



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

I. Introduction

A. *Call to Order*

Vice President Frank called the meeting to order 3:59 p.m

B. *Roll Call*

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

- Mr. Ed Frank, Vice President
- Mr. Ray Jaramillo, Secretary
- Mrs. Terrie Dallman, Member

Sra. Maria A. Flores, President, appeared telephonically. Maury Castro, Member, was absent. Dr. Gregory Ewing, Superintendent, was also in attendance.

C. *Welcome Student Advisor*

Mr. Frank welcomed the Student Advisory Council (SAC) member, Hailee of Arrowhead Park Early College High School (APECHS), to the meeting.

D. *Approval of Agenda*

Mr. Frank entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Jaramillo, and seconded by Mrs. Dallman. It was approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Frank reported the board met in closed executive session on March 7, 2017 from 3:31 p.m. to 3:52 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 to discuss communications with legal counsel regarding pending or threatened litigation specifically related to a copyright infringement matter as permitted under Section 10-15-1(H)(7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. No other matters were discussed, and no action was taken.

II. Superintendent's Report

A. *Superintendent's Update*

1. *Announcements*

Dr. Ewing invited Mr. Cris Balzano, of Balzano Business & Government Relations LLC., provided a report on the legislative efforts being made in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He advised a packet was provided to board members detailing the progress being made on Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) items as well as the legislative bills being closely followed by board request. Mr. Frank questioned when the date for the Legislative Special Session would be set. Mr. Balzano advised the deadline

is Friday, April 7th, so he expects to hear within the following two (2) weeks. Dr. Ewing, Mrs. Dallman, and Mr. Jaramillo thanked Mr. Balzano for his continued work and dedication on behalf of LCPS. There were no further questions or comments.

Dr. Ewing shared a letter received by Secretary Hanna Skandera regarding pay raises to district employees. He thanked his staff for the work they do and reiterated his support of these raises. Dr. Ewing then shared LCPS' response to Secretary Skandera. He advised he will keep the board and community apprised of any further correspondences.

2. *Budget Update*

Dr. Ewing advised the audience that Governor Martinez is currently in possession of several bills pertaining to educational funding which affects the budget planning for fiscal year 2018. He recommended, in preparation for possible future budget cuts, a total reduction of \$1.5 million from Central Office salaries through reorganization, and advised that 21 teaching positions are also being withheld from school allotments. Additionally, he stated all Central Office staff, regardless of position, will be required to substitute teach three (3) days during school year 2017-2018 to reduce costs associated to substitute teacher compensation. In closing, he expressed his continued dedication to opening schools on the first day of class, to ensuring staff salaries remain consistent, and that no furlough days will be enacted.

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

Ms. Irma Valdespino, Classified School Employees Council (CSEC)- Las Cruces President, thanked Dr. Ewing for his transparency and his continued support of LCPS staff and students. She briefly welcomed Dr. Miguel Serrano and wished Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo well in her new position. She advised she previously met with Mr. Gabe Jacquez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, regarding possible improvements to current communication practices with principals and administrators. She also formally requested an extensive training be held for all employees over both the CSEC and NEA collective bargaining agreements.

Mr. Bruce Hartman, National Education Association (NEA)- Las Cruces President, expressed his support of Dr. Ewing and the Board of Education on their current path forward. He advised that in the past three (3) months staff morale, appreciation, and recognition have all made vast improvements. He thanked Dr. Ewing and the board for preparing a resolution addressing immigrant students access to a LCPS education. Mr. Hartman stated he continues to receive feedback about the need for quality professional development.

Amy Simpson, NEA member, spoke to issues regarding the budget. She shared an analysis conducted by NEA on current student enrollment compared to actual staffing totals. Ms. Simpson stated she is aware the budget is currently being examined, and she urged those involved to be cognizant of previous staff reductions when examining any future decreases.

4. *Chief Strategy Officer*

Dr. Elizabeth Marrufo, Chief Strategy Officer, shared the specifics of her new role as development and implementation of improvement initiatives while working closely alongside AdvancED throughout the district-wide accreditation process. Dr.

Ewing advised that strategic plans are needed within each of our school sites as well as at Central Administration to meet district accreditation guidelines. There were no questions or comments.

5. *Blue Ribbon Application Discussion*

Ms. Jennifer Amis, Principal of Arrowhead Park Early College High School, shared that the school site had been invited by the New Mexico PED to complete the Blue Ribbon application. She advised only three schools in the entire state have been invited to apply. The National Blue Ribbon title affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students can master challenging content. Ms. Amis stated the application had been submitted with the approval of Dr. Ewing and President Flores, that it had been accepted, and a winner would be announced in late September.

6. *Summer Hours Work Schedule*

Dr. Ewing advised attendees of changes in summer work hours in order to save costs throughout the district. He explained the schedule will begin Monday, June 5, 2017 and will end Friday, July 28, 2017 with the exception of July 3-7, 2017. Employees have three (3) scheduling options available to them during this time: (1) 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, with a 30-minute lunch, and Fridays off; (2) 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, with a 30-minute lunch, and Fridays off; or (3) 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, + two (2) hours of annual leave taken daily for a total of eight (8) hours, with a one (1) hour lunch, and Fridays off. There were no questions or comments.

7. *Proposal on Ethnic Studies*

Dr. Nicholas Natividad, of the New Mexico State University Criminal Justice Department, presented a proposal on the implementation on Ethnic Studies and its importance. He stated that Ethnic Studies is not about the heroes and holidays of ethnic communities, simply celebrated for a moment than passed over the remainder of the year, nor is it about the victimization of those individuals, instead it is about empowerment. Dr. Dulcinea Lara, also of the New Mexico State University Criminal Justice Department, shared that Ethnic Studies is not solely for minorities as it re-centers identity through critical inter-disciplinary study of global philosophy on race, ethnicity, indigeneity with emphasis on the social construction of race and dehumanizing practices.

III. Other Reports

A. *Student Advisor Report*

Hailee thanked the Superintendent and Board of Education for their continued support in hearing the student voice.

B. *Human Resources Development*

Dr. Miguel Serrano, Chief Human Resources Officer, shared his excitement in joining the Las Cruces Public Schools. He shared he had already met with his department as well as the administrative team, and advised the Human Resources Department will have a new focus on customer service.

C. *Instruction*

1. *Discussion on the Completion of JFB-R Open Enrollment Regulation Selection Process*

Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, Director of High School Instruction, presented to the board on the JFB-R Open Enrollment Regulation Selection Process and advised that the window was closed on March 1, 2017. Dr. Miller-Tomlinson advised that 90 students are pending approval/denial for transfers to Las Cruces High School. Dr. Ewing advised he has the authority to approve or deny the remaining 90 applications; however, he would like to engage the Board of Education in a discussion on the matter. Mrs. Dallman advised she feels providing the remaining students a denial and being firm in that in the future is important. Mr. Jaramillo stated he believes the policy to be sound and as such should be followed as it stands. Mr. Frank vocalized his agreement with Ms. Dallman and Mr. Jaramillo. There were no further questions or comments.

2. *Discussion on Coding of Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy Under One Public Education Department School Code*

Ms. Erlinda Martinez, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, shared that PED school codes are used for reporting purposes and Arrowhead Park's Early College High School (ECHS) and Medical Academy (MA) codes are currently split. Ms. Amis expressed her concerns on current credit transference issues and building a master schedule for two separate school sites. Students in attendance expressed their support of combining the two schools into one code. Mr. Jaramillo questioned what occurs retroactively for students who have already completed coursework with the sites under separate codes. Ms. Martinez advised there would be little difference to transcripts as all classes are transferrable within district. Ms. Amis advised transcripts currently appear scattered for students as the MA and ECHS portions are listed separately. Mrs. Dallman inquired if there would be any reason why this action should not be completed, and Dr. Ewing advised there are no reasons at this point the decision should be declined. There were no further questions or comments.

3. *Eight (8) Period Day Notification*

Ms. Martinez advised the board a survey had been administered to community members and high school staff regarding the possibility of moving from an eight period day to a seven period day. She stated the response was overwhelmingly supportive of remaining at the eight period day for the upcoming year, so they will proceed with scheduling for the 2017-2018 school year. There were no questions or comments.

D. *Finance*

No items were presented or discussed.

E. *Operations*

1. *Las Cruces High School Phase II Construction Project Update*

Ms. Gloria Martinez presented a report on the Phase II Construction at Las Cruces High School. There were no questions or comments.

F. *Technology & Research*

No items were presented or discussed.

IV. Board Items

A. *New Business*

1. *Discussion of Resolution Ensuring Immigrant Student Access to the Full Benefits of a Las Cruces Public Schools Education*

Ms. Elena Gallegos, of Walsh Gallegos, presented the Resolution Ensuring Immigrant Student Access to the Full Benefits of a LCPS Education. She advised that the primary anchors utilized within the resolution are *Plyer v. Doe* as well as the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) policies. Mr. Frank inquired about the use of the word “chill” under “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED”. Ms. Gallegos advised the use of “chill” is common in legal verbiage to indicate a form of inhibition; however, “inhibit” would be an appropriate substitution in lieu of “chill”. She advised that change would be processed and the resolution will be brought forward for approval at the April 18, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

2. *First Reading of Policy JB Access to Education and Protections for Immigrant Students*

Ms. Gallegos presented the first reading of Policy JB Access to Education and Protections for Immigrant Students. There were no questions or comments.

3. *First Reading of Policy EB Safety Program*

Mr. Gabe Jacquez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, presented the first reading of Policy EB Safety Program. There were no questions or comments.

4. *First Reading of Policy EBAB Environmental Program and Hazardous Materials*

Mr. Gabe Jacquez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, presented the first reading of Policy EBAB Environmental Program and Hazardous Materials. There were no questions or comments.

Mr. John Hamilton, community member, advised the board this policy is only the first step in a process. He stated a conversation should take place regarding the nature of the pesticides that are currently being utilized, the role they will play in any future program, and how we will characterize the health impact on children and staff.

Mr. Richard Fagerlund, community member, expressed the importance of protecting children from Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as it should not be the primary source of pest control. He urged the district to be more thorough in the documentation of pest control methods being utilized, but stated he feels LCPS is now headed in the right direction.

5. *Discussion of Possible Board Retreat on Friday, April 21, 2017 Regarding Head Start Training*

Dr. Ewing opened a discussion with board members on a possible Board Retreat to take place Friday, April 21, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. regarding a mandatory Head Start training. Sra. Flores, Mr. Frank, Mr. Jaramillo, and Mrs. Dallman stated that date and time would be acceptable.

B. Old Business

1. *Update on Possible Plastic or Paper Bag Fee in City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County*

Mr. Jaramillo advised the charge would be approximately \$0.10. He stated \$0.09 would go directly to the City of Las Cruces and the remaining \$0.01 would go to the businesses for administrative costs. Mr. Jaramillo shared he had already spoken to the Green Chamber of Commerce, the management at Albertsons, City Council members, local business owners, the owner of Las Cruces Moms Facebook page, and many community members. He shared there has been an overwhelming response in favor of this proposal. Mr. Jaramillo stated there had been questions posed as to how the funds would be transferred to the district, which he thought may be appropriate through a grant. Dr. Ewing requested Ms. Valdez and legal counsel begin researching the issue. Mr. Jaramillo shared there was also concern expressed over this being a new tax, however, he states this is an environmental fee and is an option. An individual can not only save money but help the environment by utilizing re-usable bags.

2. *Second Reading of Policy DJ Procurements*

Mrs. Crystal Valdez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the second reading of Policy DJ Procurements. She advised the proposed changes are to bring the current policy into compliance with changes in state law and regulations imposed by the State Procurement Office. There were no questions or comments.

3. *Second Reading of Policy DJA Approval of Procurements*

Mrs. Valdez presented the second reading of Policy DJA Approval of Procurements. She stated the basis of the policy is to outline the involvement of the board in the procurement approval process with regard to recommendations put forth by the Board's Finance Advisory Committee. The Position section outlines the actions that the Board can take based on procurement recommendations from the Finance Committee.

4. *Second Reading of DJB Procurement of Professional Services*

Mrs. Valdez presented the second reading of Policy DJB Procurement of Professional Services. She advised attendees 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 School Board has the authority to contract for the expenditure of money according to 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].

V. Public Input

Beverly Whygles, a teacher at Las Cruces High School, shared her previous frustration with the direction education was headed and that she had lost the enjoyment of teaching. She shared that Dr. Ewing urging teachers to return to the joy of teaching truly motivated her to bring passion back into her teaching. She expressed her thanks and gratitude.

VI. Adjournment

Mrs. Dallman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Jaramillo. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 6:35 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Rebecca Archuleta