



MINUTES
Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 • 6:30 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building Board Room • Televised by LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Call to Order

Sra. 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

Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance. Mr. Ed Frank was absent but joined the meeting telephonically from 6:45 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. for the vote on item I.F. Approval of Agenda; and from 8:33 p.m. to 8:35 p.m. for the vote on item V.A.5. Approval of LCPS 2015-16 Budget.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Sra. Flores led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Mesilla Elementary School Live Artists

The audience enjoyed a performance by the Mesilla Elementary School Live Artists.

E. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the April 7, 2015 Work Session Minutes; March 31, 2015/April 13, 2015 Special Meeting/Employee Hearing Minutes; April 28, 2015 Board Retreat Minutes; and the May 5, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes. A second motion was made by Mrs. Barbara Hall to change the April 28, 2015 Board Retreat Minutes to reflect that the Board did not discuss the Superintendent's attendance in board member's meeting with principals prior to the retreat. Mr. Maury Castro and Sra. Maria Flores abstained from the vote. The motion failed. The original motion made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the minutes listed was approved.

F. Approval of Agenda

Sra. Flores stated she would like to remove item III. Closed Executive Session and item VII.A.2. First Reading of Policy GBGC Employee Assistance/Wellness from the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Ed Frank remove item III. Closed Executive Session from the agenda. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Frank-aye; Mr. Davis-aye; Mr. Castro-aye; Sra. Flores-aye; and Mrs. Hall-aye. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and Mr. Maury Castro to approve the agenda as amended. 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 VI.A.1. Approval of Vendor Payments; VI.A.2. Approval of Budget Adjustments, VI.A.3. Approval of Property Dispositions, VI.A.4. Approval of Bids, VI.B.1. Approval of Student Out of State Travel, VI.B.2. Approval of the 2015-16 Title I Federal Consolidated Application, VI.B.3. Approval of the 2015-16 Title I, Part C Migrant Application, and VI.B.4. Approval of the 2015-16 Title III Local Plan Funding Application. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Report on April 28, 2015 Closed Session

Sra. Flores stated that the Board met in closed session on April 28, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. to discuss the value of an investigation of LEAP and the Superintendent. No other matters were discussed; and no action was taken.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. *Spring Sports Champions*

The Superintendent recognized Davis Chung, student at Las Cruces High School, as the State Champion for Golf; Jackson Sosin, student at Centennial High School, as the State Champion for Tennis; Jennifer Ramirez, Thomas Salas and Yemisi Oroyinyin, students at Onate High School, as the State Champions for Track and Field.

B. *Centennial High School Symphony Orchestra*

Superintendent Rounds recognized the Centennial High School Symphony Orchestra as the New Mexico Activities Association State Championship in the 1A-6A Symphony Division. The Centennial High School symphony is under the direction of Daniel Rivera and Joseph Flores.

C. *2015 U.S. Presidential Scholar Program Distinguished Teacher Award*

Mr. Michael Gaume, a Math teacher at Mayfield High School, was recognized as the recipient of the 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholar Program Distinguished Teacher Award. Mr. Gaume has 31 years with the district as a teacher and administrator. He was nominated for the award by Sophia Sanchez-Maes, a senior at Mayfield High School who is the 2015 US Presidential Scholars Program recipient.

D. *2015 U. S. Presidential Scholars Program Recipient*

Sophia Sanchez-Maes, a senior at Mayfield High School, was recognized as the 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Recipient. She was also recently recognized at the White House with President Obama.

E. *National Elementary Schools Principals Association's Distinguished Principal Award*

Elisa Solis, Principal at Central Elementary School, was recognized as the National Distinguished Principal by the National Elementary Schools Principals Association.

F. *Recognition of Bonnie Burn*

Superintendent Rounds recognized Bonnie Burn as one of our community's outstanding leaders who is instrumental in getting citizens active in government and increasing the understanding of major public policy. Bonnie Burn is the former president of the Las Cruces League of Women Voters.

III. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. *Program Investigation*

This item was removed from the agenda. See Item 1.F above.

2. *Report on Closed Session*

This item was removed from the agenda. See Item 1.F above.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

A. *Non-agenda items*

John Novello, teacher, requested a town hall meeting regarding the proposal of a furlough and regarding testing to be heard on behalf of parents and teachers.

Tauna Dorn, Marnie Nixon, and Christopher Brown, parents, spoke in regards to the impact of end-of-course exams on teacher evaluations and/or the PARCC assessment. Jane Bloom, parent, also spoke with regard to testing and requested the district assess end-of-course exams to determine if the tests are valid.

Andre Gonzales, student, spoke regarding the PARCC assessment and end-of-course exams. He stated that in a class of 30 students, a grade of 60% was the highest grade. Too much stress to handle for students and teachers.

Matthew Dean, teacher at LEAP, spoke with regard to the LEAP program and its successes. He shared concerns in the program closing because of budget restrictions and asked the Board for an explanation. He represented a group of teachers in attendance in support of the LEAP program.

Lucinda Jepson, parent of a LEAP student, spoke with regard to the LEAP program. She championed for an alternative middle school in Las Cruces. Sharlei Eagle, sister to a LEAP student, spoke in regards to her family's support of the LEAP program. Lorrie Hedman, a family friend, also spoke in regards to the LEAP program and support thereof.

Teresa Tenorio, parent, shared a brief PowerPoint presentation with regard to standardized testing and reasons to opt-out of standardized testing.

Alexis Black, teacher at MHS, spoke with regard to her evaluation which she received minimally effective due to being absent for five days to support her father who is suffering from COPD. She requested the attendance measure be removed from the evaluations for teachers.

Travis Patterson, parent of LEAP a student, spoke in support of the LEAP program. Samantha Manackie, parent, also spoke in support of the LEAP program and shared her daughter's successes while attending LEAP.

Jeremy Gonzales, parent, spoke with regard to the success of the LEAP program and his son's successful progression while in the program. He asked the Board to re-evaluate the closing of the LEAP program.

Earl Nissen, retired school administrator, spoke generally with regard to education in New Mexico. He also spoke of the appointment of Hanna Skandera as Secretary of Education and her political background in administration of Governor Jeb Bush of Florida. Mr. Nissen was critical of Secretary Skandera and the ideas she brought with her from the Jeb Bush administration regarding education reform such as standardized testing, database teacher evaluations and charter school expansion for implementation in New Mexico.

B. Agenda items

1. None.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Acceptance of Dollar General Monetary Donation to Ocate High School Library

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to accept the monetary donation from Dollar General Stores in the amount of \$40,000 to the Ocate High School Library. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Certified/Classified Report

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Development, presented the report. Mr. Davis requested a report on the number of LCPS retirees. Superintendent Rounds responded a report will be provided at the June 2 work session. There was a further discussion with regard to exit interviews and Dr. Marrufo offered to provide a report on the exit interview process.

V. OTHER REPORTS

A. Finance: Items #1, #2, #3, and #4, were on consent and approved earlier in the meeting.*

5. Approval of LCPS 2015-16 Budget

Superintendent Rounds and Mr. Terry Dean, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Technology, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the approval of the LCPS budget. Superintendent Rounds shared with the Board the bucket choices used in balancing the budget which included but was not limited to a furlough of 3 days and central office staff cuts, as well as a reduction in Educational Assistants and transportation costs. The Superintendent discussed line items that would save costs to the district including the elimination of LEAP as requested by the Board. Superintendent Rounds also shared the costs savings in salary reductions at central office for a total of \$1.2 million and the reductions in operational budgets by departments at central office including Title I and Title II as well as reductions in personnel positions. The proposed operational budget is \$179,879,429 in SEG and a salary and benefit budget of \$160,678,445. Superintendent Rounds requested approval of budget as presented.

Mr. Castro stated he would like return to work employees cost reduced by \$400,000 instead of \$200,000 as suggested in the budget. Superintendent Rounds responded that return to work employees help to keep experienced teachers which generates \$1.26 million dollars. He also reminded the board of the letter written to Secretary Skandera on behalf of the Board with regard to the budget cuts. Sra. Flores shared her agreement with Mr. Castro's recommendation and Mr. Dean stated that further cuts to the return to work employees could be detrimental to the budget. Mr. Castro also questioned other areas that could be sacrificed such as Chamber of Commerce and Mesilla Valley Economic Development Association fees as well as testing costs. Mr. Dean responded that the amount listed is only for testing that is mandated. End of Course exams are not paid by the district. Mr. Castro also asked if additional compensation such as increments to coaches, etcetera can be sacrificed and Superintendent Rounds stated those increments are a part of CSEC agreement and could not be sacrificed. Mr. Davis stated there is no time to make changes and the budget is presented as administration's best estimate. He shared his concern of the Public Education Department taking over the budget if not passed in tonight's meeting.

Sra. Flores provided a statement that she is not happy with having to vote in support of the budget; but she does not want the State will take over the budget and the Board lose local control. Sra. Flores stated she will hold the district to not implementing any new programs, purchase of technology items, etcetera. She also spoke in regards to the three day furlough for employees in lieu of losing jobs. She will continue to work with Mr. Dean in finding costs to cut and using budget adjustments throughout the year.

Superintendent Rounds shared that should the emergency relief request by the Board to Secretary Skandera be approved, those funds would be applied to the three furlough days.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara Hall and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the 2015-16 LCPS Budget as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Frank-nay; Mr. Davis-aye; Mr. Castro-nay; Sra. Flores-aye; and Mrs. Hall-aye. The motion passed.

6. *Board Financial Report*

Mr. Terry Dean presented the financial report to the Board. There were no comments.

7. *Third Quarter Reports for LCPS and Las Montañas Charter High School*

Mr. Terry Dean, shared the operational cash balance for LCPS of \$26,227,398.95 and total cash of \$73.5 million as of March 31, 2015 with a total revenue of \$204,902,969.69. The district expended \$193,251,060.65. Las Montañas Charter High School has a total revenue of \$1,689,820.88, an operational cash balance of \$475,732.08, total cash of \$539,314.15 and expenditures of \$1,607,564.70. There were no comments by board members.

B. *Instruction: Items #1, #2, #3, and #4 was on consent* and approved earlier in the meeting.*

5. *Approval of 2015-16 Arrowhead Park Early College High School/*

Arrowhead Park Medical Academy Calendar

Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, Director of Secondary Education, stated the instructional calendar for Arrowhead Park Early College High School follows the NMSU academic calendar for 2015-2016. Summer session II begins on July 1, 2015 and ends on August 6, 2015 and the school year resumes on August 17, 2015.

Mr. Davis stated his concern in holding the commencement ceremonies for Early College High School and Rio Grande Preparatory Institute at the Las Cruces Convention Center due to the increasing amount of graduates for each school. Mr. Davis suggested moving the commencement ceremonies to a larger venue to accommodate the family and friends of graduates. Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson stated conversations are ongoing in locating a larger venue for both schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the 2015-16 Arrowhead Park Early College High School/Arrowhead Park Medical Academy Calendar. The motion passed.

3. *Approval of Revised 2015-16 District Calendar*

Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson discussed the revised 2015-16 District Calendar which reflected a change in the graduation schedule as well as a change to the Spring semester. The Spring semester will begin on January 11, 2015 and end on May 24, 2015 due to high school students enrolled in college courses cannot be certified for graduation prior to final grades at NMSU being posted on May 13, 2015. Graduation dates were adjusted to begin May 18, 2015 after NMSU grades are posted. Graduation for Mayfield High School will be Wednesday, May 18, 2015; Arrowhead Park Early College High School on Thursday, May 19, 2015; Rio Grande Preparatory Institute on May 20, 2015; and Las Cruces, Centennial and Oñate High Schools on Saturday, May 21, 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the 2015-16 Revised District Calendar. The motion passed.

4. *Acceptance of Donation from First Tee Program*

Jennifer Haan, Elementary Education Coordinator, requested acceptance of the donation of golf equipment, teacher manuals and lesson plans from the First Tee Program, a total value of \$21,600. Representatives from Farmers Insurance (committee members of the First Tee Program) were in the audience and recognized.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Maury Castro to accept the donation from the First Tee Program. The motion passed.

5. *Discussion on Implementation of a Children's Grief Center*

Dr. Steven Sanchez, discussed a vision of implementing a Children's Grief Center through community partnerships. He stated Dr. Thea Hand has been in contact with the Paso De Norte Health Foundation and the district was encouraged to submit a proposal to fund a beginning community coordinator and start professional development for community volunteers. Sra. Flores stated she spoke with a representative of CAFÉ and they have leaders who would be willing to be trained. She will provide contact information to Dr. Sanchez of those who are interested for follow up.

6. *Head Start Meal Report*

There were no comments.

C. *Operations*

1. *Construction Projects Report*

Gloria Martinez, Construction Projects Manager, provided a detailed report including photographs on the construction projects at Las Cruces High School, Alameda Elementary School, Booker T. Washington Elementary School, Dona Ana Elementary School, Sierra Middle School, Crossroads, Baseball Complex, Court Charter School Campus, Mesilla Elementary School, and Las Montañas Charter High School. There

was a discussion regarding grading issues which have been addressed as well as street lights at Las Cruces High School.

VI. BOARD ITEMS

A. New Business

1. Approval of 2015-16 Regular Board Meeting/Work Sessions Calendar

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the 2015-16 Regular Board Meeting/Work Sessions Calendar. The motion passed unanimously. Sra. Flores asked that vacations be planned by board members accordingly.

2. First Reading of Policy GBGC Employee Assistance/Wellness

This item was removed from the agenda. See Item 1.F above.

B. Old Business

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

Dr. Martin Greer shared changes made to the policy from its first reading which consisted of adding language to the policy that covers all events and school activities. He stated the policy will move forward for a third reading and approval at the next regular board meeting.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mrs. Hall attended a reception for Jo Galvan and DACC graduation, a Bridge reception, and visited Central Elementary School. Mrs. Hall also provided a statement stating her concerns with regard to the letter sent to Secretary Skandera requesting additional monies for the district and the board not discussing the actions requested in the letter, the dissolution of LEAP, and the board's violation(s) of the Open Meetings Act. She stated the board must work together and be a cohesive unit.

Mr. Castro shared his experience in attending commencement ceremonies this year stating it was a rewarding experience and Mr. Davis agreed.

Sra. Flores congratulated all the graduates and shared her condolences to the J.D. Welch family on behalf of the board. Sra. Flores also stated board members received a pile of letters from Lynn Middle School regarding testing.

VIII. UPCOMNG EVENTS

A. Calendar of Events

Sra. 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. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Board President

Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.