



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Work Session**

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 • 4:00 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building Board Room

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Call to Order

President Maria A. Flores called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Mrs. Barbara Hall. Those present:

- Sra. Maria A. Flores, President
- Mr. Chuck Davis, Vice President
- Mrs. Barbara Hall, Secretary
- Mr. Maury Castro, Member
- Mr. Ed Frank, Member

Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance.

C. Adoption of Agenda

A request was made to move public input to the beginning of the agenda. There were no additional changes to the agenda. The agenda was adopted as amended.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Roland Deblasse, teacher at Las Cruces High School, spoke in regards to daily planning periods for teachers.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Presentation on HB 2 General Appropriations Act

State Representative Bill McCamley shared with the board discussions that occurred at the legislative session with regard to mandated testing and the teacher evaluation process. He also shared statistics he received from students on the stressors of testing and spoke briefly with regard to student demonstration groups. Representative McCamley proposed that districts conduct an audit of the amount of tests implemented within its district; and each district have the right to choose which tests to be administered to students. He also spoke with regard to a lack of information with regard to parents' choice to opt-out their students from mandated testing and budget. The General Appropriations Act was passed by the legislature and is currently awaiting signature by the Governor.

President Flores stated opt-out information is posted on the LCPS website for parents in Spanish and English and asked that the redundancy in testing be reduced. Mr. Frank asked board members to consider testing under local control by the Board. Representative McCamley stated teachers did not sign up to be test proctors.

B. Student Presentation on Student Demonstrations

Students Kyleigh Cox from Mayfield High School, Jacob Hammond from Mayfield High School, and Clarissa Guerro from Las Cruces High School spoke to the board with regard to student demonstration groups; particularly one recently held in regards to standardized testing.

Superintendent Rounds took a personal point of privilege and shared with the board a memorandum received from the Public Education Department (“PED”) regarding the Board’s Resolution on NMTEACH. The memorandum directs the district to adhere to the NMTEACH plan originally approved by the LCPS Board of Education in August 2014. There was a discussion regarding the question of if the Collective Bargaining Agreement supersedes the NMTEACH plan adopted by the Board.

Mr. Glenn Landers, parent, spoke with regard to teacher contracted days for absences and his opinion for a response to the Public Education Department’s memorandum. President Flores stated “we need honor what we have said to teachers in the teacher’s contract.” Ms. Amy Simpson, teacher, spoke with regard to protocol set by the Public Education Department and the count of attendance days.

Mr. Roland DeBlassie, teacher, spoke with regard to the district selecting teacher surveys versus teacher absences as a multiple measure. Mr. Davis stated the Board will honor the bargaining agreement.

C. Overview of Turnaround Initiative

Mrs. Andrea Fletcher, Associate Superintendent of Turnaround Initiatives; and Mrs. Aine Garcia-Post, Assistant Principal at MacArthur Elementary School, shared a PowerPoint presentation with the board on frequently asked questions regarding the use of data and test scores, test preparation, extra work for teachers, cost of trainings, and student success in the Turnaround program. Mrs. Fletcher recognized Turnaround principals in the audience and Mrs. Wendi Hammond, Principal at Vista Middle School, shared her views of the success of the Turnaround program at Vista Middle School. A discussion ensued with regard to standardized testing and its effectiveness in the turnaround program.

IV. OTHER REPORTS

A. Finance

1. None.

B. Instruction

1. Central Elementary School Dual Language Program Update

Mari Rincon, Director of Dual Language; Eloisa Solis, Principal at Central Elementary School; and Kelly Mahres, Assistant Principal at Central Elementary School, provided the Board with an update on the plans for the opening of a Dual Language Academy at the Central Elementary School campus in August 2015. Results of the community/parent survey were discussed as well as the next steps for the implementation of the program.

Mr. Glen Landers and Dr. Luis Huerta, parents, each spoke to the board on how the dual language program would benefit the school.

2. *Discussion on Policy ILBB District Assessments*

Pursuant to the Board's request, Mr. Tim Hand, Director of Accountability, Assessment & Research discussed its policy on District Assessments which was adopted by the Board in December 2014. Mr. Hand explained how state statute determines administrative code and how revisions to policies are made when changes to federal or state regulations occur. The district must maintain compliance with state and federal regulations. A discussion ensued with regard to the Board changing the graduation credit requirement as suggested by Superintendent Rounds. Mr. Davis would like to discuss the policy further at a future work session.

3. *Discussion on Policy IKFC Alternate Demonstration of Competency*

Mr. Tim Hand provided an overview to the Board of the LCPS Alternate Demonstration of Competency policy focusing on Diploma of Excellence vs. Certificate of Completion. He stated that beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, state statute mandates that a student shall not receive a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence if the student has not demonstrated competence. A certificate of completion is given to a student who, at the end of grade 12, has not satisfied all graduation requirements. The certificate indicates the number of credits earned and the grade completed.

Bruce Hartman, NEA-LC representative, distributed a legal opinion to the board dated October 3, 2014 by Patricia Matthews, Esq. of the Matthews Fox Law Firm on the Alternate Demonstration of Competency. Superintendent Rounds pointed out language to the Board provided in the opinion with regard to student opt-out for testing.

C. *Operations*

1. None.

V. **BOARD ITEMS**

A. *New Business*

1. *Discussion of Policy BDA Board Organizational Meeting*

Mr. Davis shared with the Board this policy which allows for leadership capacity and responsibility across the LCPS Board of Education. The policy provides for school board members to rotate each board member annually through the positions of vice-president and president. He asked the board to take the policy under advisement. The policy will be brought back before the board for further discussion at a future board retreat. Mr. Castro stated he would like to keep the board organizational process as is and stated he would like the opportunity to select the "best leader" at the time of the board election process.

B. *Old Business*

1. None.

VI. **BOARD REPORTS**

1. *Committee Reports*

President Flores asked board members to share their concerns or comments regarding the budget. Mr. Frank stated kids should come first; and he would like to explore alternatives/different approaches to the balancing of the budget and stated the budget should be determined by our policies. Superintendent Rounds touched on the top

areas of the budget that will be discussed with the board: cash balance and the operating budget. He suggested a budget workshop for the Board with Mr. Dean facilitating. Mrs. Hall shared her opinion in listening to the administrative professionals who have worked with budget for years and giving them proper consideration in their opinion/suggestions with regard to balancing the budget. Mr. Castro would like more frequent budget reports and shared his concern in filling vacant positions and administrative costs.

Mr. Davis asked Amy Simpson, a teacher, to speak with regard to the high school block schedule versus year round scheduling and its effect on a student's ability to graduate timely. President Flores stated the district is awaiting feedback from high school principals on the use of block scheduling versus year round scheduling. Mr. Davis stated his concern in violating the law by changing the scheduling process which could ultimately effect graduation. A discussion on CAP dates ensued and Mr. Rounds stated he would like to await principal feedback before informing the board on scheduling. President Flores stated parents need to be informed as they plan their child's graduation. This topic will be discussed further at the May work session after feedback is received from high school principals.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.