



Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 • 6:30 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building, Board Room

I. Introduction

A. *Call to Order*

President Flores called the meeting to order 6:36 p.m.

B. *Roll Call*

Roll call was taken by Mr. Jaramillo. Those present:

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

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

C. *Welcome Student Advisor*

Sra. Flores welcomed the Student Advisory Council (SAC) member, Max from Centennial High School, to the meeting.

D. *Pledge of Allegiance*

Sra. Flores led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. *Performance*

Dr. Ewing welcomed Mason, student at Centennial High School, who performed a piece on viola as well as vocally for attendees.

F. *Approval of Minutes*

President Flores entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the November 15, 2016 Regular Meeting, the January 17, 2017 Closed Executive Session, and the January 17, 2017 Regular Meeting. Mr. Castro made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Jaramillo. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. *Approval of Agenda*

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

H. *Approval of Consent Agenda Items*

Items on the consent agenda include: V.C.1. Approval of Student Out-of-State Travel, V.D.1. Approval of Budget Adjustments, V.D.2. Approval of Property Dispositions, and V.D.3. Approval of Vendor Payments. Mrs. Dallman made a

motion to approve the consent agenda items, which was seconded by Mr. Frank. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Sra. Flores reported the board met in closed executive session on March 14, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:33 p.m. to discuss limited personnel matters, the hiring of a Chief Human Resource Officer, and communications with legal counsel regarding pending or threatened litigation; all of which are permissible under the state Open Meetings Act. No other matters were discussed and no action was taken in closed session.

II. Recognitions

1. *Cooperative Educational Services*

Mr. David Chavez, Director of Cooperative Education Services (CES), awarded a plaque to the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) for their continued patronage in purchasing over \$1 million worth of product from CES. Additionally, the CES Board awarded LCPS a service credit total \$13,467.30.

2. *Citizens Bank of Las Cruces Debit Card Program*

Mr. Tres Libby, Senior Vice President of Citizens Bank of Las Cruces, provided a brief overview of their partnership with LCPS. He shared that \$0.05 is donated to an individuals' selected school each time they use their debit card. A total of \$42,405 have been donated to the District to date. Additionally, a total \$150,249 in signs/marquees have been donated to LCPS as well. Mr. Eric Fraass, Principal of Mayfield High School, thanked Citizens Bank for their donations and stated they have applied their donations to the band and other school activities that are no longer supported through the Operational budget. Mr. Jed Hendee, Principal of Las Cruces High School, thanked Citizens Bank for their ongoing support of schools and shared students attended the Basketball Championship with the support of donations. He presented Mr. Libby with a basketball from the Championship as a token of appreciation. Sra. Flores commented how reaffirming it is to see the community pull together in support of education.

III. Public Input

Judy Humphreys, Co-Director of Soles for Soules, congratulated new board members on their recent election. She shared that Soles for Souls is sponsored by the Mesilla Park Community Church in partnership with the Las Cruces Public Schools. The partnership has been in place for the past seven (7) years and has provided over 5,000 pairs of shoes to elementary school children most in need. She invited the Board to attend their event on Saturday, April 1, 2017 where an additional 1,200 pairs of shoes will be provided to LCPS students.

Andre Gonzales, community member, thanked the Board of Education for their continued support of students. He urged the board to continue their current strides given the educational climate.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update

1. Announcements

Dr. Ewing shared a brief story about his meeting the father of a fallen soldier, and he requested a moment of silence for him. Dr. Ewing expressed pride in the Las Cruces High School Boys' Basketball Team for bringing home second at the state championships. He stated that, most importantly, they exhibited themselves as true sportsmen and citizens of Las Cruces, and made their city proud as well.

2. Budget Update

Dr. Ewing advised the New Mexico House and Senate are working on a joint bill that proposes no additional cuts to education. If that bill is signed by the Governor, the \$3.5 million reduction can be managed through attrition. He stated a Special Session is going to be held in either July or August to evaluate said budget. LCPS will present a very conservative budget and calendars in April in anticipation of said session. He stated he will continue to keep the board, administrators, and the public apprised of the process as it develops.

Dr. Ewing recognized the passing of Mr. Chuck Davis, long-standing LCPS Board of Education member, and asked for a moment of silence to be observed.

3. NEA-LC/CSEC-LC Report

Mr. Bruce Hartman, National Education Association (NEA)- Las Cruces President, expressed dismay over cuts being made to education. He urged community members who also believe cuts are negative to contact their local legislator as well as Governor Martinez' office. Additionally, he advised that Mr. Andrew Montoya was just hired by NEA as a Project Organizer who will work with educators with less than five (5) years of experience in the district.

Mrs. Mary Parr-Sanchez, NEA-LC, shared that LCPS recently hired Mr. David Greenberg as the Community School Coordinator. Mr. Greenberg was invited forward and stated he is well acquainted with the vision of the District and is excited to begin his work. He shared that Lynn Community School has begun assessing community needs as well as working with community members who wish to partner.

Mrs. Irma Valdespino, Classified School Employees Council- Las Cruces President, thanked Dr. Ewing for his continued transparency. She shared she is receiving concerned and anxious communications from employees regarding the current budget crisis. She shared hopes for the State and Governor to bring forward a dignified budget. Mrs. Valdespino then shared her history with Mr. Davis, stated he was not only a friend but a champion for education, and that he will remain in the hearts of many.

V. Other Reports

A. Student Advisor Report

Max welcomed new board members and addressed the passing of Mr. Davis. He shared that the SAC would appreciate having a voice in any future budget

discussions. He advised attendees that Senate Memorial 51 was passed and is now on the Senate floor.

B. *Human Resources Development*

1. *Certified/Classified Employee Report*

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Chief Human Resources Development Officer, provided the employment report for February 2017. There were no questions or comments. Dr. Ewing shared Dr. Marrufo will be moving into the Superintendent's Office, and recommended Dr. Miguel Serrano for the position of Chief Human Resources Development Officer.

C. *Instruction*

*Item No. *1 was approved earlier in the evening.*

2. *Approval of Head Start Continuation Grant SY 2017-2018*

Ms. Erlinda Martinez, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, welcomed Dr. Artiaga, Director of Head Start, for presentation. She welcomed Mr. Heriberto (Eddie) Torres, President of Policy Council, who shared he was appreciative and honored to be included in the process. Dr. Artiaga shared that the URSEA report was found to be in compliance in all areas. She stated they have an allocation of \$2,767,110 to service 413 low-income families. There were no questions or comments from board members. Mr. Castro made a motion to approve the Head Start Continuation Grant for SY 2017-2018; it was seconded by Mr. Frank. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Finance*

*Item Nos. *1, *2, and *3 were approved earlier in the evening.*

4. *Audit Report Ending June 30, 2016*

Mrs. Crystal Valdez, Chief Financial Officer, invited Sujana Bhandari, of The Moss Adams Accounting Firm, to speak telephonically. She thanked the District for allowing the firm to be a part of the LCPS audit process for the past seven (7) years. Final results of the audit ending June 30, 2016 was shared with the Board and Mrs. Valdez. She advised an audit on Title I and Perkins funding was cleared of any audit concerns. There were no questions or comments from the board.

5. *Board Financial Report*

Mrs. Valdez presented the Board Financial Report for February 2017. There were no questions or comments from board members.

6. *Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes*

Mrs. Valdez presented the Finance Advisory Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2017 meeting. There were no questions or comments.

E. *Operations*

1. *Approval of Temporary Easement with the City of Las Cruces for Installation of ADA Approved Ramp at J. Paul Taylor Academy*

Mr. Gabe Jacquez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, presented the temporary easement. There were no questions or comments by board members. Mr. Castro made a motion to approve the temporary easement with the City of Las Cruces; it was seconded by Mrs. Dallman. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Construction Projects Update*

Ms. Gloria Martinez, Director of Construction, provide the update on current construction projects throughout the district. There were no questions or comments.

VI. Board Items

A. *New Business*

1. *Discussion and Approval of Nomination for 2017 New Mexico School Board Association Excellence in Student Achievement Award*

Sra. Flores provided an overview of eligibility requirements for individuals to be nominated. She shared she would like to nominate Mr. Mike Milam for the invaluable services he has provided to the District. Max spoke to Mr. Milam's continued support and guidance in regards to the SAC, and credits the passing of Senate Memorial 51 to his expertise. Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to approve Mr. Mike Milam as LCPS' 2017 New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA) Excellence in Student Achievement nominee; it was seconded by Mrs. Dallman. The nomination passed unanimously.

2. *Discussion and Possible Action Regarding PED Communication to Superintendent and District Response*

Dr. Ewing shared he received a letter from the Public Education Department (PED) regarding the cancellation of a training program. He advised that requests have been made to PED to reschedule that training so that staff and students may participate. He reiterated the District's desire to work with PED. Mr. Frank questioned the response to PED's communication. Dr. Ewing stated it is his role to reach out to PED and resolve issues as well as continue to work with principals, teachers, and programs. He stated that if a response is received, it will be shared with the Board.

3. *Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Pending Litigation, specifically Mary Noble v. Board of Education for Las Cruces Public Schools, New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority and Orlando Paz, Defendants; CV-201601241*

Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to delegate the Superintendent authority in the case; it was seconded by Mr. Frank. The motion passed unanimously.

4. *2017 New Mexico School Board Association Scholarship Program Nomination Discussion*

Sra. Flores shared nominees for the Board's consideration are due to Ms. Tina Gonzalez, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, no later than April 7, 2017 for the Board's consideration and selection at the Regular School Board

Meeting which scheduled for April 18, 2017. Final nominees are due to NMSBA by the Board of Education no later than April 28, 2017.

5. *Second Reading of Policy EJA Acceptable Use of Technology Resources*
Mr. Matt Dawkins, Technical Infrastructure Manager, presented Policy EJA Acceptable Use of Technology and Resources to board members. He advised there has been no public comment to date. There were no questions or comments from board members.
6. *First Reading of Policy BDE Board Committees*
Mrs. Jo Galvan, Chief Communications Officer, presented the first reading of Policy BDE Board Committees. She advised the policy was last revised in 2008 and contains new language regarding the Board's Finance Advisory Committee and Audit Committee. Ms. Galvan recommends bringing this forward for two (2) readings before approval, which Sra. Flores agreed. There were no questions or comments.
7. *First Reading of Policy DJ Procurements*
Mr. Will Manning, Director of Purchasing, presented the first reading of Policy DJA Approval of Procurements. He advised the updates to the policy is to remain in compliance with change in state law and regulations imposed by the State Procurement Office. There were no questions or comments.
8. *First Reading of Policy DJA Approval of Procurements*
Mr. Manning presented the first reading of Policy DJA Approval of Procurements. He advised the basis of the Policy is to outline the involvement of the School Board regarding recommendations put forth by the Board's Finance Advisory Committee. Ms. Elena Gallegos, of Walsh Gallegos, advised there has been an ongoing partnership in examining the Board's role in procurement processes. Ms. Galvan advised Positions IV.A.3-6 are to be removed from the policy prior to the second reading. Additionally, Position IV.A.7.f. will be revised and annumerated as IV.A.8. for clarification. There were no additional questions or comments.
9. *First Reading of Policy DJB Procurement of Professional Services*
Mr. Manning presented the first reading of Policy DJB Procurement of Professional Services. He shared Policy DJB is a new policy that was written primarily by the School Board's legal counsel. The basis of the policy is to recognize that the Board of Education has the authority to contract for the expenditure of money per the provisions of the Procurement Code [13-1-28 through 13-1-199 NMSA 1978] and may participate in certain procurement processes if involvement is not prohibited by the Government Conduct Act [10-16-1 NMSA 1978]. Sra. Flores recommended the policy come forward for two (2) readings prior to approval. There were no additional questions or comments.

B. *Old Business*

No items were presented or discussed.

VII. Board Member Business

1. Board Member Reports

Mrs. Dallman shared she attended and Institute on Racial Justice in Education. She expressed the need for patience, love, and kindness in our lives.

Mr. Frank spoke regarding the passing of Mr. Davis, sharing that he never gave up and faced issues courageously, and that his memory will continue to inspire future decisions.

Mr. Jaramillo mentioned that he has held a few meetings regarding the plastic bag fee, and he would like to provide an update at the next meeting. Additionally, he shared he attended the basketball championship over the weekend. He stated there is much to be learned from winning, but just as much to be learned from losing. He is proud of our students in how they handled the losses in basketball. He also spoke to the passing of Mr. Davis; stating he often watched and listened to Chuck on the dais, and he hopes to follow in his footsteps. His thoughts are with his wife, Helen, at this time.

Mr. Castro lamented the loss of Mr. Davis. He shared he often gave him guidance and he hopes to be a better board member for learning from him.

Sra. Flores shared that board members attended the NMSBA conference in Santa Fe, and her favorite moment was standing alongside SAC members who presented a Board Memorial on Gun Violence Prevention. She shared the memorial passed and is scheduled to go to the Senate Floor. She thanked Mrs. Wendi Hammond and Mr. Mike Milam for their continued work with the SAC. Additionally, she attended a presentation about voting from ENLACE students at Mayfield High School as well as the final meeting of the Bus Task Force. In closing, she recalled that Mr. Davis told fellow board members “I love you” at his last meeting, and she wished for him to know they love him too.

2. Calendar of Events

A calendar of events was given to each board member. There were no questions or comments.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Frank made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Castro. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 8:39 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Rebecca Archuleta