



## MINUTES

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

Friday, January 30, 2015 • 9:00 a.m.  
Professional Development Center

In attendance: Dr. Bonnie Votaw, President  
Mr. Chuck Davis, Secretary  
Dr. Connie Phillips, Member  
Sra. Maria Flores, Member

Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance. Mrs. Barbara Hall was absent.

A motion was made at 9:05 a.m. by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Dr. Connie Phillips to move into closed session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Sra. Flores arrived at 9:06 a.m.

A motion was made at 10:18 a.m. by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded Dr. Connie Phillips to move into open session. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board retreat began at 10:18 a.m. with Ms. Andrea Fletcher, Associate Superintendent of Turnaround Initiatives, facilitating the meeting.

The outcomes identified for the retreat are to discuss redistricting of elementary schools, the Board's position on School Grade Promotion & Retention proposed legislation as well as other proposed legislation by the Public Education Department, and the status of the LCPS budget.

Purpose of Retreat: To establish purpose, direction and focus on student success and establish budget priorities.

Board Guidelines: To work towards singleness, opportunity and direction. Listen and respect different points of views. Focus on student success and deliberate on policy-level actions. Establish budget priorities to guide financial decisions.

#### *I. Planning and Development*

##### *A. Budget*

##### *1. Status*

Mr. Terry Dean, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Technology, discussed with board members the status of the LCPS budget. He stated that while the budget is important, the cash balance is of more importance this time of year. A history of the cash balance was shared which reflected an increase from school year 2011-2014. With the projected amounts for 2015, the cash balance would reflect a decrease of approximately \$6 million. The PED will finalize unit value in February 2015. A cash projection was discussed which included a projection for total revenue and projected expenditures which reflect a decrease in the ending cash balance (July 2015) from the beginning cash balance (July 2014). Mr. Dean shared that

most of the budget is in staffing and salary increases and reported that staffing should be completed in mid-March 2015 budget. Erosion factors were also discussed as well as NMPSIA benefits and ERB benefits for return to work employees. A more in-depth discussion with regard to mitigating factors in the cash balance will be discussed at a future board retreat or work session.

2. *Calendar Update*

A list of timelines for the SY 2015-16 budget process was shared by Mr. Dean. State law provides that all budgets must be finalized by June 20, 2015. The LCPS budget is due to the PED by May 22, 2015 for finalization. The budget will come before the Board for approval at the May 19, 2015 Regular Board Meeting. A presentation of the proposed budget will be presented at the Town Hall Meeting on May 12, 2015.

3. *Processes and Priorities/Strategic Planning/Data*

Mr. Dean stated that budget priorities are smaller class sizes, salary enhancements, adequate supplies to schools, and access to technology. Superintendent Rounds stated that first priority is fixing the cash balance. There was a discussion with regard to cost savings for this year's budget and specified areas that can be cut.

B. *School Grade Promotion & Retention Proposed Legislation*

1. *Review of Board's position*

President Dr. Votaw stated the Board's position in opposing the third grade retention proposed legislation indicating that failing the test is the criteria for retention; not the use of teacher evaluations. It was a consensus of the Board that this bill would not be supported.

2. *Review of alternatives developed*

There was a discussion with regard to a third way to support the school structure instead of the use of retention and that parents are no longer involved in the decision of retention. Sra. Flores stated she could not support the bill; and can only do so if there is a universal Pre-Kindergarten program. Superintendent Rounds strongly suggested that blended age instruction language be included in the proposed bill.

C. *Ideas for transition of Newly Elected Board Members*

President Dr. Votaw would like to visit with her successor to review data and the Superintendent's evaluation process. Dr. Sanchez suggested visiting with newly-elected board members to provide an instructional overview. It was discussed that funding sources should be discussed with newly-elected members, and Mr. Kennon also suggested a tour of the Physical Plant, Nutrition Services, and Transportation departments.

II. *Information Sharing*

A. *Redistricting of Elementary Schools*

1. *Enrollments*

Mr. Kennon shared a summary of current total enrollments by school and a discussion ensued with regard to trigger points and options to move school boundaries. Desert Hills and Highland Elementary Schools have high enrollments, and space is a concern. There was a discussion of a proposed new elementary school in the Highland-Sonoma area for the next bond election and a possible dual language magnet program at Central Elementary School.

Dr. Connie Phillips suggested a new school in the Sunrise Elementary area. Superintendent Rounds will develop a master plan for the next 18 months to assist in determining the need to build or re-adjust boundaries.

2. *Portables*

A listing of portables by school site was provided by Mr. Kennon.

B. *Other Proposed Legislation*

The following proposed legislations were discussed:

HB 117/SB 85 Reduce Truancy – to increase graduation rates, decrease the number of dropouts, and prepare students for success in college or career paths; HB 76/SB 91 Teacher Advancement- to recognize and reward the impact of effective teachers on student achievement; HB 71/SB 153 Principal Eligibility – to make New Mexico competitive by providing teachers with a professional pathway to become principals within three years. An Adjunct Teacher bill was also discussed that would take advantage of New Mexico’s talent and allow industry professionals to share their expertise

C. *Other*

President Dr. Votaw shared a petition regarding an appointment of a State Superintendent of Education. She encouraged the circulation of the petition.

The following is a list of action items derived from the Board’s retreat:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Person(s) of Responsibility</u>
Redistricting Master Plan	June 2016	Superintendent
Mitigating Factors Cash Balance	Retreat/Work Session	Terry Dean

The Retreat adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.