



## MINUTES

### Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education Board Retreat

Monday, April 21, 2014 • 9:00 a.m.  
Professional Development Center

In attendance: 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.

The meeting began at 9:03 a.m. with Dr. Votaw facilitating the meeting.

The outcomes identified for the retreat, was for the board to exchange views on reorganization, great conversations and information items. The Board will determine methods for ameliorating testing requirements and will understand status of joint site planning efforts and determine future actions.

Purpose of Retreat: To discover how to be effective within the current situation and to develop a course of action that will benefit our students, our teachers and district.

#### I. *Planning & Development*

##### A. *Board Reorganization*

The Board met from 9:00-9:30 a.m. to discuss board reorganization. The Board will vote on officers at the May 27, 2014 regular board meeting.

##### B. *Executive Session - Legal Matters*

A motion was made at 9:37 a.m. by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Sra. Maria Flores for the Board to move into closed session to discuss pending legal matters. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made at 10:08 a.m. by Dr. Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall for the Board to move into open session. The motion passed unanimously. President Phillips stated the closed meeting was for discussion on pending litigation matters; no other items were discussed; no action was taken.

##### C. *Great Conversations – Purpose & Outcomes*

Mr. Randy Harris presented to the Board his proposal regarding the purpose and budget for great conversations in schools throughout the district for SY 2014-15. The purpose of great conversations in schools is to present awareness on bullying in schools. Feedback is received from the students who participate in the great conversations. Mr. Harris believes that students who participate in great conversations develop a rapport with one another and no longer feel isolated from their peers.

Sra. Flores asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Great Conversations in the schools. The Board would like to hear from principals Ralph Ramos, Gabe Jacquez, Jo Beth Hawk and school counselors regarding the outcomes of the great conversations held at their schools and their opinions regarding compensation coming out of their respective budgets at the May 6, 2014 work session. At that time the Board will discuss their continued support of Great Conversations in schools and whether compensation is needed. The Board will review Mr. Harris' proposal for compensation and make a determination at the May 27, 2014 regular board meeting.

*D. NEA Survey Regarding Testing*

Mary Sanchez, NEA-LC representative, presented to the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding the results of the NEA survey which was conducted in February 2014. Over 500 kindergarten through high school teachers participated in the survey. The survey results revealed the percentage of impacted days of instruction by mandated assessments and test preparation; benefits of short cycle assessments and mandated standardized short cycle assessments.

Dr. Votaw asked if Accountability, Research and Assessment could provide some support to NEA in assisting in the design and administration of the results of the survey. The Board would also like to see the survey divided by levels of instruction, i.e. elementary, middle and high school levels. Dr. Sanchez and Superintendent Rounds offered to partner with NEA in providing some solutions to teachers. Sra. Flores would like the University of Virginia survey to be included.

The Board discussed a change in policy of teachers being required to use results of mandated testing as 20% of the students' grade and the use of end of course exams. The Board will work to define this District's interest in safe guarding students from the negative impact of mandated assessments. Superintendent Rounds stated we need to be clear where we are in our policy regarding state requirements and what the Board needs to do performance wise. Jo Galvan and Dr. Steven Sanchez will follow up and develop a policy.

*E. School Siting Policies*

The Board discussed the policy package for Model School Siting Policies for School Districts from the National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity. Mr. Kennon shared and discussed with the Board a map of two new housing developments in Las Cruces and the impact it will have on our District as to whether new schools would need to be built to accommodate the increase in student population in those areas. Joint siting planning continuum included standard operating conditions such as cost, infrastructure, population, density and a quality of life. The Board discussed a policy that states the board's values and interests in working to get schools sited and an MOU with the City of Las Cruces regarding school siting. Dr. Votaw will set up a system in developing an MOU with the City of Las Cruces and a policy. She would like the Board to have a single item work session in the fall (September) regarding the items discussed above.

*F. Leftovers from January Board Retreat*

The board discussed the following pending items developed from the January 2014 Board retreat: 1) Draft policy to clarify if NMSBA testing is passed once; student may opt-out of taking any further NMSBA testing other than to measure student growth. If listed in state statute, it will need to be a policy not a waiver; 2) Remove student penalty for testing for purposes of teacher evaluation or school grade; and 3) Review policy ILBB State Program Assessments for changes.

A discussion ensued regarding students opting out of NMSBA testing after passing it once. Dr. Sanchez stated that students may opt out. In response to a school's grade when students opt out of testing, Superintendent Rounds stated the state's methodology does allow for test scores to be used a second time even though students have not tested since they opted out. A concern was discussed regarding the validity of the tests on students who are required to take the test again after already passing it. The Board discussed the similarity of PSAT and SAT testing on students being able to opt out of portions that were previously passed. Dr. Sanchez suggested the Board discuss with Dona Ana County legislators the need for legislation in this regard and to develop an explicit proposal of recommendations to bring to Dona Ana County legislators. The District will facilitate a meeting with local legislators during LFC/LESC meeting in Las Cruces in June. Dr. Sanchez will have a draft of recommendations for the board to review this summer; and the board will take action at the August regular board meeting.

Dr. Sanchez suggested bringing in teachers in this summer to develop end of course exams beginning with Algebra I and II and English 9 and 10 classes as the District can develop its own end of course exams and submit to the state for approval. Dr. Sanchez advised the Board that it would cost the District approximately \$12,000 to bring teachers in to develop the four exams. He will check with the PED regarding the deadline of approvals of end of course exams by the state. The Board also discussed reviewing policy regarding end of course exams and the 20% of grade policy.

Dr. Sanchez will review policy ILBB State Program Assessments with his staff and send proposed changes to the Board for their review.

*II. Information Sharing*

*A. Superintendent Items*

*1. Teacher Evaluation Update*

Dr. Marrufo shared a list of timelines developed for the roll out of the new teacher evaluation system for the fall 2013 semester and spring 2014 semester.

*2. Las Montanas Update*

Superintendent Rounds shared with the Board Herb Torres' report on Las Montañas Charter High School as the Special Master. The report revealed that the charter school will not meet expectations set by board. Superintendent Rounds proposed renewing Las Montanas' charter for an additional year pending its application to the state for charter. The Board will review Mr. Torres' report and send any questions to the Superintendent for response. Action on the charter renewal will be taken at the May 27, 2014 regular board meeting. The Board requested that Mr. Herb Torres continue as Special Master

and that Las Montañas split the cost of Mr. Torres’ fees with the District. The Board would like Mr. Torres to assist Las Montañas in making its application to State. By Las Montañas going to a state charter all financials and student performance will no longer be a part of the LCPS district stats and will allow Las Montañas independence. Dr. Sanchez will check with the PED on whether Las Montañas can apply for a state charter within the 5 year timeframe and will provide the answer to the Board in the weekly. There was also a discussion regarding Las Montañas’ request for another building.

3. *Membership Fees*

A hand out developed by Mr. Dean regarding membership fees was given to the Board for review. Sra. Flores questioned the Chamber of Commerce fees and MVEDA fees. She asked if membership could be downsized to a couple of members versus all board members. She also questioned the cost of the LCPS dedicated room in the Armijo House. Mr. Davis requested further discussion on membership fees at a future board retreat or work session. An updated itemization will be developed by Mr. Dean regarding MVEDA fees and what the board receives for its payment to MVEDA for fees.

4. *Defer “reserve monies” Policy*

Superintendent Rounds suggested deferring action on this policy temporarily to a future date as the LCPS budget is continually being developed.

B. *Board Items*

1. *Honors assembly & graduation calendar*

A sign-up sheet for board members was circulated for their attendance at senior awards ceremonies. The following board members will attend the following awards ceremonies:

May 8@7 p.m.	CHS Gym	Sra. Flores, Dr. Phillips
May 13@6 p.m.	OHS PAC	Sra. Flores, Dr. Phillips, Mr. Davis
May 14@6 p.m.	MHS Gym	Dr. Votaw, Mrs. Hall
May 15@6:30 p.m.	LCHS gym	Mrs. Hall, Mr. Davis
May 15@6 p.m.	APECHS- DACC	Sra. Flores, Dr. Phillips

2. *Committee assignments*

Dr. Connie Phillips stated that a concern was raised by a Board member that Mr. Davis currently serves on both the financial and audit committees. The Board discussed whether the state required separate committees. Sra. Flores suggested separation to avoid the look of impropriety. The Board will review the state statues on the proposed conflict once the Board votes on reorganization.

3. *August Retreat*

*2014-15 Board Goals*

The Board discussed adding a school siting component to the Board’s goals for 2014-15 and policy/waivers on testing requirements.

*Policies deferred from January*

There was no discussion.

Mr. Davis requested a board meeting in July. The Superintendent's office will bring recommendations to the Board for a retreat in July or August. The board discussed moving the June regular board meeting to June 26 early afternoon (4:00 pm). The board will take action at the May 27, 2014 regular board meeting on moving the June regular board meeting from June 17, 2014 to June 26, 2014.

The Retreat adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.