



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education  
Special Meeting (Work Session)  
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 • 4:00 p.m.  
LCPS Administration Building, Board Room**

**I. Introduction**

A. *Call to Order*

Sra. Maria A. Flores called the meeting to order 4:07 p.m

B. *Roll Call*

Roll call was taken by Sra. Flores. Those present:

- Sra. Maria A. Flores, President
- Mr. Maury Castro, Member
- Mrs. Terrie Dallman, Member
- Mr. Ed Frank, Member
- Mr. Ray Jaramillo, Member

Dr. Gregory Ewing, Superintendent, was also in attendance.

C. *Welcome Student Advisor*

Sra. Flores welcome the Student Advisory Council (SAC) member, Cameron of Centennial High School, to the meeting.

D. *Approval of Agenda*

Sra. Flores entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Castro, and seconded by Mr. Frank. It was approved unanimously.

E. *Report on Closed Executive Session of March 7, 2017*

Sra. Flores reported the board met in closed executive session on March 7, 2017 from 3:50 p.m. to 3:56 p.m. to discuss Limited Personnel Matters as Permitted under Section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, specifically so the Superintendent can update the Board regarding termination of a classified employee by the Superintendent, and consideration of complaints or charges against a certified employee. No other matters were discussed, and no action was taken.

Sra. Flores took a Personal Point of Privilege to welcome new board members to the meeting. She also requested kind thoughts be sent to Mr. Chuck Davis as he has been ill in the hospital.

**II. Superintendent's Report**

A. *Superintendent's Update*

1. *Announcements*

Dr. Ewing took a moment to extend his well wishes to Mr. Davis and his family. He thanked Board of Education members for attending the New Mexico School Board Association Board Institute in Santa Fe, and stated he believed it to be a

productive event. He advised he had attended the a meeting of the Rio Grande Rotary Club, the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, and Mayfield High Schools live production of “Spamalot”. Additionally, he informed attendees that a response letter is going to be issued regarding the letter from the Secretary of Education and Deputy Secretary, which will be made available to staff.

2. *Budget Update*

Dr. Ewing advised attendees that discussion still continues in the Capitol of an additional five (5)% cut to the Las Cruces Public School (LCPS)’s Operational budget; which would be an reduction of \$8,870,234. He shared that Mrs. Crystal Valdez, Chief Financial Officer, was currently in Santa Fe meeting with legislators to discuss the dire impact this would have on the District. Mr. Frank commented on the ‘horrific’ nature of the budget. He lamented that additional budget impacts either result in jobs lost or programs cut. Dr. Ewing confirmed the District must examine all avenues to recoup finances. Sra. Flores noted that cuts to programs, even smaller programs, is a travesty. Ms. Dallman brought attention to other districts in the state that have moved to a four (4) day school week to save costs. Dr. Ewing confirmed that was being examined as an option along with a variety of other cost-saving pathways. Mr. Jaramillo stated passionate voices are needed in our public in direct response to the budget cuts that have great effect on students.

3. *NEA-LC/CSEC-LC Report*

Mr. Bruce Hartman, National Education Association (NEA)- Las Cruces President, encouraged the public to lobby legislators and spread through word of mouth that the state’s need to adopt a ‘moral’ budget. He also read several positive public responses regarding Superintendent Ewing and the Board of Education.

Mr. David Morales, teacher at Mayfield High School, expressed his thanks to NEA and LCPS for providing a space for him to conduct a presentation for staff regarding immigration information.

Mary Parr-Sanchez, NEA-LC, asked the Board of Education to develop and pass a Safe Zone Resolution to address the negative immigration situation currently facing students.

Lisa Winebaum, teacher at Vista Middle School, presented a student letter addressed to the President of the National Education Association, Ms. Lily Eskelsen Garcia.

Irma Valdespino, Classified School Employees Council- Las Cruces President, stated that what is occurring in New Mexico Legislation is horrific. She stated LCPS has never before seen such a time of ‘doom and gloom’. She formally requested a meeting with Dr. Ewing and Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Development, to formally discuss any reduction in force as classified staff feel they will be the first to be rified, but cuts cannot be sustained with increasing facility sized, and staff already feeling stretched too thin.

### III. Other Reports

#### A. Student Advisor Report

Cameron formally welcomed the new board members and expressed the SAC's positive outlook going forward. He shared the SAC had an opportunity to testify before the Senate Rules Committee in support of Senate Memorial 51, which examines the ways in which firearms are purchased and transferred within the State of New Mexico due to the high suicide rates currently affecting school aged children. He shared the Memorial has now passed the Senate Rules Committee as well as the Public Affairs Committee and will be proceeding forward to the Senate floor for voting. He expressed concern over the recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and current budget situation facing the District. Mr. Frank advised that input from the SAC is essential in decisions that must be made in the coming future.

#### B. Human Resources Development

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Development, provided a brief overview of the Human Resources hiring process and timeline. Dr. Ewing requested Executive Cabinet to begin looking at projections for next year in preparation for additional cuts.

#### C. Instruction

No items were presented or discussed.

#### D. Finance

No items were presented or discussed.

#### E. Operations

No items were presented or discussed.

### IV. Board Items

#### A. New Business

##### 1. Reorganization of Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Mr. Castro nominated Sra. Flores for President; it was seconded by Mr. Frank. No further nominations were brought forward. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Castro - aye, Mrs. Dallman - aye, Mr. Frank - aye, Mr. Jaramillo - aye, and Sra. Flores - aye. The vote was approved unanimously.

Mr. Castro nominated Mr. Frank for Vice President; it was seconded by Mrs. Dallman. No further nominations were brought forward. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Castro - aye, Mrs. Dallman - aye, Mr. Frank - aye, Mr. Jaramillo - aye, and Sra. Flores - aye. The vote was approved unanimously.

Mr. Castro nominated Mr. Jaramillo for Secretary; it was seconded by Mrs. Dallman. No further nominations were brought forward. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Castro - aye, Mrs. Dallman - aye, Mr. Frank - aye, Mr. Jaramillo - aye, and Sra. Flores - aye. The vote was approved unanimously.

##### 2. Appointment of Board Members to Committees by the Board President

Sra. Flores appointed Mr. Castro and Mr. Frank to the LCPS Finance Advisory Committee, the LCPS Finances Audit Committee, and the LCPS Finance Budget Committee. She appointed Mrs. Terrie Dallman to sit on the LCPS Foundation Committee; Mr. Ray Jaramillo to the Doña Ana Community College Committee

and herself to sit on the Doña Ana Community College Committee as well as the New Mexico School Board Association Committee.

3. *First Reading of Policy EJA Acceptable Use of Technology and Resources*

Mr. Matt Dawkins, Technical Infrastructure Manager, presented Policy EJA Acceptable Use of Technology and Resources to board members. He advised the policy had not been reviewed since 2006, and verbiage was moved from regulation into policy to limit the broad nature of the policy. There were no questions or comments.

4. *Exploration of Possible Plastic Paper Bag Fee in City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County*

Mr. Jaramillo introduced a discussion on a possible plastic and paper bag fee being implemented in the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County to garner feedback from other board members. If they are agreeable, he would like to request a convening of the LCPS Board of Education, Las Cruces City Council, and Doña Ana County Commission. He shared this would be a \$0.10 bag fee (paper or plastic) with \$0.01 going to businesses for administrative costs and \$0.09 would go to the City of Las Cruces' general account. There would be no charge to customers who supply their own bags. Sra. Flores stated she felt it is important to illicit feedback from local families and the community at large. Mrs. Dallman questioned the longevity of such a fee, and Mr. Jaramillo responded that it may not be a long-term solution but it is a 'win-win' for both the environment and community during a critical time. Mr. Castro and Mr. Frank agreed that this is a useful fee and proceeding with a discussion would be beneficial. Cameron stated the grocery bag fee is an incredibly interesting idea and he is pleased it was brought forward.

B. *Old Business*

No items were presented or discussed.

V. **Public Input**

There were no public comments made.

VI. **Adjournment**

Mr. Castro made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Ms. Dallman. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 5:33 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Rebecca Archuleta