



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Special Meeting**
Tuesday, May 17, 2016 • 10:30 a.m.
LCPS Administration Building, Conference Room A

The meeting began at 10:34 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Those present were:

- 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 was absent. Elena Gallegos, Board counsel, was in attendance.

II. BOARD ITEMS

A. New Business

1. None

B. Old Business

1. Budget Discussion

Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial Officer, stated the budget committee two members from CSEC-LC, two members from NEA-LC, two principals, two parent representatives and two board members. Mr. Dean and Superintendent Rounds are on the committee to answer questions of the committee members only.

Mr. Dean stated 10% of the budget is non-payroll budget items such as utilities, and 90% is in salary and benefits. A handout of the total budget by school and departments was shared which collectively totaled \$26,792,323. Budget options were discussed amongst the committee members. An additional handout outlining a 2017 budget reconciliation was also shared indicating the board's priority to restore furlough days. Each step of available resources, risk insurance, federal support for assistant principals and salaries was discussed. Mr. Dean recommended implementing the minimum wage increase as of July 1, 2016 instead of waiting until January 2017. This recommendation would cost the district \$320,000.

There was a discussion regarding the funding from title I and II funds. Sra. Flores does not agree with reducing staff; yet adding more positions to administration. Instructional specialist positions are being paid out of title I and II funds. These funds are provided for professional development. The assistant principal positions will also serve as instructional specialists. Andrea Fletcher, Chief Academic Officer, shared that currently instructional specialists are not

being used appropriately. It is a better model to have assistant principals be the instructional leaders. Sra. Flores would like to see the funds utilized in teacher staffing instead. Mr. Dean shared the comparability report with board members which states operational funds cannot be used for federal funding. Mr. Frank agreed with the outline of the federal funding and the use of the \$600,000 toward assistant principal positions. He and Mrs. Hall stated that people just don't understand the funding areas of the budget. Instructional specialists are applying for other positions or are returning to the classroom. There is approximately \$2 million in vacancy savings with approximately 52 teachers on the displaced list. Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Chief Human Resource Officer, stated there are positions available for all 52 teachers on the displaced list.

Mr. Dean stated that each schools budget request is a non-payroll budget for supplies, etc. The budget committee is recommending a 4% reduction by schools and departments to offset the \$1.3 million negative balance in the proposed budget. Mr. Dean shared that the recommendation is responsible and addresses the needs of students.

There was a discussion regarding cash balance. Mr. Dean anticipates cash balance will come in a little higher. Any overages can be used to put back the 4% in cuts, but cannot be used to replenish salary cuts. Sra. Flores asked for \$500,00 out of furlough restoration to save eight teaching positions. Jo Galvan, Chief Communications Officer, asked Sra. Flores how she would like to balance the budget with this request and Sra. Flores indicated there will be time to restore the money as not all employees will take the furlough restoration at this time.

Mr. Dean discussed the budget timelines per policy. A proposed budget will be provided to board members tonight. Mr. Frank asked that the recommended budget be posted on the district website.

Sophia Garcia, an instructional specialist, spoke with regard to her position being cut and returning to the classroom.

Rosemary Altamirano, NEA-LC Representative, stated drastic changes to the budget should be discussed early in the year versus now. Glenn Landers, community member, disagrees with proposed cuts and asked numerous questions regarding the accuracy of the numbers. He also asked how the district going to meet the requirement to explain the budget to the public? Are finance committee meetings and audit committee meetings open meetings and where are they published?

Elena Gallegos, board counsel, asked if there was flexibility in using other staff instead of assistant principals in using the title I and II funds. There was a discussion in the reduction of assistant principals.

II. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 12:22 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.