline as to when the Board will select a nominee and submit to NMSBA.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mrs. Hall attended Blue Ribbon Committee meetings and a LCPS Foundation meeting in which they discussed the Celebration of Excellence Dinner to honor teachers scheduled for April 2014. She also visited with the LEAP Program, and she and Mr. Davis attended the Martin Luther King breakfast.

Sra. Flores attended a spelling bee at Vista Middle School which was held in Spanish, and the district spelling bee.

Dr. Votaw attended the League of Women Voters meeting and shared their concern regarding polling locations. She also attended the School Siting Committee and is now the chairperson of the Committee. Dr. Votaw asked for the deadlines established on page 5 of the December 9, 2013 Retreat minutes be added to the Board events calendar and stated the Board is due for a retreat to discuss items put on our table tonight under public input.

Mr. Davis suggested the Superintendent address public concerns in regards to voting locations in the Superintendent's weekly radio address.

VIII. UPCOMNG EVENTS

A. Calendar of Events

President Phillips discussed the calendar of events which was placed in each Board member's folder for their review. She reminded the Board of a closed session regarding the Superintendent's evaluation on January 29, 2014.

Superintendent Rounds stated that early voting is currently underway on the bond and mill levy.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Sra. Maria Flores to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.