



## MINUTES

### Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 • 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 6:33 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. Gregory Ewing, Superintendent, was also in attendance.

##### C. *Welcome Student Advisor*

Sra. Flores welcomed Student Advisory Council member Max Sanchez of Centennial High School to the meeting.

##### D. *Pledge of Allegiance*

The President led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### E. *Camino Real Middle School Orchestra*

Dr. Gregory Ewing, Superintendent, welcomed the Camino Real Middle School Orchestra under the direction of Teresa Savage.

##### F. *Approval of Minutes*

A motion was made by Mr. Chuck Davis and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the December 6, 2016 Special Meeting, the December 13, 2016 Closed Executive Session and the December 13, 2016 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

##### G. *Approval of Agenda*

Mr. Ed Frank made a motion to remove Agenda Item V.A.2. First Reading of Policy EJA Acceptable Use of Technology Resources from the agenda; it was seconded by Ms. Barbara Hall. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Chuck Davis made a motion to remove Consent Agenda Item IV.D.1. Approval of Budget Adjustments from the consent agenda items; it was seconded by Mr.

Maury Castro. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

*H. Approval of Consent Agenda Items*

A motion was made by Mr. Ed Frank and seconded by Mr. Maury Castro to approve the amended Consent Agenda Items IV. C. 1. Approval of Student Out-of-State Travel; IV.C. 2. Approval of SY 2016-17 Revised Graduation Schedule for Onate High School and Mayfield High School; IV.D.2. Approval of Property Dispositions; IV.D 3. Approval of Vendor Payments; and IV.D.4. Approval of Bids. The motion was passed unanimously.

Sra. Flores stated the Board met in Closed Executive Session today from 6:15 p.m. to 6:28 p.m. to discuss Limited Personnel Matters 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.

Sra. Flores requested a Personal Point of Privilege to acknowledge three students for essays they wrote for a contest held by the National Association of Advancement for Colored People. She invited Curtis Rosemond forward to speak. Mr. Rosemond shared with the audience that Congressman Pearce contacted him to bestow Congressional Certificates of Appreciation upon each student as well as informed him the first-place essay would be placed in the Library of Congress. Andrew Angel, a Junior at Centennial High School, read his essay on the constant injustices minorities face. Mireya Sanchez-Maese, Freshman at Mayfield High School, shared her essay on people working together to achieve a common goal; such as, civil rights movements and fighting for what's right and for those whose voices aren't heard.

Dr. Ewing shared how proud he was of the students.

**II. Public Input**

There were no comments.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

*A. Superintendent's Update*

1. *Budget Update*

Crystal Valdez, Chief Financial Officer, presented a budget update to the Board. She advised that several reductions in resources have taken immediate effect. The district received a 1.5% reduction in the State Equalization Guarantee Monies (SEG) unit value, totaling a loss of \$2,663,112. In addition to not being fully funded this school year, a further reduction of \$515,542 was received in Transportation. Lastly, a check totaling \$193,732 was returned to the state from Instructional Material funding. Ms. Valdez states changes have already been implemented to alleviate the burden. For example, a travel moratorium has been placed on all non-student travel and is being reviewed by the Executive Cabinet. A hiring freeze will continue on all positions not

directly related to instruction. A review of all vendor contracts, software requests, and expenditures which are allowable to be paid from other funds is being assessed, and a reserve of 5% has been placed on all departmental funds. She informed the audience the Legislative Session opened that day to evaluate the 2018 budget, and stated there is additional talk about reducing the SEG unit value further as well as sweeping a portion of the audited cash balance as of June 30, 2016. If it is decided to sweep everything greater than 5% of SEG, that would be an additional reduction of \$1.7 million. Ms. Valdez advised that the target cash balance for June 30, 2017 is \$7,000,000; which is under the 5% SEG and lower than where the district would like to ideally be. An LCPS Budget Committee is being formed to prepare for the 2018 budget. Members will include: two board members, two community/parent representatives, four certified employees, four classified employees, four administrative employees, and two facilitators (ex officio members). The 2018 tentative budget timeline was discussed. The budget will be coming to the Board for approval in May, and submitted to the Public Education Department (PED) in June. Sra. Flores states a Board Retreat to discuss Board Goals should take place after the election. Dr. Ewing expressed the district is committed to an open and transparent budget process.

2. *Mandated Testing and Teacher Evaluation System*

Dr. Ewing spoke of the anxiety in teachers and students with regard to mandated assessments. He told teachers to only give tests required by federal and state statute. He urged them to return to teaching and to learning as well as relax and enjoy knowledge and teaching. He stated a teacher will never be punished strictly for student test scores, that no salary decreases will be made, and no one will be held back from a promotion.

Max Sanchez shared that, on behalf of the SAC, they are interested in coordinating with the Superintendent's Office in working on reform and taking it to legislation in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Amy Simpson, NEA-LC, shared results of two surveys that were conducted by National Education Association (NEA) on testing and evaluations.

Beverly Whygles, teacher, made a statement regarding the teacher evaluation system.

Sherri Noland, teacher, spoke with regard to school climate.

Rosalinda Altamirano spoke regarding anxiety teachers feel and health problems brought about by the current evaluation system.

Bruce Hartman, NEA-LC President Elect, spoke about the NEA

survey on the highly disruptive nature of standardize testing.

Dr. Ewing took a Personal Point of Privilege to reaffirm his and the Board's commitment in supporting teachers. He also spoke with regard to a long-time educator who passed unexpectedly, Cynthia Valencia, who taught for 28 years at Hermosa Heights Elementary. The audience observed a moment of silence.

#### **IV. Other Reports**

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

Max Sanchez shared SAC members will be attending the National Education Association lobbying training session taking place January 24-26, 2017. He invited the Board and Superintendent Ewing to attend the Student Council State Conference at Centennial High School on February 8, 2017. He expressed gratitude for the cyberbullying policy that is currently being updated. Mr. Sanchez also expressed SAC support for the Gun Violence Memorial.

Mary Parr-Sanchez, NEA, shared that NEA will be paying the expenses for the students to attend the lobbying training session.

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

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

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Chief Human Resources Development Officer, provided the employment report for December 2016 which now includes the highest degree level held by an employee and the type of license the employee possess. It includes information on offers of employment, resignations, retirements, and other employee actions. There were no comments.

###### *2. Staff Reassignments*

Dr. Ewing announced the following administrator selecting:

- Dr. Roberto Lozano was previously the Principal at MacArthur Elementary and has been selected as the Director of Dual Language and Migrant Education.
- Ms. Dana Critchlow was previously a Special Education Coordinator and has been selected as the Assistant Principal of Las Cruces High School.
- Mr. Daniel Gomez was previously the Assistant Principal of Sierra Middle School and has been selected as the Assistant Principal of Mayfield High School.
- Ms. Sadie Ortiz was previously a Special Education Instructional Leader in Rio Rancho, New Mexico and has been selected as the Assistant Principal of Valley View Elementary.

Dr. Ewing announced the following administrator reassignments:

- Ms. Yuri Castillo was previously the Assistant Principal of MacArthur Elementary and has been selected as the Interim

Principal of MacArthur Elementary.

- Mr. Ricardo Rincon was previously the Assistant Principal of White Sands Schools and has been selected as the Assistant Principal of Sierra Middle School.
- Ms. Michelle Valdez was previously the Assistant Principal at Sierra Middle School and has been selected as the Interim Assistant Principal of MacArthur Elementary.
- Ms. Kathy Adams was previously the Principal of the JUMP Program and has been selected as the Interim Assistant Principal of White Sands Schools as the JUMP Program will now be managed by the principals in the respective buildings.

C. *Instruction*

- \*1. *Approval of Student Out-of-State Travel was approved during consent agenda approval and \*2. Approval of SY 2016-17 Revised Graduation Schedule for Onate High School and Mayfield High School were approved earlier in the evening.*

D. *Finance*

- \*2. *Approval of Property Dispositions, \*3. Approval of Vendor Payments, and \*4. Approval of Bids were approved earlier in evening.*

1. *Approval of Budget Adjustments*

Sra. Flores spoke about the money the district is having to return to the PED. She stated she could not believe how much money was effected- more than \$12,000,000 in total. She expressed the state's deficit is not on the district or the students, and that instead of keeping money we need for our schools, we are having to send it back. She shared she is upset and bothered and only complies under protest.

5. *Board Financial Report*

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

E. *Operations*

1. *Construction Projects Update*

Gloria Martinez presented the report the current construction throughout the district. Timelines for projects were discussed. There were no questions or comments.

2. *Community Schools Update*

Gabe Jacquez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, provided an update on Lynn Community School. He advised that the Lynn Community Schools stakeholder group interviewed and selected a coordinator, Ms. Vanessa Mendez. This position is funded by a 21st Century Grant through NMSU and NGAGE New Mexico. Mr. Jacquez states the City Council and the Mayor have approved an agreement and seed money funding for afterschool meals at Lynn Middle School. He is

working alongside Nutrition Services and Community Schools leadership to work out logistics for a pilot program this spring. He will return to the Board with a proposal and the agreement in February. Mr. Jacquez briefly thanked Mary Parr-Sanchez and David Greenburg for their work on securing a grant through NEA to fund the hiring of a community school facilitator and extra resources for Lynn Middle School and future community schools. He stated the City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department has been working with Lynn and our community schools effort to begin an afterschool program to support students. The Community Schools Leadership Retreat will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at the LCPS Operations Annex. A ribbon cutting for Lynn Community School will take place Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lynn Gym. Community Schools Town Hall meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Lynn Library following the ribbon cutting.

Mary Parr-Sanchez spoke to the importance of the Community Schools initiative and the partnerships being formed within the community. She states that additional funding for a coordinator is being provided to the district and it will be brought before the Board at the February Regular Board Meeting.

## V. Board Items

### A. *New Business*

#### 1. *Discussion and Adoption of Revised Las Cruces Public Schools Memorial for Presentation to the New Mexico Legislature*

Sra. Flores stated they have made a change in the title of the memorial from “Gun Safety” to “Gun Prevention”. Additionally, they will be asking the Senate to carry the memorial instead of being carried jointly. Finally, verbiage to address the increased rate of suicide and homicide has also been included. She advised that the SAC will be conducting the lobbying the legislature. Mr. Castro spoke in support of the resolution and the language regarding the National Rifle Association and the language regarding the Second Amendment. Mr. Maury Castro made a motion to adopt the revised Las Cruces Public Schools Memorial for presentation to the New Mexico Legislature; it was seconded by Mr. Chuck Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 2. *First Reading of Policy EJA Acceptable Use of Technology Resources* This item was removed from the agenda earlier in the evening.

#### 3. *First Reading of Policy JICFB Bullying, Cyberbullying, Intimidation and Hostile or Offensive Conduct*

Jo Galvan, Chief Communications Officer, presented the first reading of Policy JICFB Bullying, Cyberbullying, Intimidation and Hostile or Offensive Conduct. She advised the policy was last reviewed in 2013; however, in order to continue to receiving E-Rate funding (a grant from the Federal Communications Commission) a reference to the Children’s Internet Protection Act must be included. She advised the policy will be

brought forward for two more meetings before approval. Sra. Flores recommended adding language with website information and applications be included in the policy. There were no questions or comments.

4. *Discussion Regarding New Policy for Student Advisory Council*

A brief discussion ensued regarding policy development for the inclusiveness of the Student Advisory Council. The Board requested a policy draft be created and presented at the next meeting.

5. *Discussion on Superintendent's Evaluation*

Sra. Flores shared the requirements of the Board under LCPS policy to do a timeline for the Superintendent's Evaluation within 60 days of the date of hire. She advised a subcommittee must be appointed to evaluate the current tool and make recommendations. Superintendent goals and criteria will be reviewed and approved at the February board meeting. In June, a mid-year performance evaluation is conducted in Closed Executive Session, and in January 2018 the final evaluation is conducted. Sra. Flores would like the evaluation tool to be kept simple and adapted to the newly appointed Superintendent. A Special Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 24, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. to solidify the subcommittee.

B. *Old Business*

1. *Second Reading of Policy GCQ Separation from Employment*

Sean Barham, Coordinator for Human Resource Development, stated there has been no public comment since the first reading. The policy will be brought forward for approval in February.

**VII. Board Member Business**

1. *Board Member Reports*

Ms. Hall reported that she attended the LCPS Foundation Meeting.

Sra. Flores reported her attendance at the Legislative Breakfast in December. She also visited Tombaugh Elementary School. In closing, she reminded community members to vote for the school board election on February 7, 2017.

2. *Calendar of Events*

Sra. Flores advised Board Members that a calendar of events was placed in their folders.

**VIII. Adjournment – President Maria A. Flores**

Mr. Chuck Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Ms. Barbara Hall. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

*—Minutes taken by Rebecca Archuleta*