



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Special Meeting**

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 • 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 4:04 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

Item III.A.1. Approval of Bids was removed from the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A motion was made by Dr. Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve consent agenda item III. A. 2. approval of budget increases and adjustments. The motion passed unanimously.

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Rounds recognized principals, teachers and school nurses throughout the District for Principal and Teacher Appreciation Day today as well as school nurses for National School Nurse Day tomorrow (May 7, 2014).

A. Update on Arrowhead Park Medical Academy

Ms. Jennifer Amis, Principal at Arrowhead Park Medical Academy, shared with the Board the status of enrollment, completion date and opening date of Arrowhead Park Medical Academy. She also discussed this year's graduation rate for Arrowhead Park Early College High School. Superintendent Rounds announced that two classroom wings will be available mid- May with possession of entire facility in June.

Dr. Votaw asked about the curriculum at the Medical Academy. Ms. Amis shared that an Associate of Science degree will be in the Medical Academy curriculum and stackable credentials are also offered. Ms. Amis also shared with the Board that they are also looking at community demand in the health care field to offer specified courses that will meet the demands of the community.

A discussion ensued regarding advanced science courses will be offered in the curriculum at a later date. An example of a course lineup was provided to the Board by Ms. Amis.

B. Review of Memorandum of Understanding between New Mexico State University and the Las Cruces Public School District Pertaining to Arrowhead Park Early College
Superintendent Rounds discussed with the Board the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between New Mexico State University and Las Cruces Public Schools. Mr. Davis had logistical questions and Superintendent Rounds offered to meet with Board members individually to answer any questions. Superintendent Rounds advised the Board that the MOU was drafted and reviewed by several attorneys before coming to the Board for review. The MOU will be administratively executed by Superintendent Rounds.

C. Nutrition and Physical Activity in Schools Video Presentation

Ms. Nancy Cathey, Director of Food Services, and students shared with the Board a video presentation on nutrition and physical activity in schools with an emphasis sports in middle schools. Students asked the Board to allow them to add additional sports to the existing ones currently at the middle school level. Students also asked for a crossing guard to be added at the middle schools. Mrs. Hall asked what sports are currently offered at the middle school level. Students responded with volleyball, basketball, football and track; and are asking for soccer, baseball and softball to be added. A discussion ensued regarding intermural sports and Mr. Ralph Ramos, Principal at Camino Real Middle School, clarified that the students are interested in competing at a higher level with their peers.

A group of sixth grade students from Sierra Middle School presented a video on food related illnesses, obesity, and choosing healthier eating options at school and at home.

D. Presentation on Aspiring Administrators’ Academy

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Development, shared with the Board a short video highlight the Cohert I journey. Cohert I students of the academy were recognized and aspiring administrators’ Terry Fogal, Teresa Garcia and Rebecca Fuentes shared their thoughts and experiences on the academy.

E. Update on MacArthur Elementary School Success

Ms. Carla Ragan, Principal at MacArthur Elementary, shared a short video presentation on the MacArthur’s successes as a first year Turnaround school. Ms. Ragan discussed classroom walk-throughs, evaluations, data meetings, and professional development.

III. OTHER REPORTS

*A. Finance: Item No. *1 was removed from the agenda; Item No. *2 was approved on consent earlier in the evening.*

3. Approval of Campo Street Property Acquisition

Mr. Terry Dean, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Technology, requested from the Board approval to negotiate the purchase of two lots on Campo Street at a price not to exceed the current appraisal value. Mr. Davis reminded the Board that it has been the plan of the district to acquire these two properties.

A discussion ensued regarding the location of the data center and the house located on the property. Mr. Dean advised the current owners of the house are seeking to rent the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Dr. Bonnie Votaw to enter into negotiations for the purchase of 770 S. Campo Street and 802 S. Campo Street properties. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Instruction

1. Approval of High Schools That Work Application, Mayfield High School

Dr. Steven Sanchez, Deputy Superintendent, advised the Board that Oñate and Las Cruces High Schools are currently in High Schools That Work program and asked the Board to approve Mayfield High School's application for admittance into the program.

A motion was made by Dr. Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the High Schools That Work Application for Mayfield High School. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Strategic Plan on the Redesign of the Autism Program

Dr. Steven Sanchez, Deputy Superintendent, shared with the Board that an open house was recently held at Centennial High School for the autism program. He shared the District's plan to look at middle school settings for next year and make sure the students have a safe, secure and engaging environment to work in. Dr. Sanchez also shared with the Board the logistics of recruitment of teachers for this program and the collaborative working agreement with the NMSU Special Education Department. He stated a Memorandum of Understanding will be in effect in August. A newly developed Parent Handbook for SY 2014-15 was shared with the Board and Dr. Sanchez advised that the handbook is also available in Spanish.

A discussion ensued regarding classroom designs, furniture and floor plans. There are currently 206 autistic students currently enrolled in LCPS.

3. Proposed Pre-Kindergarten Program at NMSU

Dr. Steven Sanchez, Deputy Superintendent, discussed with the Board his plans to partner with NMSU in a pre-kindergarten program geared towards students who have demonstrated age level and above-age level developmental skills and abilities who are not eligible for other pre-kindergarten programs. Dr. Sanchez states that discussions have begun with the Dean of the College of Education faculty at NMSU and have been extremely productive.

4. Update on Advanced Educational Services (AES)

Ms. Yolanda Koontz, Coordinator for Gifted & Talented Services, shared with the Board an overview of the program. She discussed caseloads for teachers, practices, statistics and methods used to identify talented and gifted students.

A discussion ensued regarding elementary kids being accelerated and the ability of teachers to recognize non-traditional students with AES potential with no specified training.

Mr. Davis asked for a list of AES facilitators with their qualifications; Ms. Koontz will provide to Board.

C. Operations

1. Approval of Contract Award between LCPS and Families and Youth, Inc. for Summer Meals

There was no discussion.

A motion was made by Dr. Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the 2014 contract between LCPS and Families and Youth, Inc for summer meals subject to final payment on the 2013 contract by May 15, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Contract Award for Court Youth Center Renovation and Addition

Mr. Dane Kennon, Associate Superintendent of Operations, shared with the Board the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and the selection of a contractor. Mr. Herb Torres further discussed the floor plan and differences in renovations to the Court Youth Center and Alma d' Arte, entering into lease agreements, and the finalization of the designs. There was a discussion regarding the timeline of renovations and demolition of the buildings.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Bonnie Votaw to approve the contract award and enter into negotiations for the Court Youth Center Renovation and Addition. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. BOARD ITEMS

A. Update on Great Conversations at Schools by Principals and School Counselors

Mr. Ralph Ramos, Principal at Camino Real Middle School, shared with the Board his thoughts on Great Conversations. Mr. Ramos stated that he liked the concept, but facilitation was dry and lacking in organization. His counseling staff assisted in the organization of the Great Conversations held at Camino, took notes which provided feedback, which therefore made it a success. Mr. Ramos stated he would not support spending money out of his budget to support the program and believes that utilization of our own counselors would be more beneficial for the district as LCPS counselors already have the skill set and relationships with the students.

Mr. Gabe Jacquez, Principal at Mesa Middle School, concurred with Mr. Ramos' views on Great Conversations and supports the cadre idea to help students build tools.

Sra. Flores stated that Mr. Randy Harris is a facilitator; and it is not a long term solution to Great Conversations. She stated that Mr. Harris can work with LCPS counselors to bring awareness.

A further discussion ensued by the Board in ways to listen to students and giving principals the ability to choose their options.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Arlington Brewbacker, community member, spoke regarding the lack of job opportunities in our community and the award of construction contracts by the District.

Mr. Herb Torres, spoke regarding the autism program and the support of the district.

Ms. Claudia Piper, board member of Great Conversations, spoke regarding the conversations held at schools.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.