



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education  
Special Meeting**  
Monday, July 20, 2015 • 9:00 a.m.  
Professional Development Center, Dona Ana Room

**I. INTRODUCTION**

*A. Call to Order*

Sra. Flores called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.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, board member, was absent.

*C. Approval of Agenda*

Sra. Flores requested to move item IV. Board Items to the beginning of the agenda before item II. Superintendent's Report. A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to amend the agenda and move item IV. Board Items to the beginning of the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. BOARD ITEMS**

**A. New Business**

*1. Board Goals*

Sra. Flores reviewed the board's current goals for consideration: 1. Student Success; 2. Communication, Trust and Human Relations; 3. Budget and Facilities Management; and 4. Quality in Human Resources. There was a discussion as to which goals will move forward for SY 2015-16 and which goals will be revised, deleted, or added. Sra. Flores would like board goals shared at the administrators' retreat scheduled for July 30-31, 2015. Mr. Castro would like to address the philosophy of education when considering adding board goals. Sra. Flores explained the district has a mission statement the board follows in determining the board's goals. The vision and mission statements of the district were read by Sra. Flores. Mrs. Hall agrees with both statements and suggested possibly adding language regarding diversity to student success and Sra. Flores suggested adding equity. Mr. Castro shared his concern that the district does not share enough regarding critical thinking skills. Andrea Fletcher stated her views on common core addressing critical thinking and a discussion ensued regarding common core and state mandated testing. Superintendent Rounds stated his definition of success is self-actualization and stated he measures success within the district by graduation rates.

Board members were in agreement to add language regarding diversity, equity, self-actualization and critical thinking to the student success goal.

Superintendent Rounds suggested working together with the board in making political decisions, asking board members to consider how changing policies affect students. He also reminded the board in setting their goals, state laws need to be followed. Sra. Flores agreed with Superintendent Rounds in not wasting efforts and to work in collaboration.

Mrs. Hall suggested adding a value statement that would support the board's ideals regarding diversity, equity, self-actualization and critical thinking and Mr. Castro suggested adding language regarding the board's democratic ideals. Mr. Davis stated his support of the board's current goals. Board goals will remain the same for SY 2015-16; and a value statement will be added to Policy AD School District Vision and Mission Statement.

2. *Joint Resolution regarding Collaboration with the Public Education Department*

Sra. Flores shared three videos regarding collaboration to motivate district administrators and board members. She stated both parties share common goals for students, and also stated that teachers want to collaborate and work together in partnering for student success.

Sra. Flores also shared a resolution received by Dr. Duran of Albuquerque Public Schools regarding collaboration with the Public Education Department for the Board's consideration. Mrs. Hall agreed with the proposed resolution; focusing on local control and Messrs. Castro and Davis also shared in their agreement with the proposed resolution.

Superintendent Rounds suggested obtaining the support of the New Mexico School Boards Association in regards to the resolution. Sra. Flores agreed. Mrs. Hall stated her belief that the district needs to communicate better with the community and that school boards across the state are trying to align with each other; but also need to abide by state laws. Superintendent Rounds offered his assistance in obtaining alignment with the Board of Superintendents. He also suggested a single resolution for the LCPS Board of Education only. Sra. Flores suggested a resolution for LCPS; then a joint resolution with other districts. Sra. Flores and Superintendent Rounds will work together to draft a resolution for the district.

3. *Student Representation on Board*

Students, Andre Gonzales, a senior at Centennial High School, and Mica de la Rosa, sophomore at New Mexico State University spoke to the board on student representation on the LCPS Board of Education. They suggested a student representative sit on the dais and participate in board meeting discussions, ex-officio. There will be a student rotation from each of the high schools. Board members will vote at the August board meeting to have student representation on the Board.

Andre Gonzales and Mica de la Rosa shared information about the For Unity Now Youth Leadership Conference and proposed a LCPS Youth Advisory Council – by resolution approved by the board. It was suggested that the high schools nominate two seniors, two juniors and one sophomore as nominees. A committee will

interview students and select three representatives from each school. Training for student representatives will be conducted in the month of September by district administrators. There was a discussion as to why the democratic process is not being used in the selection process of student representatives. The simplicity of starting the program was shared and using the democratic process for next year.

Mr. Davis asked what the purpose is of having student representation on the Board and stated that Dona Ana County Community College does not have student representatives on their Board. Mr. Davis disagrees with having student representatives on the board stating that leadership skills can be reached through other measures. Students responded with the importance of using the experience as a training tool. Mrs. Hall shared the board's purpose is to find out what is really going on in schools, and asked are the kids that are being bullied going to come to talk to the Board? She shared her concern that only students that are already leaders would be the ones attending the board meetings; and therefore, the Board would not be addressing the problems occurring in the schools.

A discussion ensued regarding training required for student representatives which is anticipated to continue throughout the school year. Students stated administrative time will not be hindered. Leslie Cervantes, Chief of Staff, explained in more detail, information regarding board packets and students being fully prepared for each board meeting, stating a concern of students rotating and not having consistency. Administrators would like to see a diversity of students, i.e. athletes and Special Education students.

Superintendent Rounds proposed an advisory council to share student concerns with him. He would then bring the student concerns to board meetings, as board meetings are more administratively driven. Sra. Flores suggested student representatives meet with the Superintendent.

Sra. Flores suggested adding student input to board meeting agendas to give them the opportunity to speak on topics of concern at their school. Mr. Davis disagreed stating if student input is added, an item needs to be placed on the agenda for other groups such as union representatives. Sra. Flores stated union representatives attend all board meetings and speak to the board during public input. Mr. Davis believes the concept of student representatives on the Board needs more development.

Mrs. Hall suggested a student group such as DAC (District Advisory Committee) in lieu of students on the Board to not discriminate to other groups. The Superintendent will invoke a Superintendent Student Advisory Committee (SSAC). Sra. Flores shared her support of student representatives on the Board stating it will empower students. Mrs. Fletcher again shared her belief of having diversity of students on the dais; and ensuring students do not focusing on one issue. Mrs. Hall suggested receiving feedback from principals on the implementation of students on the dais. The board will vote at the August board meeting.

- B. New Business
  - 1. None.

**III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

*A. Update on Leading Alternative Edge Program (LEAP)*

Superintendent Rounds provided an update on the LEAP program which was mandated by the Public Education Department to be reinstated. He stated a committee has been appointed to make suggestions in the hiring and reinstating of staff. Committee members are Mrs. Andrea Fletcher, Mr. Terry Dean, Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo and Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson. The committee has not yet submitted recommendations for consideration. Sra. Flores stated board members were unaware of obtaining the Public Education Department’s approval prior to closing the program.

**IV. OTHER REPORTS**

*A. Finance*

*1. Budget Update*

Mr. Terry Dean provided a report on the status of the budget. He stated that he is currently in the process of preparing a year-end report. The year-end cash balance is up by \$900,000, in that will be the state’s reestablishment of the Leading Edge Acceleration Program (LEAP). In addition to the reestablishment of the LEAP program is a \$300,000 to \$350,000 reimbursement to the state for Medicaid which leaves an approximate increase of \$200,000 to \$250,000. The district is still be upside down \$7 million dollars and is currently still in negotiations with unions. The restrictive cash balance is \$4.9 million dollars. The budget will be reconciled by July 31, 2015.

Sra. Flores asked about the furloughs that affect every employee. Mr. Dean responded that negotiations with unions are still underway and he could not comment in that regard at this time. He also stated line item amounts are overestimated in the budget as the Public Education Department will allow you to decrease the amounts; but not increase until an audit is completed. He stated that state statute mandates that bond money cannot be used for salaries or school supplies.

There was a discussion with regard to raises received by central office administrators and how it proceeds with the furloughs. Superintendent Rounds stated that duties/responsibilities were increased and costs were still saved in administrators retiring/leaving and not being replaced which is still a savings to the district. Superintendent Rounds will provide to the board a chart of the change in administration at central office.

Amy Simpson, NEA-LC representative, spoke in general with regard to the budget process and proposed budget spending increases. She provided a chart of proposed spending increases by categories for operational funds for SY 2015-16 and requested a public budget summit to discuss the NEA’s views more thoroughly. Superintendent Rounds cautioned union members in attendance on information that can be discussed; as unions are currently still in negotiations with the district. Irma Valdespino, CSEC-LC representative, stated that CSEC is at impasse with the district and shared the information with regard to the impasse with members of the board. Mr. Dean clarified to board members that the chart provided earlier by Amy Simpson on spending increases is incomplete and is not completely accurate.

Sra. Flores asked administrators about complying with Ms. Simpson’s request in having a budget summit. Superintendent Rounds responded that if a summit is to renegotiate or change the budget, it cannot be done as we are mandated by state statute to set the budget. Ms. Valdespino stated that union members are tax payers and have a right to the information. There was a detailed discussion regarding the differences in the negotiation process and fact finding. Board members stated their support of a budget summit. Mr. Castro stated his support and his thought that it would enhance the process. Mr. Dean will provide the data for summit to ensure the accuracy of the information being provided. Glenn Landers, community member, shared his thoughts on the budget process and stated he thought the budget town hall meeting led to confusion. He stated his concern that the budget was provided to the board a couple of days prior to its voting and shared his concern that the public needs more information on the budget process.

Superintendent Rounds stated his agreement in holding a budget summit; however, cautioning all to proceed carefully due to the ongoing negotiations with unions. Ms. Valdespino shared CSEC’s desire to return to negotiations and Mr. Castro shared his concern that the district padding the budget. Mr. Dean clearly stated that over budgeting is not illegal or unethical and used the budget for legal services as an example stating the district will over budget on legal services to ensure funds are available for unexpected situations that may arise. A budget summit will be held after the August 5, 2015 board meeting.

*B. Instruction*

*1. Decrease in Graduation Credits Requirement*

Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson discussed with the board the current policy on graduation credit requirements. She stated currently the district requires 29 credits which exceeds the amount of other districts in the state. The state requirement is 24 credits. A reasonable number agreed upon by principals is 26 credits. A new requirement could be implemented for SY 2016-17. Mr. Davis stated a concern in supporting students of military families in providing adequate amount of credits that can be transferrable. Sra. Flores stated she would not like to see a reduction in staff by the change in schedules/credit requirements. Dr. Miller-Tomlinson will convene a committee to move forward in changing credit requirements and will bring the change to the board for approval in October 2015.

*C. Operations*

*1. None.*

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.