



MINUTES
Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2015 • 6:30 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building Board Room • Televised by LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Call to Order

Sra. Maria A. Flores called the meeting to order at 6:29 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

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

D. Derek Gilmour, Mayfield High School

Derek Gilmour, Mayfield High School Choir Director, provided entertainment for the audience.

E. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Ed Frank to approve the

Mr. Davis requested to table the minutes to give board members more time to review them. A second motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to table the minutes until the next work session. The motion passed.

F. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Ed Frank to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

An audience member requested to speak on consent agenda item V.A.4. Nutrition Services Contracts during public input. Therefore, item V.A.4. Nutrition Services Contracts was removed as a consent agenda item. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve consent agenda items V.A.1. Vendor Payments, V.A. 2. Approval of Budget Adjustments, V.A.3. Property Dispositions, and V.B.1. Student Out of State Travel. The motion passed unanimously.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. The Bridge of Southern New Mexico Teacher Awards

Denni Cheney, President of The Bridge of Southern New Mexico, presented a plaque to Superintendent Rounds honoring LCPS teachers for the 2015 Bridge Academy of Excellence. The Bridge honored nine teachers in Doña Ana County for this award. The nine teachers recognized were Michael Gaume (Mayfield High School), Deborah Hernandez (Gadsden High School), Candice Herrera (Santa Teresa Elementary School), Louis Howell (Hatch High School); Natalia Martinez (Lynn Middle School); David Morales (Mayfield High School); Richard Pacini (Mesa Middle School); Christina Renteria (Santa Teresa High School) and Kerry Turner (Mesilla Park Elementary School).

III. PUBLIC INPUT

Darlene Lopez, representing 865 parents who signed a petition, spoke about children not having enough time to eat at school. She stated that parents are concerned the kids are not getting enough to eat, they are restless in class and therefore, are not learning.

Mary Parr-Sanchez, Vice-President of NEA-LC, spoke in general with regard to issues throughout the district. She stated the talent exists in our community to correct the issues of the district and does not want outside sources brought in to resolve issues pertaining to the district.

Estrella Telles, teacher at Lynn Middle School, spoke in regards to the furlough days and pay cuts. She has two children that depend on her sole income; yet, her salary is decreasing. Ms. Telles stated she is not seeing the financial gains she expected with having a master's degree.

Teresa Ybarra, LCPS employee, along with other CSEC-LC union members, up at their seats representing their opposition to the furlough days.

Patrick Sanchez, NEA-LC President, spoke with regard to the morale amongst staff. He stated morale has been steadily declining due to the decisions of Secretary Hanna Skandera. He respectfully asked the district to rescind the calendar and budget previously approved in order to improve morale.

Amy Simpson, NEA-LC representative, spoke with regard to a budget analysis prepared by NEA-LC. She stated there are other solutions and the district does not have to make the cuts that are currently being made referring to the \$2.1 million in furlough days. Ms. Simpson asked the board to reduce the cash balance, carefully review spending, and she made a second request for a budget summit.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. *Successory Notes-District Relationship Building*

Superintendent Rounds stated that the success of LCPS students rises and falls on relationships with each other. He shared a short video regarding relationship building and discussed a practice that is being implemented in school districts around the nation called Successory Notes. Successory Notes have assisted in the practice of recognizing moments of greatness. A short video of teachers sharing words of encouragement to other teachers also was shared. Superintendent Rounds stated how proud he is of our teachers who deal with adversity on a daily basis.

2. *First Day of School Review*

Superintendent Rounds spoke regarding the first day of school. He stated the school year started with very few hitches. Kids were excited, staff was prepared and the buildings were clean and ready for students. All schools were visited by a Central Office administrator.

3. *Safety in Schools Update*

Superintendent Rounds spoke with regard to the recent bomb threats throughout the community and how it affects the district. He stated that statistically the safest places for children are in schools or on a school bus. Principals are prepared and trained in safety protocols and procedures. Superintendent Rounds stated to the public that students are safe.

4. *Certified Classified Employee Report*

There were no comments.

5. *Update on Staffing by School*

Tracie O'Hara, Director of Human Resources, briefed board members on staffing by school. There are currently 107 vacant positions within the district; with 39 of which being certified positions. She stated the number of resignations received is not unusual. Sra. Flores asked if vacancies are higher than last year particularly with reference to vacancies in the Special Education Department. Ms. O'Hara responded that the vacancies within the Special Education Department are not higher than last year and also added that those positions are particularly difficult to fill. Mr. Davis asked if the teachers being hired are experienced or new? Ms. O'Hara stated that less than one-quarter are new teachers; the district has many experienced teachers.

Superintendent Rounds stated the district is on task with staffing and has fewer vacant positions in comparison to other districts which are much smaller than LCPS. Superintendent Rounds commended Ms. O'Hara and the Human Resources staff for their good work.

Superintendent Rounds took a personal point of privilege to recognize principals in the audience.

V. OTHER REPORTS

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

4. *Approval of Nutrition Services Contracts*

Families & Youth, Inc. provides dinner meals at select schools for the after-school programs at those schools and Gym Magic provides meals for the their state Pre-K program. A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara Hall and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the nutrition services contracts with Families & Youth Inc. and Gym Magic. The motion passed unanimously.

5. *Approval of Permanent Cash Transfer*

Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial/Operating Officer, stated that after a grant closed, an expenditure was still pending. A cash transfer is necessary to pay the balance and close out the books. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the permanent cash transfer. The motion passed.

6. *Board Financial Report*

Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial/Operating Officer, presented the financial report for July 2015. He explained the district budgets on a cash basis of accounting stating that revenue is recorded when the check or cash is actually received; and expenses are recorded when checks are actually cut. He stated there are approximately 75 funds and some of the line items are still in the reconciliation process.

7. *LCPS Fourth Quarter Report*

Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial/Operating, stated the fourth quarter report has been reconciled and submitted to the Public Education Department per regulation. As of June 30, 2015, the district reports a cash balance of \$4,019,348.71, a reduction of \$4,252,930.04 from the previous year. The total expenditures for the district were \$278,018,644.83 and the operational fund comprises 66% of the total expenditures. All fund and functions are within the approved budget authority.

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

2. *Approval of 2015-16 Title III Immigrant Funding Application*

Mari Rincon, Director of Dual Language Program, provided information regarding the application for immigrant funding. She stated immigrant funding is used to increase parent involvement, tutoring, provide school supplies, and access to GED services. The application is for a total grant award of \$90,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the 2015-16 Title III Immigrant Funding Application. The motion passed unanimously.

3. *Approval of Program Name Change from Doña Ana County Juvenile Detention Center to Cobre Vista*

Andria Romero-Ozment, supervisor for the LCPS classrooms at the Doña Ana County Juvenile Detention Center, discussed a request for a name change of the educational program servicing incarcerated youth at the juvenile detention center stating the name change will provide for a more positive image for students as they transfer to their home school.

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the Program Name Change from Doña Ana County Juvenile Detention Center to Cobre Vista. The motion passed unanimously.

4. *Approval of Title IX Assurance*

Joy Walkey presented the Title IX Assurance for approval. She stated House Bill 432, passed in the 2009 regular legislative session, is the School Athletics Equity Act. The Act implements state monitoring and district data reporting provisions related to the federal Public Law 92-318, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 which is codified at 20 U.S.C. 1681 and provides that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Public Education Department interprets that this assurance applies to any school that offers instruction in any combination of grades 7-12 where athletic programs are offered to student is any combination of those grades.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the Title IX Assurance. The motion passed unanimously.

5. *Report on Professional Development Summer Academies*

Dr. Thea Hand, professional development center coordinator, stated the goal of the 2015 LCPS Summer Academy was to bring high quality professional development to all teachers in the district and to enhance student achievement through supporting highly effective teachers in the refinement in teaching the Common Core State Standards. A total of 344 teachers participated in the summer academy and the feedback received from teachers attending the summer academy was positive.

6. *Dual Language Enrichment Update*

Mari Rincon, Director of the Dual Language Department, stated that with the support from Superintendent Rounds and Dr. Steven Sanchez, the Dual Language Department inaugurated its first-ever LCPS language academies and invited the community to engage in learning a second language alongside their children. The academy is open to adults and students from grade levels 3-12. The languages currently offered are Spanish, English, Arabic, and American Sign Language (ASL). Chinese will also be offered in the near future. Mrs. Hall will participate in one of the academies.

C. *Operations*

1. *Construction Projects Report*

Sra. Flores asked if an open house will be held for Las Cruces High School once the construction is completed. Superintendent Rounds stated a grand opening will be held; however, since the project is great ??? an arrangement can be made to share our achievements to date with the board with a tour of the facility. Mr. Terry Dean commended Gloria Martinez who did a great job with all the construction projects. There were no further comments.

Mr. Davis took a personal point of privilege to introduce his son, a recently retired Colonel, who is visiting from North Carolina.

VII. BOARD ITEMS

A. *New Business*

1. *Presentation on Soundstage Proposal*

Irene Oliver-Lewis, member of the Regional Film Advisory Committee, presented a PowerPoint proposal of a film and television production complex in Las Cruces. The PowerPoint indicated there is an economic value in film studios and a value in growing the current magnet program at Lynn Middle School. There are currently four soundstages in New Mexico (two in Albuquerque; in Santa Fe). The soundstage would allow for major motion picture production, provide jobs for the community, and enhance student education and training and job force development. Ms. Oliver-Lewis asked for the board's endorsement of the proposal by writing a letter of support. Mr. Davis shared his support of the proposal and stated that he looks forward to the opportunity for our students. Mr. Castro asked what kind of economic impact does a soundstage in Albuquerque have and Ms. Oliver-Lewis responded with \$1.5 billion. Mr. Derek Fisher, a professor of animation at NMSU, also spoke in regards to the different avenues that are open with the development of a soundstage.

Mr. Frank asked what the board can do to show support. Superintendent Rounds suggested writing a letter of endorsement to be provided for the City at their council meeting on Monday, August 24, 2015. He suggested preparing the letter on behalf of the Board president, and Sra. Flores can deliver the letter to the City at their council meeting. Superintendent Rounds also suggested drafting a resolution in support of the film complex for the September 1, 2015 board meeting.

B. *Old Business*

1. *Third Reading and Approval of Policy GBGC Employee Assistance/Wellness*

Mr. Frank suggested changes to the language in item III. Position. He stated he has rewritten the language and would like to submit his changes. Superintendent Rounds reminded board members that the language provided in the policy came from board's counsel, Mr. Andy Sanchez, as requested by the board. Superintendent Rounds suggested deferring the approval of the policy to allow Mr. Frank and counsel to work together in rewriting the language. Mr. Frank will provide his requested changes to the Superintendent or Mr. Tim Hand to articulate to counsel. A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to temporarily table the approval of Policy GBGC Employee Assistance/Wellness. The motion passed.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. *Calendar of Events*

Sra. Flores shared with the Board that a calendar of events was placed in each board member's folder. Mrs. Hall visited MacArthur Elementary School's backpack event, Lynn Middle School's flag raising on the first day of school, and visited with kindergartners at Hillrise Elementary School.

Mr. Frank requested to meet with board members after the board meeting to review an evaluation template for the Superintendent's evaluation. Superintendent Rounds suggested a closed executive session for discussion of the template. Sra. Flores suggested sending the comments or concerns to Mr. Hand for his facilitation with other board members.

Sra. Flores attended open house at White Sands schools, visited Tombaugh Elementary School and University Hills Elementary School on first day of school, visited Lynn Middle School for the flag raising and toured the school with Mr. Castro. She also visited the new Developmentally Delayed Preschool at Hillrise Elementary School. She stated it was a great first day of school. She also asked Mr. Dean for an update on transportation of students and stated her condolences to Coach Michael Bradley and his family for their recent loss of their father Coach Jim Bradley.

Helen Davis, retired teacher, asked to speak to the board stating her belief that employees are afraid to speak their thoughts to the board and that morale is very difficult in the schools these days.

Mr. Davis stated board members had an exchange of information with the Sun News on education.

Irma Valdespino, President CSEC-LC, shared that she encourages employees to not be afraid to contact board members. A fear exists throughout the district and information shared with board members will be kept in confidence.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Board President

Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.