



MINUTES
Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 2016 • 6:30 p.m.

LCPS Administration Building, Board Room • Recorded for broadcast by LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION – President Maria Flores

A. Call to Order

Sra. Maria A. Flores called the meeting to order at 6:29 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
- Mrs. Barbara Hall, Secretary
- Mr. Maury Castro, Member
- Mr. Ed Frank, Member

Superintendent Stan Rounds was also in attendance, as was André Gonzales, student advisor.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The President led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the February 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 19, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Agenda

President Flores asked that the agenda be amended by removing item V.B.8. Mayfield High School Moon Buggy Presentation. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to remove item V.B.8. Mayfield High School Moon Buggy Presentation. The motion passed unanimously. A second motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hall to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve consent agenda items V.B.1. Approval of Student Out of State Travel, V.B.2. Approval of SY 2016-17 IDEA-B Application, V.B.3. Approval of Title III English Language Acquisition Local Plan and Application, V.B.4. Approval of SY 2016-17 Title I and Title II Federal Consolidated Applications, V.B.5. Approval of FY 2016 Proposed Cost of Living Head Start Grant, V.B.6. Approval of Fine Arts Education Act, Elementary Arts Funding Renewal Applications, V.C.1. Approval of Budget Adjustments, V.C.2. Approval of Bids, V.C.3. Approval of Property

Dispositions, V.C.4. Approval of Vendor Payments, and V.D.1. Approval of LCPS Preventative Maintenance Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

II. RECOGNITIONS

1. *Department of Health PH Excellence Award*
Dawn Sanchez, Southwest Regional Director for Department of Health, presented a Performance Excellence Award to Superintendent Rounds for his significant contributions, support of school wellness and Safe Routes to Schools program. LCPS has the largest Safe Routes to Schools program in the state.
2. *Spring Sports Champions*
Board members recognized the Centennial High School Boys' Baseball Team, the Centennial High School Cheerleaders, the Centennial High School Tennis Team, Jenifer Ramirez, a senior, at Oñate High School for Track & Field, Onate High School Girls' Softball Team and the Centennial High School Girls Softball Team as the spring sports state champions.
3. *Centennial High School Symphony Band*
The Centennial High School Wind Symphony was recognized for winning the 2016 NMAA 5A State Band Contest on April 23, 2016. The band consists of 10 freshmen, 12 sophomores, 11 juniors, and 17 seniors.
4. *Centennial High School Orchestra Band*
The Centennial High School Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Daniel Rivera and Joseph Flores was crowned as the 2016 NMAA State Champions in the 5A and 6A symphony divisions.
5. *Centennial High School Future Farmers of America (FFA)*
The Centennial High School FFA Food Science and Technology team was recognized for winning the New Mexico FFA State Championship on April 8, 2016. The team is made up of Rachel Kenney, James Lucero, Haley Spoeneman, and Michelle Roberts and is coached by Centennial FFA Advisor, Rachel Knight.
6. *Centennial High School Athletic Trainers*
The Centennial High School Athletic Trainers were recognized for receiving a state championship. Team members include Laura Benitez, Katrina Keding, Patrick Halvorson, Alina Olivares, Jose Banegas, Zach Barella, Eric Velasquez, Brynna Bybee, Lanie Matanis, Carolina Aviles, Troy Lundien, Tyler Lundien and Julie Edwards.
7. *2016 NMSBA Excellence for Student Achievement Award*
Mike Montoya, Special Education Teacher at Vista Middle School was recognized as the recipient of the 2016 NMSBA Excellence for Student Achievement Award.

8. *Recognition of Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Civic Engagement Program*

A plaque was presented to the District by Josephina Mata Concilo for the implementation of the grandparent program in the District.

III. PUBLIC INPUT

Mary Parr Sanchez, NEA-LC Vice President and NMPSIA President, spoke with regards to the transparency of the budget process. All budget meetings should be open meetings. The unions do not agree that furloughs were necessary. She also stated that that she heard that the original cost increase for risk insurance through NMPSIA has decreased to \$3,000 a savings to the district of \$247,000.

Sylvia Garcia, teacher, requested an option D to the budget be considered for approval by the board with regard to the budget. An option D handout was provided to the Board for review. She stated that option D keeps more teachers in the classroom.

Amy Simpson, NEA-Representative, read a letter to the board thanking them for their efforts to making the budget process transparent and more timely. She also urged the board to consider option D.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. *Approval of LCPS SY 2016-17 Tentative Budget*

Superintendent Rounds shared a 2017 Budget Reconciliation Sheet with Options A, B and C for consideration by the Board. Option A provides for a reduction in staff of 70 and provides for salary increases and furlough restoration. He discussed the reduction in SEG and the increase in costs including risk insurance, health insurance. He stated the statement made by Mary Parr-Sanchez under public input with regard to the risk insurance increase has not be received by the District from NMPSIA. He discussed the transportation costs, minimum wage compliance and minimum teacher salaries. Vacancy savings and reduction in staffing was also discussed in the options provided. No one is losing their job in the district. The staff reduction is in FTEs due to vacancy reductions by resignations, retirements, etc. Sra. Flores stated she wanted to discuss option C as it was her understanding that was the option approved by the board to use a basis in developing budget. Option C is an amended outline of the budget committee's recommendation (option B.) Option C allows for a reduction in staffing by 55 positions. Option D was discussed. Option D provided by NEA provides for an unbalanced budget of \$2.3 million dollars. Mr. Dean stated in his professional opinion as a Certified Public Accountant option D is reckless and irresponsible. Amounts listed in option D are not justified as the district has not received official notifications of the amounts from the sources. Mr. Frank suggested if indeed there is a cost savings of \$247,000 to the District as suggested by Mary Parr-Sanchez, the monies can be put towards more staffing positions (4). He also suggested the \$250,000 allocated for fleet be reduced. He would like \$120,000 from the vehicle allocation for students to go towards staffing positions (2).

Irma Valdespino, CSEC-LC President, spoke regarding a concern that the Physical Plant fleet vehicles are not safe for use and would not support a reduction from the fleet in the budget. She understands reduction in staff, but stated that no one has asked about an increase needed in custodians, food service workers or secretarial staff. Sra Flores said she did not want to hear the matters at this time and told Ms. Valdespino that her concerns could be heard after the discussion regarding the budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve Option C with a reduction of vehicle costs by \$120,000 to replace 2 positions which will provide a total of 53 positions being reduced instead of 55. A roll call vote was taken. Frank- yes, Davis-yes, Castro-yes, Hall-no and Maria-yes. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1. A second motion was made to allow any reduction received in the risk insurance amount of \$247,000 to be put into 4 positions. If a lesser amount received, a collaboration will be done for adjustments. Mr. Maury Castro made the motion and Mr. Ed Frank seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Frank-yes, Mr. Castro-yes, Mr. Davis-yes, Mrs. Hall-yes, and Sra. Flores-yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Davis would like the board to be informed as information is received with regard to the savings in risk insurance if allocated. Mr. Dean stated he will call NMPSIA to seek justification with regard to the savings in risk insurance as suggested by Mary Parr-Sanchez. If true, it will come before the Board as a budget adjustment for approval. Sra. Flores asked for clarification in the budget approval process. Superintendent Rounds stated that today's process is approval by the Board to submit a proposed budget to the Public Education Department (PED) consideration. The PED will then review and make a final determination on sufficiency and can make any adjustments they feel are needed. Once adjustments are made by the PED, a final budget is ratified by the Board through a public hearing. There is no option to change the budget at that time as the PED will likely disapprove. The PED is the final authority on setting the budget. Superintendent Rounds shared that he anticipates minor adjustments to be made by the PED. Mr. Frank shared his concern in the loss of 53 positions and how it will affect students. Mr. Frank would like to motion that the Board be notified of class sizes in excess of 30 students (class loads) at every board meeting so board members can monitor effect of the budget on class size by the reduction of staff. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Castro for administration to provide a monthly dash board of class sizes at every regular board meeting. The motion passed. The report will be added as a recurring agenda item: Dashboard Report of Class Sizes beginning in August 2016 under Human Resource Development.

Mr. Frank a cash balance report at every regular board meeting. Superintendent Rounds stated the information provided in the Board Financial Report which is provided at every board meeting. The Cash Balance Report will be highlighted as a separate agenda item at every regular board meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Castro and seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion passed.

Amy Simpson discussed line items in the budget that were over budgeted as well as expenditure amounts. Mr. Castro asked what the consequences were in not submitting a budget timely. Superintendent Rounds said the PED will take over the budget. This allows the board to have local control.

Sra. Flores invited Irma Valdespino to return to the podium and finish her statement. Ms. Valdespino would like to see in the future that classified staff be reviewed in increasing the staffing allocations in the Physical Plant Department, custodial and campus security positions. She believes classified staff is not important to the Board; only teachers.

V. OTHER REPORTS

A. Human Resources Development

1. Certified/Classified Employee Report

There were no comments or questions.

B. Finance

Items #1, #2, #3 and #4 were approved earlier in the meeting with the consent agenda.*

5. Board Financial Report

Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial Officer, stated the cash balance is included in the report as required by the Board and their directive earlier to receive cash balance information at every regular board meeting. There were no comments or questions.

6. LCPS Third Quarter Report

Mr. Dean discussed the report by fund function. There were no questions or comments.

C. Instruction

Items #1, #2, #3 and #4 were approved earlier in the meeting with the consent agenda.*

5. Approval of SY 2016-17 Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy Student Calendar

Jennifer Amis, Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy principal, presented the proposed student calendar for approval. It is aligned to the New Mexico State University Academic Calendar. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the SY 2016-17 Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy Student Calendar. The motion passed.

6. Mayfield High School Moon Buggy Team Presentation

This item was removed from the agenda earlier in the evening.

7. Elementary English Language Arts Adoption Process and Recommendation

Lydia Polanco, Director of Elementary Education, provided a brief video and PowerPoint presentation outlining the adoption process and recommendations to the Superintendent. Words Their Way was recommended to the Superintendent for adoption, and Superintendent Rounds approved the recommendation for adoption.

D. Operations

Item #1 was approved earlier in the meeting with the consent agenda.*

2. Construction Projects Update

There were no comments or questions.

3. Safe Routes to Schools Presentation

Ashleigh Curry, SRTS Champion, and Dawn Sanchez (Dept of Health) provided a brief update to board members on the Safe Routes to Schools program. International walk day was Oct 2-7, 2015. National bike to school day May. Continued support is appreciated.

VI. Board Items

A. New Business

1. *First Reading of Policy ACA/JBA, Title IX/Gender Equity, and Rescission of Policies #480 (Equal Educational Opportunities) and #268 (Federal Grievance)*

Jo Galvan presented the policy for first reading and recommended the rescission of Policy #480 Equal Educational Opportunities and Policy #268 Federal Grievance. She stated the policy has been drafted with the assistance of the district's legal counsel and the Board's legal counsel is also in the process of reviewing the Policy.

Sra. Flores suggested tabling the item until the board can have further discussion and clarification from board counsel. A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Ed Frank to table the item until the June regular board meeting. The motion passed.

2. *Transportation Task Force Discussion*

Sra. Flores would like to implement a task force consisting of bus company representatives, parents, community members, LCPS Administrators, bus union representatives and a board member to keep from getting to the point of a possible bus strike again. Mr. Davis does not agree and stated it is not the district's business to get involved in bus company business. He added that proper procedures should be followed. Mr. Castro, Mr. Frank and Mrs. Hall all shared their support in the idea.

Superintendent Rounds stated that the administration will work with the Board in selecting task force members to begin the review of the issues that surrounded a potential bus strike.

B. Old Business

1. None

VII. Board Member Business

1. *Board Member Reports*

Mrs. Hall visited LEAP. Mr. Davis stated that all board members attended graduations. Sra. Flores visited the Hispano Chamber of Commerce Middle School recognition, Comcast Cares Day at Fairacres Elementary School.

2. *Student Advisor Report*

André Gonzales shared that Kimberly Roubideaux is the new president of the SAC for SY 2016-17. He also shared that as a recent graduate himself, he will be attending Georgetown University in the fall.

3. *Calendar of Events*

Sra. Flores stated a calendar of events was placed in each board members folder. There was a discussion regarding moving the June 7, 2016 Work Session to June 9, 2016 in combination with a Special Meeting Public Hearing. All board members are available.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Ed Frank to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez.