



MINUTES

Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 • 6:30 p.m.

LCPS Administration Building, Board Room • Televised on LCPS.TV

I. Introduction

A. *Call to Order*

Sra. Maria A. Flores called the meeting to order 6:30 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

Dr. Steven Sanchez, Interim Superintendent, was also in attendance.

C. *Welcome Student Advisor*

Sra. Flores welcomed Student Advisory Council member Tristin Schlothauer of Mayfield High School to the meeting.

D. *Pledge of Allegiance*

The President led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. *Oñate High School Choir*

Dr. Steven Sanchez, Interim Superintendent, welcomed the Oñate High School Choir under the direction of Ryan Fellman.

F. *Approval of Minutes*

A motion was made by Ms. Barbara Hall and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016 Closed Executive Session, the September 6, 2016 Special Meeting, the September 19, 2016 Closed Executive Session, the September 20, 2016 Regular Meeting, the September 27, 2016 Closed Executive Session, and September 30, 2016 Closed Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

G. *Approval of Agenda*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

H. *Approval of Consent Agenda Items*

A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Ms. Barbara Hall to approve Consent Agenda Items V.C.1. Approval of Student Out-of-State Travel, V.D.1. Approval of Budget Adjustments, V.D.2. Approval of Property Dispositions, V.D.3 Approval of Vendor Payments, and V.D.4. Approval of Bids. The motion was passed unanimously.

I. *Amend Agenda of November 3, 2016 Special Meeting/Work Session to Include Report on Closed Executive Session*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to amend the agenda of the November 3, 2016 Special Meeting/Work Session to include a report on the Closed Executive Session of November 3, 2017.

J. *Report on Closed Executive Session of November 3, 2017*

Sra. Flores reported the board met in closed executive session on November 3, 2016 from 2:02 p.m. to 4:12 p.m. to discuss Limited Personnel Matters to discuss selection of Superintendent including terms of Superintendent Contract Offer as Permitted under Section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. No other matters were discussed, and no action was taken.

II. **Recognitions**

1. *Project Unify Recognition of Dr. Steven Sanchez*

Mr. Mike Montoya and students presented Dr. Sanchez with a plaque for his support of Project Unify and implementation of field events in the District. The students also gave Project Unify T-shirts to every board member.

2. *Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation Teacher Grants Presentation*

Betsy Geery, Executive Director, presented grants awarded to teachers throughout the District. The grant amounts ranged from \$1,000 for individuals to \$5,000 for groups. This year \$34,439 total was awarded in grants.

3. *Chris Lang, Organ Mountain Outfitters*

Brigitte Zigelhofer, Community Outreach Liaison, recognized Chris Lang of Organ Mountain Outfitters for his generous support of students in our district by donating funds received from t-shirts sold by his company to pay for school lunches for students who are in need. To date, he has paid for 9,000 lunches.

4. *Dr. Azadeh Osanloo, College of Education, New Mexico State University*

Mari Rincon, Principal of Booker T. Washington Elementary, presented Dr. Osanloo from the College of Education at NMSU for her generosity in assisting the school in applying for a gardening grant to purchase supplies to make a garden at the school. The garden was made in April. Sra. Flores was also recognized for joining in on the efforts in creating a garden at the school. Additionally, Sra. Flores presented Dr. Osanloo with a certificate of recognition for her assistance during the Superintendent Search Process.

III. Public Input

Irma Valdespino, President CSEC-LC, recognized Dr. Sanchez for his support of veterans working in the district by giving them a day off for Veteran's Day.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. *Interim Superintendent's Update*

1. *Approval of Change to Tombaugh Elementary School Plaque*

Based on discussion with the Board at its November 3, 2016 Special Meeting, administration made a recommendation to correct the names of the Superintendent and Associate Superintendent on the plaque located at Tombaugh Elementary School. The cost to correct the plaque is \$950. A motion was made by Mr. Maury Castro and was seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis to approve the changes to the plaque. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Introduction of Dean Donald Pope-Davis, New Mexico State University*

Dr. Sanchez introduced Donald Pope-Davis, Dean of the College of Education at NMSU. Mr. Pope-Davis a long-time educator in psychology and diversity. He began in this position in July 2015. Dean Pope-Davis greeted board members and shared his excitement in being in his position and in establishing a comprehensive relationship with the community.

3. *Budget Update*

Dr. Sanchez provided an update that the district has spent \$360,000 less at this time in comparison to last fiscal year. He advises that the total operating budget for this fiscal year is \$187,270,306, which did not include the \$3.5 million unanticipated cash balance, and thus the unaudited budget could be reported at \$190,770,306. To date, Dr. Sanchez reports that anticipated adjustments from Legislative Special Session totaled \$2.7 million in reduction to unit value; leaving an Operating Balance of \$188,066,399. Additionally, Dr. Sanchez stated the budget was impacted by an overall decrease of \$5,275,022 due to a decrease of \$360,480 in funding for instructional materials, reduction of \$515,542 in transportation funding, a \$3.5 million cost was associated with restoring furlough days for certified staff as well as a 3.5% salary increase, and classified staff received approximately a 5% salary increase as well resulting in \$900,000 total in cost. He discussed that central office has already enacted several steps to prepare for any further cuts in our fiscal year 2018 budget; such as placing a freeze on all open positions at central office, enacting a moratorium on non-student travel, and evaluating operational costs that may be paid from other funds. Senate Bill 9 will be utilized for the purchasing of custodial supplies, and construction personnel costs may possibly be paid out of House Bill 33 funds in lieu of operational funds.

4. *90-Day District Technology Plan*

Gabe Jacquez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, presented highlights of the district's 90-Day Technology Plan, which was developed by our Technology Support Services through research and analysis to gauge financial impact and begin working to address the current and future technological needs within Las Cruces Public Schools. The plan contained five main points believed to be the most critical: Core Data and Telephone Service Maintenance, Data Center Consolidation, 2 Gbps Metro Optical Ethernet Upgrade for Early College High School/Backup Data Center, Uninterruptable Power Supply Maintenance, and the 2014 Security Bond. There were no questions or comments.

5. *Dual Credit District Response*

Dr. Sanchez reported that a response was sent today to the Public Education Department (PED). Wendi Hammond, Director of Secondary Education, worked with principals in preparing this response. PED is wanting to decrease the amount of dual credit classes, raise GPA level required of students to take dual credit classes, and to use PARCC scores to determine eligibility requirements. Mr. Castro asked if a resolution could be drafted in this regard. Dr. Sanchez will prepare a resolution for the Board's consideration at the December board meeting.

Tracy Bryant, President of the Bridge of Southern New Mexico, spoke with regard to the limitations the PED is putting on dual credit classes. She stated the Bridge supports students and their successes in receiving dual credit courses. The Bridge also provided a response to the Public Education Department. They want to see the classes expanded, not cut, and do not want the GPA raised. The Bridge stands as allies with the district.

V. Other Reports

A. *Student Advisor Report*

Tristan Schlothauer read a statement by Hailee Cook in support of Dual Credit courses. They state it provides an opportunity for higher education to those who may not have considered it.

B. *Human Resources Development*

1. *Certified/Classified Employee Report*

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Chief Human Resources Development Officer, provided the employment report for October 2016. It includes information on offers of employment, resignations, retirements, and other employee actions. There were no comments.

C. *Instruction*

- *1. *Approval of Student Out-of-State Travel was approved earlier in the evening under consent agenda approval.*

2. *Discussion of Revisions to Dual Language Transcript Review and Bilingual Seal*

Vangie Barela, Director of Dual Language/Migrant Education, provided an update to the Board on the current processes for awarding the Bilingual Seal to high school graduates. Mrs. Barela comments that a reform in this process was pivotal as each high school was utilizing varied processes for awarding these seals to students. There was a discussion regarding some students not receiving seals last year. Those students who did not receive a seal and are qualified to do so will receive the seal. The Board would like to be notified when that process is complete. Wendi Hammond, Director of Secondary Education, addressed the Board in regards to the reform of the evaluation process of foreign transcripts for high school credit. She states there was an opportunity to make these processes uniform, rigorous, and equitable as well as to better understand the credit values that accompany students from foreign countries on their transcripts. There were no questions or comments.

D. *Finance*

*1. *Approval of Budget Adjustments*, *2. *Approval of Property Dispositions*, *3. *Approval of Vendor Payments*, and *4. *Approval of Bids* were approved earlier in the evening under consent agenda approval.

5. *Approval of Marquee Donation to Desert Hills Elementary School*

The Desert Hills' Student Council Officers requested the board to accept the generous donation from Citizens bank of a digital marquee in the amount of \$19,419.40. Ms. Barbara Hall made a motion to approve the marquee; it was seconded by Mr. Ed Frank. The motion passed unanimously.

6. *LCPS First Quarter Financial Report*

Crystal Valdez provided a summary on the District's first quarter report submitted to the PED for the quarter ended September 30, 2016. There were no questions or comments.

7. *Board Financial Report*

Crystal Valdez provided the report. There were no questions or comments.

E. *Operations*

1. *Construction Projects Update*

There were no questions or comments.

2. *Environmental & Safety Task Force Committee Update*

Gabe Jacquez provided an update on the formation of the Environment & Safety Task Force Committee. He advises membership now included: himself, Bobby Stout and Sandy Peugh of the Las Cruces Public Schools as well as John Hamilton and Richard Fagerlund, community members.

The committee has met twice to date. The Task Force has been working with the City of Las Cruces on their current practices and action research. Mr. Jacquez stated they have been revising language on Policy EB Environmental and Safety Program and hope to bring the requested changes to the Board for review at the January 2017 Board Meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet again on December 8, 2016.

3. *Bus Task Force Update*

Gabe Jacquez shared the Bus Task Force last met on November 9, 2016. Members are: Sra. Flores, Dr. Sanchez, himself, Nancy Cathy, David Del Toro, Connie Stewart, Analicia Valles, Heather Kingery, and Mike Montoya for Las Cruces Public Schools and Jack Wiggly, Van Wommel, Ismael Hernandez, and Marco Torres for STS New Mexico. The committee discussed the use of seating charts and rosters for identification purposes, procedure change for bus enrollment, identifying bus routes through use of Fidelity software, use of internal documents to help communication of student needs between parents and bus drivers, planning for hot weather issues, and promoting future and goals to assure student transportation success. Additionally, he notes that “Ride the Bus to School Day” is December 1, 2016 and STS New Mexico will enter students who ride the bus this day for prize raffle. Lastly, he shared that the next Bus Task Force meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2017. Sra. Flores commends the Task Force for their efforts in streamlining this information. There were no questions or comments.

VI. Board Items

A. New Business

1. First Reading of Policy JFB Open Enrollment

Jo Galvan, Chief Communications Officer, presented the first reading of Policy JFB Open Enrollment to the Board, which reflects changes from the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA). She recommended changing the title of the policy to include transfers so that the policy’s purpose is more apparent and continues on to discuss current changes in verbiage. Mr. Castro requested a statement to be added to the policy that prohibits recruiting in the district for students wanting to play sports at a transfer school. Sra. Flores would like to add language with regard to transfers for extenuating circumstances such as bullying and still being able to play sports at the transfer school. Dr. Sanchez responded adding the language in the regulation and also advised that families can file with NMAA directly for a hardship case. NMAA has the authority to determine a student’s eligibility based on a hardship case. They agree that language regarding the application for a hardship through NMAA should be added to the regulation. The policy will be brought for second reading at the December board meeting.

B. *Old Business*

1. *Adoption of Resolution and Proclamation of Regular School District Election*

Brigitte Zigelhofer provided a brief overview of the upcoming Board Election. She shared the election will take place Tuesday, February 7, 2017 for Districts 1, 2, and 3 with Declaration of Candidacy to be filed on December 20, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. only. Polling locations are set forth within the Proclamation. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Maury Castro made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Proclamation of Regular School District Election, the motion was seconded by Mr. Ed Frank. 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.

2. *Adoption of Resolution Authorizing and Directing School Election*

Mr. Maury Castro made a motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing and Directing School Election, and it was seconded by Mr. Ed Frank. 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.

3. *Second Reading of Policy JFABB Foreign Exchange and International Students*

Dr. Sanchez presented the second reading of Policy JFABB Foreign Exchange and International Students. Changes were made to reflect the visa type and supporting documents for exchange students versus international students. He recommended the policy for approval at the Regular Board Meeting in December. There were no questions or comments.

4. *Second Reading of Policy FFA Naming School Facilities*

Jo Galvan presented second reading of Policy FFA Naming School Facilities. She stated that at the October 2016 meeting minor changes to the policy were requested by the Board. It was recommended that examples be given of what is meant by naming school facilities, such as libraries, gyms, classroom wings, etc. Also, included is reference to Native Americans, as requested by the Board. This same reference was also included in the Regulation. There were no further questions or comments.

VII. Board Member Business

1. *Board Member Reports*

Mrs. Hall reported that she attended a reception with the LCPS Foundation, visited the Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy, attended the Project Unify field event, the DACC Board Meeting, and the IPE graduation. Ms. Hall was also present at the LCHS vs. MHS football game. Lastly, she attended the ESSA PED meeting at the Farm & Ranch Museum.

Mr. Frank also attended the ESSA PED meeting. He read a statement that,

given the results of the recent election, reminded students of the LCPS policy preventing bullying adding the district has a zero tolerance.

Sra. Flores reported that she attended the NMSBA Fall meeting and dinner that took place on the Las Cruces High School walkway, visited Booker T. Washington Elementary, and attended the ESSA PED meeting as well.

2. *Calendar of Events*

Sra. Flores requested board members to visit three Head Start classrooms as they are in their audit process. Sra. Flores will send a schedule of visitation to Tina Gonzalez for dissemination to the Board.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Ed Frank made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 8:33 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

—Minutes taken by Rebecca Archuleta