



**MINUTES**  
**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, September 15, 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 6:30 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 and Andre Gonzales, Youth Advisor, were also in attendance.

*C. Pledge of Allegiance*

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

*D. Mayfield High School Madrigal Singers*

The audience enjoyed a brief performance by the Mayfield High School Madrigal Singers who performed Dreams of Thee under the direction of Mr. Derek Gilmour.

*E. Approval of Minutes*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the September 1, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

*F. Approval of Agenda*

A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall 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.A.4. Approval of Bids, and V.B. Approval of Student Out of State Travel. The motion passed unanimously.

*H. Welcome of Student Representative on the Dais*

Sra. Flores welcomed Andre Gonzales, a senior at Centennial High School, as the first student advisor to the Board of Education. She read a statement affirming this is the first time in the history of LCPS to have a student representative to the Board of Education, who will sit at the dais during Board meetings, and that she has waited six years for this to come to fruition. Sra. Flores recognized audience members who were an integral part in implementing student advisors and she thanked Superintendent Rounds and fellow board members for their support. Superintendent Rounds recognized students in the audience from the Student Advisory Council and stated the district is excited to have a student representative on the dais. He discussed the value a student representative brings to board meetings. Mr. Gonzales shared his appreciation and stated it is a huge opportunity to serve and that it was a team effort in getting to this point. He stated that students are passionate about sharing with board members items of concern at their respective schools.

**II. RECOGNITIONS**

*1. School Nurse Awards*

Kim Schulmeister was recognized for receiving the Marlene McDowell Distinguished Service Award by the New Mexico School Nurses Association. Ms. Schulmeister has been with LCPS for 11 years. Anne Castillo was recognized for receiving the 2015 School Nurse of the Year Award by the New Mexico School Nurses Association. Ms. Castillo has also been under the employ of LCPS for 11 years.

2. *Adoption of J. Paul Taylor Resolution*

Mr. Taylor, who turned 95 years old this year, was recognized for his lifetime achievements in the community and in education. Mr. Taylor is a retired LCPS educator and administrator and has also served as State Representative at the New Mexico Legislature. Board members took turns in reading aloud portions of the Resolution that honors him. A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to adopt the J. Paul Taylor Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Taylor thanked the Sra. Flores and board members for their recognition. He shared his experiences throughout his professional career at LCPS and stated that he was pleased to see nurses being recognized tonight. He also shared his support of Superintendent Rounds and stated his delight in seeing his friend Mr. Davis. Mr. Taylor was very humble in his receiving his recognition tonight and stated that others are more worthy.

3. *Heroism Award to Jude Collins*

Jude Collins, a first grader at East Picacho Elementary School, was recognized for saving the life of his three-year-old cousin who was found floating in a pool. Because of Jude's heroic efforts, his cousin was able to make a full recovery. The Board presented him with a trophy.

**III. PUBLIC INPUT**

Briana Valdez and Kathy Trujillo, ENLACE students, shared their support of the Youth Advisory Council and requested an opportunity to be a part of the council. Cassidy Custer, an ENLACE student, spoke regarding the steps needed to request an increase in funding for the ENLACE program through ~~of~~ a legislative bill. Cassidy also asked board members for their assistance in getting this task completed. Superintendent Rounds invited the students to contact Mr. Tim Hand, Chief of Staff, for assistance.

Mary Sanchez-Parr, teacher and lead negotiator for NEA-LC, stated that negotiations have been long and gruesome. She stated a resolution is close. Mrs. Sanchez also read a petition signed by teachers of Hillrise Elementary School which stated an urgent request to end the contract dispute that has been ongoing between NEA-LC and LCPS stating their support in NEA-LC's request to reverse the furlough days and support other ways to correct the LCPS budget issues.

Cindy Corona, Executive Director of the Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice, thanked board members for allowing a student representative on the board. She stated the Institute provides leadership opportunities for students to shine and be heard. She invited board members to attend the Fun Coalition meetings which are held the second Thursday of each month.

Irma Valdespino, President CSEC-LC, directed her comments to Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial Officer, stating CSEC-LC employees are hurting. She stated the increase costs in the insurance benefits ~~cost~~ has caused financial hardships for classified employees.

Marcos Torres, President of LC Transportation Federation, spoke in support of teachers with regard to the furlough. He also spoke in safety of the children in the overloading of buses.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Rounds took a personal point of privilege to introduce Deena Serna, his new administrative assistant who joins the Superintendent's team from the Human Resources Department.

1. *Successory Presentation*

Superintendent Rounds shared with Board members two video clips that highlighted Alvino Chacon, a custodian at Tombaugh Elementary School, who exhibited team leadership in support of a colleague. Mr. Chacon shared his love for cleaning for the students at Tombaugh Elementary. Lilian de la Garza, Assistant Principal at Tombaugh Elementary, commented that Mr. Chacon has a strong work ethic and is a delight to have at the school.

2. *Certified/Classified Report*

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Chief Officer of Human Resource Development presented the report. There were no comments or questions.

**V. OTHER REPORTS**

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

5. *Approval of Chief Financial Officer to Enter into Negotiations for the Potential Purchase of the Bus Complex*

Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operations Officer, requested an approval to enter into negotiations for property located on Seventeenth Street, which currently houses STS of New Mexico school buses and operations. He stated that STS is currently in negotiations to purchase the property; however, there is great risk to the district if STS is not able to purchase the property. There was a discussion regarding the risks for the district as the City of Las Cruces is also interested in the property. If the property is purchased by the City of Las Cruces, STS of New Mexico will not have a place to house the school buses.

Superintendent Rounds stated the district may have to become its own bus company if the purchase by the City goes through.

Mr. Castro questioned if the need to purchase the bus complex was foreseeable. Mr. Dean responded that the need was not present at the time of the development of the budget as the property was not for sale at that time; therefore no risk existed. Sra. Flores stated her concern regarding bus overloads and the safety of students, particularly high school students. Mr. Davis stated the district should be prepared and would be saving money in the long run by the purchase of the property by the district. Mrs. Hall supports the motion, stating she does not think the issue can be avoided and there is no place in the district for parking buses. Mr. Gonzales agreed that overcrowding on buses is an issue.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the Chief Financial Officer to Enter into Negotiations for the Potential Purchase of the Bus Complex. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Frank – nay; Mr. Castro – nay; Mr. Davis – aye; Mrs. Hall – aye; and Sra. Flores – nay. The motion failed.

6. *Board Financial Report*

There were no comments.

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

2. *Approval of Head Start Documents: Certification of Governance Leadership Capacity Screening and Certification of Health and Safety Screening*

Dr. Maria Artiaga, LCPS Head Start coordinator, presented the Certification of Governance Leadership Capacity Screening and Certification of Health and Safety Screening documents required by Head Start Performance for approval by the Board. She offered to provide additional information to new board members regarding the Head Start Program, if needed. Dr. Artiaga also stated the program will be audited this year, and will be given 45 days to prepare.

Sra. Flores offered Board support for the program during the audit, if needed. She asked about strategies used to ensure student attendance in the program. Dr. Artiaga said that in addition to inquiries with parents, a system is in place. The program requires more than 85% of student attendance.

Andre Gonzales asked Dr. Artiaga if an audit was held tomorrow how comfortable would she be with the results. Dr. Artiaga stated that education managers work closely with teachers to provide the best educational services for children.

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the Certification of Governance Leadership Capacity Screening and the Certification of Health and Safety Screening documents required by Head Start Performance. The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Operations*

1. *Approval of Service Agreement for Ancillary Student Transportation*

Mr. Terry Dean presented the contract between LCPS and STS of New Mexico for ancillary student transportation services for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. This contract is used for summer school and athletic trips. There is no increase in cost for the services from last year's contract. An Article regarding scholarships was removed at the request of board members at the Finance Committee Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the Service Agreement for Ancillary Student Transportation as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Construction Projects Report*

Mr. Dean presented the report. Superintendent Rounds stated that updates regarding the status of all construction projects, including pictures, are listed on the district website. There were no further comments.

## VI. BOARD ITEMS

A. *New Business*

1. *None.*

B. *Old Business*

1. *Adoption of NMSBA Resolutions*

Board members considered the following Resolutions for submittal to NMSBA: Collaboration with the Public Education Department, Reduction of Standardized Testing, J. Paul Taylor Recognition, Support of Collective Bargaining Unions, Recruit and Retain Teachers and Other Educational Personnel, Continued Support for 2015 NMSBA Resolutions and Waivers in Creation of Innovative Programs, and Carryover Authorization for Public School Districts and Charter Schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to submit the Resolution regarding collaboration with the Public Education Department to NMSBA for consideration. There were no dissensions. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara Hall and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to submit the Resolution regarding reducing standardized testing to NMSBA for consideration. There were no dissensions. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to submit the Resolution regarding the recognition of J. Paul Taylor to NMSBA and the Legislature for consideration. There were no dissensions. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to submit the Resolution regarding the support of collective bargaining unions to NMSBA for consideration. There were no dissensions. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara Hall and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to submit the Resolution regarding recruitment and retention of teachers and other educational personnel to NMSBA for consideration. There were no dissensions. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to submit the Resolution regarding continued support for 2015 NMSBA resolutions to NMSBA for consideration. Sra. Flores voted nay. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to submit the Resolution regarding waivers in the creation of innovative programs to NMSBA for consideration. Mr. Frank, Mr. Castro, and Sra. Flores voted nay. The motion failed by a vote of 2-3. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to submit the Resolution regarding carryover authorizations for public school districts and charter schools to NMSBA for consideration. There were no dissensions. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Adoption of Las Cruces Film Complex Resolution*

This Resolution first came before the Board at the September 1, 2015 Special Meeting for consideration. The Resolution supports a local film complex which will create jobs and provide significant revenue for local small businesses, and promote regional tourism in Las Cruces. The production complex would also provide new opportunities for middle school film magnets and support high school vocational training. Andre Gonzales shared a written statement from a fellow student who supports the film complex stating Las Cruces has become a hub for filming. A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to adopt the Las Cruces Film Complex Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

3. *Adoption of La Semilla Food Center Resolution*

This Resolution first came before the Board at the September 1, 2015 Special Meeting for consideration. The Resolution supports the partnership between the Food Center and the District. The program engages students and teaches them where food comes from, how to prepare food, and the nutritional benefits of food items and making healthy choices. A Memorandum of Understanding was also drafted and signed by the Superintendent. A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Ed Frank to adopt the La Semilla Food Center Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER BUSINESS**

A. *Board Member Reports*

Mrs. Hall attended the Doña Ana Community College Board meeting with Sra. Flores; she visited University Hills Elementary School; attended a meeting regarding the development of a Youth Advisory Council with Sra. Flores; and attended an LCPS Foundation Meeting.

Sra. Flores shared information regarding a new NMSU/DACC initiative called Aggie Pathways and she visited University Hills Elementary School for the implementation of the Chinese Language Program.

Andre Gonzales thanked board members for the opportunity for students being on the dais and shared his appreciation for the warm welcome he received.

Mr. Castro stated he was pleased to have a student representative on the dais and shared his joy in the recognition of J. Paul Taylor, his friend of 47 years.

Mr. Frank welcomed Andre Gonzales, student representative, to the dais.

B. *Calendar of Events*

Sra. Flores shared with Board members that a calendar of events has been placed in each member's folder for their review. She specifically discussed upcoming academic awards. Board members will attend the following award ceremonies, respectively: Las Cruces High School–Mrs. Hall and Mr. Davis; Centennial High School – Mr. Frank; Oñate High School– Mr. Frank; and Mayfield High School–no attendees.

**VIII. 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 8:09 p.m.

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Board President

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Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.