



**MINUTES**  
**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, September 20, 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*

Tristan Schlothauer from Mayfield High School was 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. Frank to approve the minutes June 21, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the July 12, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

*F. Approval of Agenda*

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Castro to approve the agenda. 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. Student Out-of-State Travel, V.C.2. Approval of Head Start Documents, V.D.1. Approval of Budget Adjustments, V.D.2. Approval of Property Dispositions, V.D. 3. Approval of Vendor Payments, and VI.B. 1. Third Reading and Approval of Policy EEB Driving School Owned or Leased Vehicles. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.

*H. Report on Closed Executive Sessions*

Sra. Flores stated that the Board met in Closed Executive Session on September 19, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:05 p.m. to discuss Limited Personnel Matters to consider applicants for the Position of Superintendent and Discuss Applicant Qualifications as Permitted under Section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. She also stated that the Board met in a Closed Executive Session on September 20, 2016 from 5:01 p.m. to 6:02 p.m. to discuss Collective Bargaining Strategies Preliminary to Bargaining Negotiations, as Permitted under Section 10-15-1(H)(5) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and Limited Personnel Matters to consider applicants for the Position of Superintendent and Discuss Applicant Qualifications as Permitted under Section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. No other matters were discussed in either meeting; and no action was taken.

**II. RECOGNITIONS**

*A. Doña Ana Arts Council Award*

Mr. Tim Staley, English teacher at Oñate High School, was honored by the Doña Ana Arts Council with the Arts in Education Award for his leadership and pioneering spirit in promoting performing arts education initiatives.

*B. 2016 New Mexico School Counselor Award*

Mrs. Beverly Tenorio, a counselor at Conlee Elementary, was recognized by the Board as the New Mexico Counselor Association's School Counselor of the Year. As part of the state award, her name will be submitted to the American School Counselor Association to be considered for the national award. She will attend a dinner hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama.

*C. Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching*

Mrs. Bernadine Cotton, a mathematics teacher at Tombaugh Elementary School, recently earned one of the most prestigious awards a teacher can earn. The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Mrs. Cotton was awarded \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation and travelled to Washington, D.C. where she was honored as a leader in the improvement of mathematics education.

**III. PUBLIC INPUT**

Loretta Nordwall, community member, spoke regarding the recognition of her sister, Bernadine Cotton.

Margaret Sanchez-Maes, parent, spoke regarding class overloads. She is also concerned about AP classes not being offered because of the reduction in staff.

Bruce Hartman, NEA-LC President Elect, spoke with regard to vacancy postings in AppliTrack.

#### **IV. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

##### **1. Update on Superintendent Search Process**

Dr. Sanchez discussed the process to date. He shared that reference checks of the finalists will ensue upon their selection. A series of interviews are scheduled for the finalists on September 29, 2016, with teams staff, students, community & parents, principals, and leadership & professional development specialists. A meet & greet will be held at 4:45 pm at Oñate High School followed by a dinner, and a community forum beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Board will conduct their final interviews of the finalists on September 30, 2016. Teams of administrators and board members will visit the finalists' communities to obtain input on the finalists. A selection of a Superintendent will be made at the November 3, 2016 board meeting. A complete schedule of the process will be posting online.

##### **2. Project Unify Video**

A brief video highlighting the Project Unify program at Vista Middle School was viewed by the audience. The program pairs students with special needs with typically developing peers in athletic events. Dr. Sanchez stated the district is exploring avenues to support Project Unify in organizing athletic events twice a year.

##### **3. Cash Balance Discussion**

Dr. Sanchez shared the current cash balance and stated the district is experiencing a very dismissal affair with regard to the budget. A special session at the legislature will be occurring in the next several weeks in this regard. The operational cash balance for the district is currently \$10,546,656. The instructional cash balance is \$768,793.00. Dr. Sanchez shared that our partners in higher education are slated to lose \$10 million dollars and the district could potential receive a reduction between \$4.4 million to \$8.8 million in revenues. There has also been discussions of the legislature tapping into the permanent fund at state level to protect education.

#### **V. OTHER REPORTS**

##### **A. Student Advisor Report**

Tristan Schlothauer shared that the Student Advisory Council met for the first time yesterday, September 19, 2016. Elections of officers was discussed. A meeting is scheduled for later this week to discuss questions for the final candidates in the interview process. The questions will be submitted to Dr. Sanchez.

##### **B. Human Resources Development**

###### **1. Certified/Classified Report**

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Development, discussed the report. There was a discussion regarding the current vacancies primarily in Special Education and the placement of teachers at schools in addressing class overloads to meet the needs to students.

Amy Simpson, NEA-LC Representative, spoke with regard to the amount of split or multiage classrooms in the district. She asked what the process is in determining the split; how are parents or students notified; and how are staffed adequately prepared? Dr. Sanchez said a response to her questions will be

prepared and posted online so all may see. Dr. Sanchez also shared that he has met with administrators and there is professional development in place to provide support for teachers in this regard adding that two curriculums are not taught in a multiage setting.

Mary-Parr Sanchez, also spoke with regard to split classes at Booker T. Washington Elementary School.

**C. Instruction**

*\*Items 1 and 2 were approved earlier in the evening.*

**D. Finance**

*\*Items 1, 2 and 3 were approved earlier in the evening.*

4. *Approval of Notice of Bond Sale Resolution*

RBC Capital Markets shared information with the Board on the bond sale of \$20 million. Tax rates were shared as well as a listing of major tax payers in the community. A motion was made by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the Notice of Bond Sale Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

3. *Board Financial Report*

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

**E. Operations**

1. *Construction Projects Report*

Gloria Martinez, Construction Projects Manager, provided a complete report on all current construction projects within the district. Schools included were Las Cruces High School, Sierra Middle School, Court Charter School Campus, Mesilla Elementary School, Lynn Middle School, Mesa Middle School, Alameda Elementary School, Hermosa Heights Elementary School, Zia Middle School, Jornada Elementary School, LCPS Soccer Complex, Desert Hills Elementary School, and Alma d' Arte. There were no questions or comments.

2. *Update on Las Cruces High School Construction Project*

Gloria Martinez presented an update on the progress of phase II of the LCHS construction project. She stated the estimated completion date is February 2018. Renderings of the project was shared with the audience. Mrs. Hall asked if the project is on schedule, and Mrs. Martinez responded that phase II began late. The new completion date is February 2018. There was a discussion with regard to the impact the construction has had on instruction or athletic classes/events.

**VI. BOARD ITEMS**

**A. New Business**

1. *Adoption of SY 2016-17 Open Meetings Act Resolution*

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Castro to adopt the 2016-17 Open Meetings Act Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Approval of Date Change of November 1, 2016 Work Session to November 3, 2016*  
Sra. Flores proposed to the change the date of the November 1, 2016 Work Session to November 3, 2016 beginning at 4:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Frank to change to November 1, 2016 Work Session to November 3, 2016 beginning at 4:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.
3. *Review of Board Committee Assignments*  
Sra. Flores shared that Mr. Davis will step down from the finance committee meetings and Messrs. Frank and Castro will now attend.

**B. Old Business**

*\*Item 1 was approved earlier in the evening.*

1. *Action to Select from the Pool of Semifinalists the Finalists for the Position of Superintendent*

A motion was made by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Davis to select Dr. Gregory Ewing- Chief Accountability Officer for Cobb County School District in Marietta, Georgia; Dr. Gregory Rodriguez- Deputy Superintendent at Huntsville Independent School District in Huntsville, Texas; and Dr. Arsenio Romero- Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Turnaround at Roswell Independent School District in Roswell, New Mexico as the finalists for the position of Superintendent. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Frank-aye; Mr. Davis-aye; Mr. Castro-aye; Sra. Flores-aye and Mrs. Hall-aye. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Approval of Change to Regulation BEDB-R Board Agenda*

A motion was made by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Frank to approve the change to Regulation BEDB-R Board Agenda to add a “Student Advisor Report” and “Welcome Student Advisor” to the outline of the agenda and delete the language of “Approval of Consent Agenda Items [as noted by asterisk]”. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Frank asked if there is a deadline to post the packet to the website. Mrs. Galvan responded that the Open Meetings Act only requires a posting of the meeting agenda which is posted. There is no requirement to post a packet.

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

Jo Galvan shared that at the Board’s request, the morale language was added to the regulation. A third reading and approval of Policy BA Board Goals will be brought to the Board at the next regular board meeting.

4. *Discussion of Proposed Changes to the Wall of Champions at the Field of Dreams Football Field*

Bump Elliott, a community member, provided a proposal to the Board in renaming the Wall of Champions at the Field of Dreams Football Field to the Rudy Camunez Wall of Champions and to create a “legends” area to recognize honorees with plaques which would be supported by aluminum posts. The estimated cost is \$17,000.00 which will be borne by community members by fundraising. There will be no cost to the district. Criteria to be chosen as an

honoree was also shared. Initial honorees suggested are Coach Jim Bradley and Coach Rudy Camunez. Mr. Elliott also shared that there is a petition of 1,500 community members to support the project.

Tristan Schlothauer said students would like to help fundraise. Mrs. Hall was not supporting of the request, stating she “would like to leave well enough alone” as the Field of Dreams supports all schools and a wall of champions is already in place. She stated she has not received student support of the project. Mr. Davis would like to receive a white paper on what the board is actually being asked of the Board to consider. Mr. Elliott reminded Mr. Davis of the information provided in his packet. Dr. Sanchez offered his assistance in preparing a white paper as requested by Mr. Davis. Mrs. Hall would like it stipulate that the district would not now or in the future have to bear any financial burden in this regard and Mr. Elliott agreed. Honorees will be employees and community members who support athletics. Sra. Flores shared her thoughts that the items requested should be voted separately (as two separate actions). The Rudy Camunez Wall of Champions as one item and the “Legends Area” as another item. Dr. Sanchez agreed with Sra. Flores’ recommendation and stated it is difficult to move forward without knowing the ramifications of the construction. He asked Mr. Elliot to meet with Gabe Jacquez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, in regards to the construction ramifications.

## **VII. BOARD MEMBER BUSINESS**

### *1. Board Member Reports*

Mrs. Hall visited the IPE meeting at Lynn Middle School, the volleyball game at Centennial High School, a LCPS Foundation board meeting, the Student Advisory Council meeting and the Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy.

Sra. Flores attended the Student Advisory Council meeting, the LESC meeting in Alamogordo with Mr. Castro, and presented to the City council on community schools. She stated all semifinalist candidates for the position of Superintendent were very good and selecting the finalists was difficult.

### *2. Calendar of Events*

Sra. Flores stated a calendar of events has been placed in each board member’s folder. The board will need to meet in Closed Executive Session to discuss the interviews of the finalists. There was a consensus of the Board to meet on September 27, 2016. Sra. Flores also reminded board members of the Joint City Work Session scheduled for October 19, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Board members also received a copy of the NMSBA Training Report for SY 2015-16. Every board member has earned an Exemplary Status Certificate by NMSBA. In addition, Mr. Frank has earned his Level 1 and 2 Certificates and Mr. Castro has earned his Level 2 Certificate. The certificates will be presented to board members at the Annual Convention Awards Luncheon on December 2, 2016 at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa in Albuquerque.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

—Minutes taken by Tina Gonzalez