



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Retreat**

Friday, April 8, 2016 • 11:30 a.m.
Professional Development Center, Dona Ana Room

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Call to Order

Sra. Flores called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.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, board member, was absent. Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance.

II. BOARD ITEMS

I. Planning and Development

A. SY 2016-17 Budget

The board recognized Crystal Valdez, LCPS Controller, as the newest recipient of the School Finance Officer Award by NMASBO.

Superintendent Rounds provided an overview of the information to be presented to the Board. He spoke with regard to pay vs. positions, cash balance, federal funding and staffing.

There was a discussion with regard student opt out of mandated testing and Sra. Flores asked about how many parents have opted their student out of the PARCC testing beginning next week. Mrs. Andrea Fletcher to provide the information to the Board.

Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the budget which reflected the current cash balance at approximately \$4 million. He stated the projected cash balance for SY 2016-17 is \$5.5 million. Mr. Dean also discussed the increase in energy costs and Superintendent Rounds cautioned board members on how the current weather will affect the district in energy costs stating that air conditioning costs more than heating.

Mr. Dean discussed the unit value for next year of \$4,040.24. He stated the SEG is calculated on the units we produced and the numbers are simulated based on this year's numbers. Final SEG numbers will be available Monday, April 11, 2016 and will be provided to board members

at the April 19, 2016 regular board meeting. The decrease in T&E and at-risk factors were also discussed.

Department and school budgets are kept status quo and utility budgets will be maintained as well with no increase. There is an increase in risk insurance to \$259,000. Health insurance will increase for the low option at 7.15% and high option at 8.3%. The increase is approximately \$1.1 million. The reserve for furlough days is \$2.1 million for a total increase of approximately \$5.9 million.

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Chief Human Resource Development Officer, shared a presentation which showed a comparison of staffing at the Rio Rancho and Albuquerque school districts. Projections for class sizes were shared for SY 2016-17. The comparison chart for LCPS showed teacher-student ratios at 22:1 for 7-8 grades and 24:1 for 9-12 grades. Dr. Marrufo stated LCPS projections are well below that of Albuquerque and Rio Rancho school districts. Student-teacher ratio for Albuquerque schools is 26:1 (5% over NMAC standards) and Rio Rancho schools at 28:1 (10% over NMAC standards)

Mr. Castro asked for comparison information of ratios with regard to Educational Assistants. Dr. Marrufo will research and provide the information to the Board at the April 19, 2016 regular board meeting.

There was a discussion with regard to staffing at the high schools. Secondary principals stated they are grappling with staffing in their budgets. Superintendent Rounds stated his meeting with high school principals next week on scheduling. Resolutions/options will be brought back to the board. Mr. Davis suggested a policy be developed that utilizes virtual learning classes more. Mrs. Hall suggested adding language to the policy that states if a student signs up for a class and does not complete it; the student must absorb the cost. Ms. Fletcher will provide information on how many students are currently enrolled in Virtual Learning Academy classes with options for students who do not complete the classes because there is a cost attached to the classes.

Principals Hendee and Schapekahn discussed that high schools currently have an A/B schedule with eight period classes. A seven period day (daily) is being looked at now. They stated that teachers prefer to see students every day with an advisory day. Sra. Flores would like the options be surveyed to students for their preference.

Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson shared that coursework and curriculum alignment is also currently under review. Textbook adoption process has been completed for the secondary level and will be available for board consideration and approval at the May board meeting. Superintendent Rounds stated the State allocation for textbooks for our district is too low adding it is about half of what is used by the district.

Mr. Castro asked would the cost would be to hire a subcontractor for bus services. Superintendent Rounds stated the District uses \$800,000 above what the state provides for our contract. He also shared that ERB and health insurance costs in adding STS employees as district employees will be \$2.8 million. The Board will discuss further in a closed executive session.

Mr. Terry Dean also discussed with board members the cost of the return of furlough days and the cost of the minimum wage increase to \$9.40 in January 2017.

II. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.