



MINUTES
Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 2016 • 6:30 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building, Board Room • Televised on LCPS.TV

I. INTRODUCTION – President Maria A. Flores

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. 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

Interim Superintendent Dr. Steven Sanchez was in attendance.

C. Welcome Student Advisor

A student advisor was not in attendance.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board President led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Castro and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2016 Regular Board Meeting, June 9, 2016 Closed Executive Session and June 21 Closed Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Approval of Agenda

Sra. Flores requested to remove the bid for legal services from Item V.C.2. from the consent agenda to allow discussion and to move up item VI.A. 1. Approval of Name Change for Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School to right after public input. Mr. Frank requested to remove Item V.C.3. Approval of Property Disposition from the consent agenda to allow discussion of the item. A motion was made by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mrs. Hall to amend the agenda. The motion passed. A second motion was made by Mr. Castro and seconded by Mr. Frank to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Castro to approve consent agenda items V.C.1. Approval of Budget Adjustments, V.C. 2. Approval of Bids (minus the bid for legal services), and V.C.4. Approval of Vendor Payments. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Virgin Galactic and Asombro Institute for Science Education

Dr. Steven Sanchez stated that during the month of June, our Challenger Learning Center held four weeks of summer camp for 3rd- 8th grade students. He recognized Mr. Jonathan Firth, Executive Vice President of Spaceport and Program Development for Virgin Galactic, and his staff who volunteered their time to support summer camp students. Dr. Sanchez also recognized Dr. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Executive Director for the Asombro Institute for Science Education. He stated that each year, this organization provides amazing classroom and field trip programs for thousands of LCPS students. Certificates of Recognition were provided.

B. Dr. Susan Brown, New Mexico State University

Dr. Susan Brown is the STEM Outreach Director for the College of Education at New Mexico State University. Dr. Brown has an enormous teaching experience and works with many New Mexico programs including NSF, Academies for Young Scientists, Scientifically Connected Communities, NASA, Enlace, SEMAA, MAXIMA and has been an instructor of Science and Math methods for Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Teachers at NMSU. She has received many professional awards, but most notably, Dr. Brown recently authored a 21st Century grant that provides \$75,000 for a community schools coordinator and supplies, in addition to after-school options for our students.

III. PUBLIC INPUT

Andre Gonzales, community member, spoke on an article he read about a letter from Senator Steve Pearce that was sent to board members regarding transgender issues and the recent law passed by President Obama.

IV. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Approval of Name Change for Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School

Dr. Toni Hull, Principal, stated that in a meeting of parents and students during the summer, the students elected to change the name of the school to better reflect its mission. The students selected Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy. Parents, students, and staff spoke in support of the program and its name change. Dr. Hull stated that enrollment is currently at 95 students. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Castro to adopt the proposed name change from Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School to Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy and that the Superintendent be authorized to inform the Public Education Department of the name change. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Status Report on First Day of School*

Dr. Sanchez shared that there were some bussing delays due to route changes, but in all it was a good start to the new school year. Conlee Elementary School had five classrooms without certified teachers due to teachers being transferred. He stated that three of the five vacancies were filled as of today.

3. *Board Policy Revision Schedule*

Jo Galvan, Chief Communications Officer, provided a general overview of policies by section that need revised through a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Galvan stated a timeline of the revisions is still being drafted and will be provided to the board upon its completion.

4. *Update on Superintendent Search*

Dr. Sanchez stated that twelve applicants have been disqualified as not meeting the minimal qualifications established by the board. Applications are available for board members to review in the Superintendent's office through September 6, 2016. A closed executive session will be held on September 6, 2016 so the Board may discuss the applicants and select the semi-finalists.

Mr. Frank asked about the process once the semi-finalists have been selected. Dr. Sanchez stated that LCPS staff will check references and conduct background checks of the semi-finalists. Then the Board will return to closed executive session to select the finalists. An interview team will be selected by the Board.

V. OTHER REPORTS

A. Human Resources Development

1. *Certified/Classified Report*

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Development, discussed the report. There were no comments.

2. *Update on Human Resources*

Dr. Marrufo shared a PowerPoint presentation of new administrator selections, current vacancies, alternative licensure offers of employment, review of class size and staff monitoring plan. Sra. Flores asked how many staff members that were on temporary contracts replaced. Dr. Marrufo identified in July report those who were rehired. There was a discussion of potential overloads in class sizes at the high schools in elective classes.

3. *Status of New Teacher Retention*

Jane Gurnea shared a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the current national data on teacher retention versus data of teacher retention in LCPS.

B. Instruction

1. *Approval of Title IX Assurance Form for Secondary Schools Offering Athletics Programs*

To comply with House Bill 432, the "School Athletics Equity Act," Section 22-31-5, NMSA 1978, the Act requires that all public schools submit an assurance of compliance with Title IX to its local Board or governing body for approval for schools who offer athletic programs or students participate in athletic programs

within the LCPS district no later than August 31st of each year. A motion as made by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Castro to approve the Title IX Assurance Form for Secondary Schools Offering Athletics Programs. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Finance

**Items 1, 2 (minus bid for legal services), and 4 were approved earlier in the evening.*

2. *Approval of Bids (legal services only)*

There was a discussion regarding the Board's general legal counsel. Sra. Flores shared her thoughts in support of the Walsh Gallegos Anderson law firm as being rated very low. She would like to be a part of the selection process of general counsel when it is directly related to work with the Board.. Mr. Will Manning, Director of Purchasing, discussed the evaluation process. He stated that bid solicitation went to eight law firms. Of the eight law firms, only three responded. Mr. Castro would to utilize only one firm for all district business. Mr. Manning responded that each firm specializes in different areas of law which are utilized by different departments. The vote of the Board in tonight's meeting needs to be for all three law firms as one package. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Castro to approve the bid for legal services. The motion passed.

3. *Approval of Property Dispositions*

Mr. Frank asked about items being disposed. He would like a report on how much of the \$425,000 is recovered. Mr. Terry Dean, Chief Financial Officer, explained a list is circulated to schools to see if items can be used at other locations. All efforts are made to reuse the items. A motion was made by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Castro to approve property dispositions. The motion passed unanimously.

5. *LCPS Fourth Quarter Report*

Crystal Valdez, Chief Financial Officer, shared the report. She stated there is a cash balance of \$10.6 million as of June 30, 2016. Mr. Frank shared his concern that positions that were cut based on the projection of \$5.5 million in April 2015. He would like to restore positions. There was a discussion as to where the extral \$5 million came from and Sra. Flores asked when the district knew there was going to be a cash balance of \$10.6 million. Mr. Terry Dean responded that the District became aware in June 2016 and shared a chronology of developments of the cash balance for budget. Dr. Sanchez stated that teachers should receive raises with the additional funds. Sra. Flores stated her concern of putting staff through stress in not having the correct amount for cash balance. She is concerned that now the district is looking/recruiting for teachers. The priority of the board is to put teachers in the classroom, provide school supplies, and increase salaries.

6. *Board Financial Report*

Mrs. Crystal Valdez shared the report with board members. There were no comments.

7. *Furniture Replacement Program*

Mr. Terry Dean shared a PowerPoint and video of the program in replacing furniture by Contrax Furnishings. Eight of our 26 schools have received furniture replacements. An evaluation by school for furniture replacement was

provided to the board. Mr. Dean shared that if bond money is not used for this project, the program will end in 2023. Rio Grande Preparatory Institute and Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy will be added to the list. Representatives from Contrax Furnishings spoke with regard to the partnership with LCPS and the methodology proposed to meet the standards established by the district and phases of the program.

D. Operations

1. Construction Projects Update

There were no questions or discussion.

2. Valley View Parking Lot Design Presentation

The proposed plan was shared with the board. Visitor parking was discussed. There were no further comments.

VI. BOARD ITEMS

A. New Business

1. Approval of Name Change for Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School

This item was moved up on the agenda and was heard after public input.

B. Old Business

1. Review and Approval of Response Letter to Senator Steve Pearce regarding Development of Transgender Policy

Sra. Flores read the draft response letter to audience members. Mrs. Hall stated she had a message from a woman out of state that wanted to commend the board in its response to Senator. Pearce in saying “thank you, but no than you”. There was a brief discussion regarding the executive order issued by President Obama. A motion was made by Mr. Castro and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the response letter and to send to Senator Pearce. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Second Reading of Policy EEB Driving School Owned or Leased Vehicles

There were no comments or questions. The policy will move forward for third reading and approval at the next regular board meeting.

3. First Reading of Policy BA Board Goals and Regulation BA-R

Jo Galvan stated that during the board’s retreat held on August 4, 2016, board members came to a consensus that the four existing goals shall remain in place: (1) Student success; (2) Communication, trust and human relations; (3) Budget and facilities management; and (4) Quality in human resources. There was suggested language to add including to emphasize or reinforce the need to be transparent, address the needs of the whole child, improve communication and employee morale, embrace diversity and be more inclusive in the decision-making process. Sra. Flores also added that language regarding morale should be included as well. This policy can be added to the Student Advisory Council agenda for student input. The policy will move to a second reading at the next board meeting.

4. *NMSBA Call for Resolutions Discussion*

Each board member shared their requested resolutions. The following resolutions were brought forward by each board member:

Mr. Frank - civil public discourse, and budgetary matters in legislative session be complete earlier to assist districts in developing their budgets.

Mr. Castro- prevention and intervention of bullying, educator effectiveness evaluation, and the effects of high stakes testing on the education of the whole child.

Mr. Davis - increase salaries for certified teachers, adequate funding for transportation for students, and permanent funding of 5.8 percent.

Mrs. Hall- revise conditions for return to work teachers.

Sra. Flores - enact gun reform to protect children, funding for K-3 plus program, full service community school, support for DACA and DAPA families regarding deportation and increase funding and adequate support to public schools.

The board will vote on which resolutions will be submitted to NMSBA at the September 6, 2016 board meeting.

VII. BOARD MEMBER BUSINESS

1. *Board Member Reports*

Mr. Frank and Sra. Flores drove a school bus. Mrs. Hall attended a dyslexia presentation. Sra. Flores attended the bus task force meeting, Board members attended the NMSBA leadership meeting in Taos, New Mexico. Sra. Flores attended the new employee orientation, League of Women Voters meeting, administrators retreat, and a bus in-service. She also visited White Sands Schools on the first day of school and attended Lynn Middle School's Open House event. She offered her condolences to the family of the slain Hatch officer whose children attend LCPS.

2. *Student Advisor Report*

There was no report.

3. *Calendar of Events*

Sra. Flores stated a calendar of events was placed in each board member's folder on the dais.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Castro. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

—Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez