



MINUTES

Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 • 6:30 p.m.

LCPS Administration Building Board Room • Televised by LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Call to Order*

President Maria A. Flores called the meeting to order at 6:30 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. *Pledge of Allegiance*

President Flores led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. *Picacho Middle School Choir*

The audience enjoyed a performance by Picacho Middle School Piano Program under the direction of Dustie Carpenter.

E. *Approval of Minutes*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the March 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

F. *Approval of Agenda*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

G. *Approval of Consent Agenda Items*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve consent agenda items V.A.1. Approval of Vendor Payments; V.A.2. Approval of Budget Adjustments; V.A.3. Approval of Property Dispositions; V.B.1. Approval of Student Out of State Travel; and V.C.1. Approval of Contract between LCPS and FYI for 2015 Summer Meals. The motion passed unanimously.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. *Winter Sports Champions*

The Oñate Varsity Cheerleaders and the Centennial Hawks Boys' Varsity Basketball Team were recognized as State champions.

B. *Southwest Regional Coach of the Year*

Coach George Maya of Mayfield High School was recognized as the recipient of the 2014 Sectional Coach of the Year for Girls' Basketball for the Southwest by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Coach Maya is also a finalist (1 of 8 in the country) for the National Coach of the Year in girls' basketball by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. The winner will be announced on June 20, 2015 at the National High School Athletic Coaches Association national convention in Rochester, New York.

C. *International Mathematics Competition Team*

Superintendent Rounds recognized students Vlad Sevostianov, Saleem Iqbal, Tiffany Liaw, Helen Cai, AJ Phillips, Evan Fuchs, Angela Kearns, and Elijah Estrada who competed with other top Mathematics students from across the country in the subject areas of Algebra, Geometry and Combinatorics and received the highest placement in three years of competing.

D. Daniels Scholarship Recognitions

Seniors Avery Everling, Joshua Prichard, Ouray Chastain and Nathaniel Fernando Trevizo, of Onate High School were recognized as the recipients of the Daniels Scholarship.

E. White House Science Fair Honoree

Sophia Sánchez-Maes, a senior at Mayfield High School, was recognized by President Obama at the fifth ever White House Science Fair on March 23, 2015 for her innovative approach in optimizing the biofuel production process.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Non-agenda items

Roland Deblassie, teacher at Las Cruces High School, shared a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding teacher planning periods. Keith Wolkowich and Sherry Noland, also teachers at Las Cruces High School, spoke with regard to daily planning periods as well.

Naomi Valdez and Tyne Hart, parents, each spoke with regard to the PARCC assessment.

B. Agenda items

None.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Rounds took a personal point of privilege to share with the Board the passing of longtime Las Cruces community educator and form board member, Clarence Fielder. Mr. Fielder was a former Teacher of the Year for the Las Cruces Public School District as well as Teacher of the Year for the State of New Mexico.

1. Challenger Center Update

Superintendent Rounds introduced Jason Clark of Studio D Architects, who presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the construction of the Challenger Center which will be housed at the Professional Development Center. The Challenger Center will be the basis of the LCPS Science curriculum.

2. Aspiring Administrators' Academy Overview

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Development, shared an overview with the board on the second Aspiring Administrators' Academy. The ten participants selected for the program were Andres Armijo, Rachel Polk, Ignacio Campos, Luis Meza, Ida Madrid, Luis Lucero, Michelle Ronga, Veronica Chavez, and Kathleen Gardner. Dr. Marrufo stated the seven principles used for the academy are data-driven instruction, observation and feedback, instructional planning, professional development, student culture, staff culture and school leadership teams.

3. Certified/Classified Report

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo presented the report. There were no comments.

V. OTHER REPORTS

A. Finance: Items #1, #2, #3, on consent and approved earlier in the meeting.*

4. Board Financial Report

There were no comments.

5. 2016 Budget Overview

Mr. Terry Dean, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Technology, shared with the board the dire straits the district is in with regard to the budget. He stated course correction is needed in order to keep the district from going bankrupt next year. Funds are exhausted and have been stretched as far as allowable ethically and legally. He discussed expenditures, cash balance, total operational resources, steps taken and recommendations to save costs. Mr. Dean also provided a summary of program units and "at risk" indexes on the State Equalization Guarantee for SY 2015-16 and how it affects the district's budget. Scenarios were provided to the board for consideration with regards to budget in staffing. Mr. Dean stated the district has been put on notice that the bond rating is going to decline which would increase interest rates. The district has \$50 million dollars in bonds that have not been sold and will need to sell to support construction projects. He stated there is a cash balance deficit \$6.5 million dollars at the end of the fiscal year. If SEG funding is not received for July by July 1, 2015; payroll for the district will not be made. There was a further discussion regarding bond ratings. Mr. Dean stated 90% of the budget is in staffing and Mr. Castro asked if the district is spending too much in staffing and in what area. Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo will provide a report of staffing numbers by school levels at the next work session. Mr. Frank asked if retired personnel will be replaced at a lower salary level and Mr. Dean stated vacant positions will be filled at an average teacher salary and vacancy savings are re-budgeted. Superintendent Rounds will also provide a report of the number of retirees at the work session.

Mrs. Hall asked if there is hope for the district to resolve the issue regarding the unbalanced budget. Superintendent Rounds stated the budget was in this position when he accepted the Superintendent position in 2007 and he balanced the budget at that time and stated that it can be done again.

Mr. Rounds recognized Mary Parr Sanchez, President of NMPSIA in the audience, and commended NMPSIA on the work they have done providing risk insurance for the district.

B. Instruction: Item #1 was on consent and approved earlier in the meeting.*

2. Approval of Adjustment to SY 2014-15 Head Start Budget

Erlinda Martinez, Director of Federal Programs, stated that Hatch Valley Schools is no longer a part of Las Cruces Head Start Program and federal law requires the portables in Hatch be moved. Funds need to be adjusted to cover the moving costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Maury Castro to approve the adjustment to the 2014-15 Head Start budget. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of IDEA-B Application

Donna Bush, Assistant Director of Special Education, presented the IDEA-B Application for approval as required by federal law. The application is completed annually to receive federal funds for students with disabilities. She stated the district currently serves 3,277 students exclusive of pre-school students and 106 staff positions with IDEA B funds. There was a discussion regarding the gifted program being funded by funds awarded by state operational funds.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara Hall and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the IDEA-B Application. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Overview of Secondary English Language Arts and Modern and Classical Languages Adoption Processes
Cari Aguilar, Coordinator of Secondary Education, discussed the adoption process and results. She shared a presentation which provided information on textbook adoption and adoption timelines. Examples of the textbooks were circulated.

5. Head Start Meal Report

There were no comments.

C. Operations: Item #1 was on consent and approved earlier in the meeting.*

2. Approval of Lunch Price Increase

Nancy Cathey, Director of Nutrition Services, requested an approval of an increase in lunch prices at the elementary, middle and high school levels. She stated the Heathy Hungry Free Act requires an increase to meet federal funds received per meal. The increase adjustment is an average of 4%. Sra. Flores asked if indigent children are affected by the increase and Ms. Cathey stated children on free or reduced meal plans are not affected.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the lunch price increase. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Construction Projects Report

Mr. Davis asked about the LCHS construction project and Mr. Kennon stated the project is moving forward in a timely manner. Superintendent Rounds told board members that a full report will be provided at the next regular board meeting.

VI. BOARD ITEMS

A. New Business

1. First Reading of Policy JICL Threat of Violence by Students

Dr. Martin Greer, District Psychologist, presented the policy for its first reading. The policy establishes a process to deal with students who threat violence on school grounds to harm others or themselves and addresses the safety of students and staff. The policy will be posted on the district's website for community input and will move forward for a second reading at the next regular board meeting. Mr. Davis suggested adding language that supports all areas of school responsibility and not just limited to school grounds as currently reflected in the policy. Mr. Castro asked what the changes from the old policy were and Dr. Greer responded that it is a new policy for first reading. Dr. Sanchez stated the policy was shared with principals and staff for their input. The policy will move forward for a second reading.

B. Old Business

1. Third Reading and approval of Policy FEE School Site Selection

Sra. Flores stated City Councilman Gil Soreg could not attend the meeting tonight, but shared his approval of the policy and would like a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") in place as the next step. Mr. Castro proposed selected committee members sign a conflict of interest statement which will be reviewed by the Superintendent. Superintendent Rounds will contemplate language to be included in the MOU and will provide a draft to the board for review and approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve Policy FEE School Site Selection. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Frank spoke with regard to the letter received from Secretary Hanna Skandera in response to the district’s resolution on NMTEACH. Mr. Frank shared his frustration with the possibility of rescinding the resolution and stated that he cannot support such a process.

Sra. Flores visited ELL classes at Monte Vista Elementary School; met with Dr. Maria Artiaga at Valley View Elementary School; attended Success Summit; participated as a judge at New Mexico Tech; spoke with Secretary of Education Hanna Skandera and Matt Montano of the Quality Assurance and Systems Integration Division, regarding the Board’s NMTEACH resolution and the reporting of teacher absences. She stated she spoke on behalf of teachers advising that most teachers care deeply about their evaluation and do not want to be lower than effective. She was reassured by Secretary Skandera and Mr. Montano that if a teacher takes all of his/her days off, it is only worth 20 points which still allows them to rank highly effective and that the impact is minimal on the overall evaluation. Sra. Flores stated that this is policy and the district has no choice but to follow it as directed by the PED.

Superintendent Rounds announced the district will be filing the teacher absentee report tomorrow (April 15, 2015) based upon the original plan which reverts from the board’s resolution on NMTEACH. The report will be what is on record for teacher absences. He stated cases of excessive absences due to extenuating circumstances reviewed on a case by case basis and appropriate adjustments will be made by administration in that regard.

VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Calendar of Events

President Flores shared with the Board that a calendar of events was placed in each board member’s folder.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Board President

Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.