



MINUTES
Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Special Meeting Work Session
Tuesday, April 5, 2016 • 4:00 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building Board Room

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Call to Order

Sra. Maria A. Flores called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 André Gonzales, Student Advisor, was in attendance.

C. Approval of Agenda

Sra. Flores requested to move item V. Public Input to be heard before item II. Superintendent's report. A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

Ray Jaramillo, parent, spoke with regard to ELA field testing; a directive from the Public Education Department. He asked how the district notify parents of the ELA test and if students opted out for testing, are they automatically opted out of ELA test?

Hannah Lujan, spoke with regard to the Autism program at Central Elementary. She shared a letter from a parent whose son attends the Autism program and their concern of the program moving to another school.

Patrick Alcala, NMSU student teacher at Central Elementary School, spoke with regard to Autism program at Central Elementary. He stated moving the program to Alameda Elementary School would hinder the children.

Amy Simpson, NELC Representative, spoke with regard to the budget. She asked board members to consider training and experience and cash balance when developing the budget.

Eloisa Solis, Principal at Central Elementary School, asked administrators to reconsider moving the Autism program from Central Elementary School to Alameda Elementary School. She stated that Central Elementary School has built a community around the program and general education population has become part of that community.

Yirzely Villanueva, NMSU student teacher, also spoke in support of the Autism program remaining at Central Elementary School.

Stephanie Ly spoke with regard to K-12 funding and the financing of filing motions in the court to prevent a bus strike.

Eylonn Daniel, a parent whose child attends Autism program at Central Elementary School shared her negative past experiences prior to moving to Las Cruces. She commended the staff and the school district in helping make her child a better person stating that she able to communicate with her son now and shared his excitement to go to school every day. She added that adjusting to new staff would hinder her son’s progress and asked that the program remain at Central Elementary School. Marissa Cano, parent, also spoke in support of the Autism program at Central Elementary School.

Ana Farrell, parent, spoke with regard to the age of enrollment for kindergarteners. She would like her four year old to attend Hillrise Elementary School stating that he is exceeding Pre-Kindergarten standards. She offered to pay tuition and would like students to be accepted after meeting certain criteria if there is room at the school.

Naomi Valdez, spoke with regard to the opt out policy and the request made at the February 16, 2016 board meeting regarding sit and stare language.

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Discussion on the Renaming of Field of Dreams

The Board was presented a request at the March 2, 2016 board meeting to rename the Field of Dreams the Jim Bradley Field of Dreams and to rename the Wall of Fame at the Field of Dreams the Camuñez Wall of Fame. Superintendent Rounds stated met with the committee last week to discuss the issues that were involved in this effort. A proposal was made to reframe the petition to rename Tashiro Avenue from Valley Drive to Motel Blvd. to Jim Bradley Drive. He stated the proposed offer was considered favorably by the City Manager and City Council. Superintendent Rounds suggested the committee and the district split the cost of placing a coach’s wall of fame at the Field of Dreams and to name it the Rudy Camuñez Wall of Fame. The item will be brought back at future board meeting for approval.

André Gonzales shared the Student Advisory Council SAC advises against the renaming of the Field of Dreams stating the funding could be better used in other areas. Mr. Castro commended the Superintendent for providing a great alternative and Mr. Davis inquired about the cost of the Rudy Camuñez Wall. Superintendent Rounds stated public and private funds would be used; it would be several thousand dollar task versus hundreds of thousands of dollars as asked by citizens. Mr. Frank stated his opposition in using district funds for the financing of these requests by community members; stating only contributions should be used. He also commended the Superintendent in providing alternatives.

2. Community Schools Update

Mr. Tim Hand provided a PowerPoint presentation as well as a brief video on Community Schools sharing its history and benefits. He stated academic achievement affects poverty and vice-versa. Education is a shared responsibility and a community effort. Mr. Davis stated schools should be added in the poverty areas and not at Centennial High School. Mr. Hand responded that a key comes from a community that asks for it. Community schools will be included in the design of new schools and future schools. Mr. Castro shared his excitement of the program coming to fruition and Mr. Frank asked how soon can it be implemented? Mr. Hand responded that a committee is researching the logistics to determine funding. The goal is to have a program implemented by Fall 2017.

André Gonzales shared his support of the program and Sra. Flores invited board members to hear more information at a presentation on community schools, April 12, 2016 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn.

3. Budget Summit Update

Superintendent Rounds stated board members will meet in a retreat on Friday, April 8, 2016 in which a more extensive overview of the budget will be provided. He shared the unit value will be only slightly larger than the final funded value for the SY 2015-16 budget. It will be \$4,040 per unit which is an increase of approximately \$2.50 per unit. Risk insurance is up 4% which will increase that cost by approximately \$250,000 and Training and Experience is down approximately \$1.0 million. This leaves the district at approximately \$1,150,000.00 less in state equalization than in the prior year’s starting point. He also shared that an agreement has been reached with CSEC-LC to participate in a budget summit on April 13, 2016 from 1-5 pm. Mrs. Hall and Mr. Castro will attend the budget summit with CSEC-LC.

IV. OTHER REPORTS

A. Human Resources

1. *None.*

B. Instruction

1. *None.*

C. Finance

1. *None.*

D. Operations

1. *None.*

V. BOARD ITEMS

A. New Business

1. *Age of Enrollment Discussion*

Andrea Fletcher, Chief Academic Officer, shared the state statute which governs age of enrollment in schools. Mrs. Fletcher spoke on the equity issue and Superintendent Rounds discussed the requests made to accept payment by parents for tuition is a potential lawsuit. He stated the Board can direct to take a particular student at no cost but cautioned that the precedent would possibly open the door for litigation. Ms. Hall suggested making decisions on a case-by-case basis and Mr. Frank stated we have to meet the needs of the kids. Sra. Flores restated equity is an issue. Superintendent Rounds will meet with the parents who requested an early entry into Kindergarten and he and Mrs. Fletcher will report to the Board on the outcome of the meeting.

B. Old Business

1. *Safe Zones Resolution Discussion*

Andrea Fletcher, Chief Academic Officer, stated a plan is currently being developed to implement a safe zones program. She stated the resolution addresses bullying and provides a kinder, safer environment. The resolution will be brought back at the next regular board meeting for approval.

VI. BOARD MEMBER BUSINESS

A. Board Member Reports

Mrs. Hall reminded board members to RSVP for the Celebration of Excellence dinner. She attended a DACC Committee meeting; a 501C3 presentation; and visited 2 bilingual classrooms. Mr. Frank will not be at board meetings on Friday, April 8, 2016, but will attend telephonically. Sra. Flores spoke with regard to the current injunction in effect and is anxious to hear from the district's attorney on this matter at the Board's Closed Executive Session meeting scheduled for Friday, April 8, 2016. She invited public comment in this regard.

B. Student Advisor Report

André Gonzales shared a statement with regard to the dispute between STS-New Mexico and AFT urging the two parties to continue with negotiations to hinder the students of the district.

VII. 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 5:35 p.m.

Board President

Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.