



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

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 • 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
- Barbara Hall, Secretary
- Mr. Maury Castro, Member
- Mr. Ed Frank, Member

Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance and Tristin Schlothauer, Student Advisor, was in attendance.

*C. Pledge of Allegiance*

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

*D. Las Cruces High School Band*

The audience enjoyed a short performance by the Las Cruces High School Jazz Combo under the direction of Mr. Jordan Sayre.

*E. Approval of Minutes*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the December 8, 2015. Regular Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.

*F. Approval of Agenda*

Sra. Flores requested to remove items VII.B.1. and VII.B.2. as action items from the agenda and allow both items to remain as discussion only. A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Ed Frank. The motion passed. A second motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis. 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 consent agenda items V. A.1. Approval of Vendor Payments, V.A.2. Approval of Budget Adjustments, V. A. 3. Approval of Property Dispositions, and V.B. 1. Approval of Student Out of State Travel. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC INPUT**

Naomi Valdez and Teresa Tenorio, parents, both spoke in regards to the district's opt-out of testing policy and their disagreement with the "sit and stare" clause. Parents would like to be able to opt-out of testing at Central Office.

Bruce Hartman, Vice-President NEA-LC, spoke with regard to the ESSA legislation that was recently passed which allows for opting out of state mandated testing. He also spoke with regard to the AFT lawsuit in which an injunction was issued. NEA asked the Board to join other districts in state to follow injunction.

### III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. *The Las Cruces Way Video and Discussion*

Superintendent Rounds introduced the Las Cruces Way stating it is for the district to refocus its mission on education in Las Cruces and embraces its core values. The audience viewed a video outlining the Las Cruces Way and the districts Core values: One for all & all for one, passion for learning and growing, reflecting and renewing.

2. *Big Brothers/Big Sisters Presentation*

Dawn Starostka, Regional Director for Doña Ana and Grant Counties, shared a presentation outlining its partnership with Las Cruces Public Schools and the mission of the program. Mr. Castro asked what the guidelines are for recruiting mentors. Ms. Starostka stated mentors are recruited from everywhere.

3. *2016 EdShift Presentation*

Superintendent Rounds introduced Carly Hamilton and Cameron Castillo, students, and Ms. Wendi Hammond, principal. Carly and Cameron shared their experiences while attending the 2016 EdShift Conference in Irving, Texas. The conference was also attended by Board member Barbara Hall. Superintendent Rounds shared with the audience that Cameron was asked to keynote the 2017 EdShift Conference.

4. *Injunction Response and Discussion*

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Chief Human Resource Development Officer, shared a presentation outlining the LCPS renewal and advancement process. She stated dossier support services are offered by Jane Gurnea. Mr. Frank asked if the district should considering mirroring the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) in their in suspending professional growth plans. Tracie O’Hara, Director of Human Resources, stated that although APS does not have professional growth plan, they do use a peer review assistance process which NMTEACH observation scores are used to determine if an employee needs to be put on a plan. Superintendent Rounds told the Board that administrators are happy to work with them in ensuring an alignment with APS. He will invite a representative of APS to provide more information on their process. Santa Fe also follows the same process. There was a discussion regarding the data errors in teacher evaluations.

Bruce Hartman said he does not want growth plans implemented as a result of VAM scores. Helen Davis, retired teacher, commented on the Las Cruces Way video shown earlier and asked what administrators are doing. Glenn Landers, parent, also spoke with regard to growth plans. He believes NMTEACH growth plans should be thrown out. Dr. Marrufo responded to the statements regarding growth plans and shared the process that is utilized by the district. Further discussion will continue at the next work session.

5. *Certified Classified Employee Report*

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo presented the report. There were no comments.

6. *Enrollment Report 40/80 Day Count*

Dr. Marrufo shared an enrollment report on the 40<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> day of school for elementary, middle and high schools. The total of all schools reflected 38 students less between the 40<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> day of school. There were no comments.

### IV. OTHER REPORTS

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

4. *Approval of Notice of Sale Resolution*

Superintendent Rounds shared with Board members the Notice of Sale Resolution of general obligation bonds. He stated the bond rating should not fall. He stated that Moodys urged the district to have a \$16.8 million dollar cash balance. Moodys will rate bonds tomorrow afternoon. Sra. Flores ask for the current cash balance and Superintendent stated the district’s target is \$5.5 million. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to Notice of Sale Resolution for bond series 2016A and 2016B. Roll call vote taken. Mr. Frank-aye; Mr. Castro-aye; Mr. Davis-aye; Mrs. Hall-aye; and Sra. Flores-aye. The motion passed unanimously.

5. *Board Financial Report*

Mr. Davis asked about additional bars and Crystal Valdez stated the three new bars included and approved earlier in the evening under item I.H. Approval of Consent Agenda Items. There were no further comments.

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

2. *LCPS Truancy Intervention Program Presentation*

LCPS Truancy Officers shared a presentation which outlined services provided by the Truancy Intervention Program which consists of long term suspension hearings, support to the Superintendent's office and schools, home visits, attendance support for families, truancy case services, partner coordination and packets, attendance data and program goals.

3. *Kindergarten Observation Tool*

Mrs. Andrea Fletcher, Chief Academic Officer, shared an authentic observation based tool developed by the New Mexico Public Education Department. The purpose of the new tool is to assist teachers in observing the knowledge and skills for kindergarten children upon entry to kindergarten beginning SY 2016-17. The observation tool is not used for teacher evaluations, nor is it a measure designed to fund or defund any kindergarten program.

C. *Operations*

1. *Construction Projects Report*

Sra. Flores asked about the status of the Las Cruces High School project and if there is a cost increase. Superintendent Rounds stated we are currently entering into the development of Phase II. He stated the project is running a little behind in the timeline due to state oversight and there is a possible cost increase. Funding is being negotiated with the state. There were no further comments.

**V. BOARD ITEMS**

A. *New Business*

1. *Superintendent Evaluation Process*

Tim Hand, Chief of Staff, stated a Closed Executive Session is scheduled for January 26, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. for the purposes of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation.

2. *NMSBA 2016 Excellence for Student Achievement Award Discussion*

Sra. Flores stated that nominations are open. The Board will select a nominee at the February 16, 2016 Regular Board Meeting for submittal to NMSBA.

B. *Old Business*

1. *Second Reading and Approval of Policy DA Business Policy Statement*

This policy was removed as an action item earlier in the evening and remained on the agenda for discussion only. Jo Galván, Chief Communications Officer, stated changes requested at the last board meeting were made to page two of the policy. The change included adding language regarding timely reports. Sra. Flores stated the policy could not be found on the district's website and said she would like to keep the language in the initial policy adding "the Board requires or expects" or to use a Board statement. She also asked for language regarding safety. Ms. Galván stated the policy will be posted on the website for community input, and will be brought to the Board for third reading and approval. Sra. Flores stated any comments or suggestions by Board members should be sent directly to Ms. Galván.

2. *Second Reading of Policy DBD Budget Development*

This policy was removed as an action item earlier in the evening and remained on the agenda for discussion only. Ms. Galván outlined the changes requested by the Board from the last board meeting. Sra. Flores stated the policy needs a background statement and would like language added regarding public involvement/input. A draft with requested changes will be sent to Board members for review and additional suggestions.

3. *Second Reading of Policy EFE Competitive Food Sales and Vending Machines*

Jo Galván stated language requested in the last Board meeting regarding vending trucks was added. The policy will be posted online for community input.

Sra. Flores stated if vendors are going to sell to students, the District should require the vendor produce a valid permit or license to the principal. Mr. Davis would like the District to encourage surrounding restaurants to provide healthy food options.

4. *SB-9 Mill Levy Election Update*

The Mill Levy Election is Feb 2 2016 which provides a no tax increase. Ms. Galván shared that funds received are for repairs and renovations of schools, musical instruments, technology, safety equipment, etc. The Mill Levy does not provide for salary increases. The Mill Levy is renewed every six years. The election is being promoted through social media, the newspaper, brochures distributed to schools, staff meetings, SAC meetings, mailings by voter list, and the District's website. Ms. Galván also stated that early voting begins January 29, 2016 at the Doña Ana County Government Center.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER BUSINESS**

A. *Board Member Reports*

Mrs. Hall shared a concern that she would like to seek legal counsel to advise on the board violating the Open Meetings Act. Superintendent. Rounds said that the board hired new counsel for its representation. Sra. Flores stated in doing so, she acted was within her powers as Board president and feels she did not violate the Open Meetings Act. The item l be brought back at the next work session for a vote by the Board.

Mr. Castro attended the NMSBA conference in December. He would like to utilize the measuring school climate survey which was presented by Dr. Prather at the conference. Jo Galván shared with board members the District has utilized Dr. Prather in the past for climate surveys and stated currently, the District has a contract with K12 Insights for surveys.

Sra. Flores extended condolences to the family of Vince Rivera, former principal at LCPS; to the family of Miguel Silva, former city councilman; and to Eloisa Solis' family for their recent loss.

B. *Student Advisor Report*

Tristin Schlothauer shard with Board members that the Council recently heard a presentation by EQNM Initiative and that they are currently in the process of drafting Bylaws and roles and responsibilities of members.

C. *Calendar of Events*

Sra. Flores reviewed the calendar with Board members and stated a copy was placed in each of their folders.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Ed Frank to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 9:18 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.