



**MINUTES**  
**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education**  
**Special Meeting**  
Tuesday, December 1, 2015 • 4:00 p.m.  
LCPS Administration Building Board Room

**I. INTRODUCTION – President Maria Flores**

*A. Call to Order*

Sra. Maria Flores called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

*B. Roll Call*

Mrs. Barbara Hall took roll. Those present:

- Maria Flores, President
- Chuck Davis, Vice President
- Barbara Hall, Secretary
- Maury Castro, Member
- Ed Frank, Member

Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance. André Gonzales, Student Advisor, was in attendance.

*C. Approval of Agenda*

Sra. Maria Flores entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Maury Castro made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis. The motion was approved unanimously.

**II. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

*A. Superintendent’s Update*

*1. Update on School Based Health Centers*

Superintendent Rounds stated the district has entered into an agreement with Ben Archer Health Centers. The Community Foundation has ceased their support of school based health centers in the district. Ben Archer will offer all services currently provided and staff will continue under the agreement with no interruption of service. The agreement will be in effect through SY 2016-17. The agreement will provide daily services (five days per week). The current agreement did not allow for daily services. Superintendent Rounds congratulated Ellen Williams, Director of Health Services, on her work in making sure that student health services continued in the district. The Department of Health was not involved in these services and funds are not provided by them.

André Gonzales questioned how the Department of Health funds was used prior to the new agreement and Superintendent Rounds responded for mental health services. Superintendent Rounds also stated that with the new option, mental health services will continue without encroachment of Department of Health funds as the program rises and falls on its own.

2. *Review of Use Agreement for Country Music Festival and Future Needs*  
Superintendent Rounds stated the City of Las Cruces normally hosts the Country Music Festival. The organizers of the event approached LCPS for a location to use, requesting the current soccer fields. The soccer fields is a joint use with the City of Las Cruces. Superintendent Rounds stated an issue in consideration is the event organizers' request to have alcohol on the premises as LCPS policy prohibits alcohol on all LCPS properties. An action of consideration is to waive the policy for this event only to allow alcohol on the premises for the event which benefits the City and the district in revenue. This item is also on the agenda for discussion at the joint work session scheduled with the City of Las Cruces on December 8, 2015.

The festival will be held on a Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday which is not during school hours. An insurance rider from New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority will assure coverage for LCPS. Mr. Frank requested to hear from legal counsel on the legalities for the district, and Mr. Castro stated the risk is minimum but would like extra assurance from legal counsel as well. Mrs. Hall stated her support of waiving LCPS policy for the event.

3. *Review of Collective Bargaining Agreements*  
Superintendent Rounds provided information handouts which outlined information on furlough day leave parameters for both CSEC-LC and NEA-LC. He explained how the return of furlough days can be taken by classified and certified staff. Mr. Castro questioned a dispensation clause regarding the American Disabilities Act in the agreements. Superintendent Rounds stated the purpose of the provision was to provide assurance that should anything in the agreements impede the Act, both unions and the district agreed to the terms.

Mr. Castro congratulated Superintendent Rounds in setting the bar for bargaining with unions in the state.

### **III. OTHER REPORTS**

- A. Finance
  1. *None.*
- B. Instruction
  1. *Addressing the Needs of the Disadvantage*  
Mrs. Andrea Fletcher, Chief Academic Officer, provided a PowerPoint presentation and stated that poverty has an impact on our schools. The presentation provided information on how LCPS is addressing the needs of the disadvantage by identifying the barriers of low-income families such as limited parental education, constrained financial resources, poor health care and nutrition, and exposure to family and community violence. She also stated that stressful housing situations is also a factor. The district leads the learning for children at the poverty level by connecting and validating, educating and responding, and leading and succeeding. LCPS provides multiple resources including access to instructional programs, nutrition programs, preschool programs, transportation, nursing services, counseling/social work services, special education, migrant and homeless services, a clothing bank and extra-curricular activities as well as the Institute for Parent Engagement (IPE) program.

Ms. Erlinda Martinez stated that although poverty may hinder the education of a child it does not stop them. 62% of LCPS students live at the poverty level.

Title I funding is the biggest funding support for LCPS. It provides for after school programs, staff/social workers, technology, homeless program and intervention programs, neglected and delinquent sites amongst other programs. LCPS has eight schools that are classified as 100% low income. Those schools receive approximately \$425 per student through Title I funds.

Ms. Yoli Silva, Social Worker, discussed the homeless program the district currently has in place. The program allows students who live in motels or hotels to receive all the educational opportunities as any other student. It provides, clothing, food, technology, and tutoring for students.

Mr. Castro asked what parental involvement funds are used for? Ms. Martinez stated each school receives an additional \$3,000 for an instructional activity in addition to funds for the IPE program.

2. *Discussion of Community Schooling*

Mr. Tim Hand, Chief of Staff, shared a brief presentation on free and reduced lunch rankings by grade distribution. He stated that data reflects that schools with a low grade rating have a higher percentage of free and reduced lunches; a direct correlation to the poverty level. Mr. Hand said a lot of support is needed from the community, stating “it takes a community to raise a child.” Mr. Hand will provide a copy of the data to Board members.

C. Operations

1. *None.*

**IV. BOARD ITEMS**

A. *New Business*

1. *First Reading of Policy IKF Graduation/Credit Requirements*

Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson stated the policy revision will establish that students in the Las Cruces Public Schools may earn the bilingualism/biliteracy seal as outlined in NMSA 22-1-9.1 and NMAC 6.32.3. Upon approval of this policy, members of the graduating class of 2016 and ensuing classes who have met the requirements are eligible to receive the seal. Mr. Frank asked for a correction to a typo in paragraph III. C to reflect “*Once* a student...”

2. *Old Business*

1. *Review of Policies*

Ms. Jo Galván, Chief Communications Officer, stated the Board will begin to review multiple sets of policies, particularly those that are out of date. The first set of policies to be brought forward are Policy #500-Business Policy Statement,; Policy #505-Budget Development; and Policy EFE-Competitive Food Sales & Vending Machines. Ms. Galván stated that Policy DA Fiscal Management Goals which is currently in effect contains fiscal language; therefore, Policy #505 will be integrated into Policy DA; Policies #500 and #505 as written can be rescinded. Sra. Flores suggested adding a timeline schedule to Policy #505 to show transparency and Mr. Frank would like language added regarding the Board’s priorities.

Mr. Castro asked if Policy EFE allows for sodas at schools. Nancy Cathey, Director of Food Services, said the sale of carbonated drinks has been regulated by the state since 2006 adding the new regulation only allows for diet drinks. Sra. Flores would

like language added regarding food trucks at schools and asked Ms. Cathey to provide her with feedback on the quality of the food sold by food trucks.

Ms. Galván shared that a list of policies is currently being reviewed by legal counsel to determine which policies will need to be revised.

**V. PUBLIC INPUT**

There were no comments.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER BUSINESS**

*1. Board Member Reports*

Mrs. Hall served Thanksgiving dinner at Mesilla Elementary School, attended football games, and read to three first grade classes at Mesilla Park Elementary School.

Sra. Flores extended condolences on behalf of the Board to the family of Coach Grays.

*2. Student Advisor Report*

André Gonzales shared that students at Centennial High School are grieving the loss of Assistant Coach Roger Grays.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis which was seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to adjourn the meeting. The motion approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 5:44 p.m.

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Maria Flores  
Board President

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Barbara Hall  
Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.