



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2017 • 6:30 p.m.**  
**LCPS Administration Building, Board Room**

**I. Introduction**

A. *Call to Order*

President Flores called the meeting to order 6:32 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
- Mr. Maury Castro, Member
- Mrs. Terrie Dallman, Member

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

C. *Welcome Student Advisor*

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

D. *Pledge of Allegiance*

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

E. *Performance*

Dr. Ewing apologized as there was difficulty with the performance and it would not be proceeding.

F. *Approval of Minutes*

President Flores entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the February 7, 2017 Closed Executive Session, the February 7, 2017 Special Meeting (Work Session), and the February 21, 2017 Closed Executive Session. Mr. Castro made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Jaramillo. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. *Approval of Agenda*

Dr. Ewing requested the removal of item V.C.2. Approval on Coding of Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy Under One Public Education Department School Code from the agenda due to loss of funding. Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to remove V.C.2. Approval on Coding of Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy Under One Public Education Department School Code from the

agenda; it was seconded by Mr. Castro. The motion was approved unanimously. Sra. Flores entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was made by Mr. Frank, and seconded by Mrs. Dallman. 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, V.D.3. Approval of Vendor Payments, V.E.1. Nutrition Services 2017 Summer Food Service Program Contract, VI.B.1. Second Reading and Approval of Policy BDE Board Committees, VI.B.2. Third Reading and Approval of Policy EJA Acceptable Use of Technology Resources, VI.B.3. Third Reading and Approval of Policy DJ Procurements, VI.B.4. Third Reading and Approval of Policy DJA Approval of Procurements, and VI.B.5. Third Reading and Approval of Policy DJB Procurement of Professional Services. Mr. Jaramillo 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 April 18, 2017*

Sra. Flores reported the board met in closed executive session on April 18, 2017 from 6:01 p.m. to 6:31 p.m. to discuss limited personnel matters, specifically so the Superintendent can update the board regarding investigations of certified and classified employees; 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. *2017 Student Television Network National Champions*

Mr. Michael Montoya, Principal of Centennial High School (CHS), spoke to the hard work and effort put in by each student and member of his staff. He advised 40 kids attended the Student Television Network (STN) National Competition in Anaheim, California where they were named the champions. A brief clip was played for the audience from Centennial Student News' winning piece.

2. *2017 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America State Championship (FCCLA)*

Ms. Carleigh Salmon, CHS FCCLA Coach, shared Centennial was awarded the Championship Banner based on total student attendance, overall points awarded during competition, and the increase in student participation at FCCLA during that school year.

3. *2017 State Orchestra Championship*

Mr. Montoya shared with the audience that this is the fourth consecutive year in which CHS Orchestra has been awarded the championship. Mr. Daniel Rivera, Director of CHS Symphonic Orchestra, shared that several members of the symphonic orchestra are also members of the band, and he expressed his gratitude to their director, Mr. Ramos.

4. *2017 State Spirit Championship*

Mr. Gabe Ortiz, Head Coach of Las Cruces High School Co-ed Cheer, introduced his team and congratulated them on winning the 2017 Co-ed Cheer State Spirit Championship. He shared the team has had much success winning five out of the past six Co-ed Cheer State Championships. Ms. Amberlee Jeantette, Head Coach of Mayfield High School All Girls Cheer, introduced her team and congratulated them on winning the 2017 All Girl Cheer State Spirit Championship. She advised that this is the first All Girl Championship they have won in five years as well as the team was awarded the highest score in the state.

5. *Vex IQ State Championship*

Mr. Brian Claar, White Sands Schools Robotics Team Coach, introduced his team and shared that the White Sands Robotics Team not only won the State Championship but received the Excellence Award, Design Award, and four (4) other awards as well. He advised they will be attending the World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky for four days. There will be 800 teams and approximately 20,000 people in attendance.

6. *LCPS English and Spanish District Spelling Bee Winners*

Dr. Ewing introduced Emily, an eighth-grade student at Lynn Middle School, who won the LCPS English District Spelling Bee with the word “Obligation”; and Danna, a fifth-grade student at Hermosa Heights, who won the LCPS Spanish District Spelling Bee with the word “Peldaño”.

**III. Public Input**

Ms. Mary E. Garcia, teacher at Central Elementary, shared she is finalizing her 32nd year with LCPS and will be retiring in May. She thanked the School Board and Superintendent Dr. Ewing for their continued support. She is grateful for their work within this community. Dr. Ewing thanked her for her dedicated service.

**IV. Superintendent’s Report**

A. *Superintendent’s Update*

1. *Announcements*

Dr. Ewing requested a moment of silence for the loss of Jonah, a first-grade student at Valley View Elementary. He then advised attendees he will present his 90 Day Plan at the May 2, 2017 Special Meeting (Work Session), and reminded board members of the April 21, 2017 Board Retreat.

2. *Budget Update*

Dr. Ewing advised the budget is continuing to be monitored and budget recommendations will be brought forward to the board in May. He advised this will be a conservative budget with approximately \$1.8 million in staffing reductions from Central Office. He also shared the spending and hiring freeze previously enacted allowed the District to retain funds that would not have been saved in previous years. In closing, he stated that \$3.5 million initially being examined for return to the Public Education Department will remain within LCPS financial accounts.

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

Ms. Irma Valdespino, Classified School Employees Council (CSEC)- Las Cruces President, shared that professional development is vital to all staff members, not solely educators. She requested more professional development opportunities be presented for Educational Assistance to custodial staff alike. She recommended a survey be administered to gauge the areas staff most wish to receive said training.

Mr. Bruce Hartman, National Education Association (NEA)- Las Cruces President, expressed his support for the progressive stance being taken by Superintendent Dr. Ewing and the Board of Education on immigrant issues.

4. *Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding Between Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Dona Ana Community College*

Dr. Ewing shared that when the partnership between LCPS and Dona Ana Community College (DACC) initially began students were placed into empty seats in established classes; however, participation numbers have grown so vast that whole sections are being created and held specifically for LCPS students. The DACC can no longer support and maintain those additional courses with their sustained funding cuts. Dr. Ewing expressed his plans to continue offering Dual Credit courses to students in the future. There were no questions or comments.

**V. Other Reports**

A. *Student Advisor Report*

Nathan expressed gratitude to Ms. Crystal Valdez, Chief Financial Officer, for updating the SAC on current budget as well as Dr. Ewing for his continued work. Nathan shared that Scott Krahling, Dona Ana County Clerk, is in the process of registering students at Onate High School who are 17 and older to vote. He also advised the SAC is working on updating their By-laws.

B. *Human Resources Development*

1. *Certified/Classified Employee Report*

Dr. Miguel Serrano, Chief Human Resources Development Officer, provided the employment report for March 2017. There were no questions or comments.

C. *Instruction*

*Item No. \*1 was approved and Item \*2 was removed from the agenda earlier in the evening.*

3. *Approval of SY 2017-2018 School Calendar*

Ms. Erlinda Martinez, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, presented the SY 2017-2018 school calendar based on the recommendations of the LCPS Calendar Committee. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Castro made a motion to approve the calendar for SY 2017-2018; Mr. Frank seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. *Approval of SY 2017-2018 Arrowhead Park Early College High School Calendar*

Ms. Martinez presented the SY 2017-2018 Arrowhead Park Early College High School (APECHS) school calendar, which was designed to align with the New Mexico State University academic calendar. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to approved the SY 2017-2018 APECHS calendar; it was seconded by Mrs. Dallman. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Finance*

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

4. *Approval of Request for Proposal for Audit Services*

Mrs. Crystal Valdez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Finance Audit Committees request to award services for independent public accounting (IPA) to Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLP. There were no questions or comments from board members. Mr. Frank made a motion to approve the proposed audit services; it was seconded by Mr. Jaramillo. The motion passed unanimously.

5. *Approval of Budget Adjustments from SB-9 Funds*

Mrs. Valdez presented the Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) from SB-9 Funds. She advised the increase is due to an additional award of \$1,188,825; which will be used for equipment. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Castro made a motion to approve the budget adjustment; it was seconded by Mr. Frank. The motion passed unanimously.

6. *Adoption of Part-Time Employee Insurance Resolution*

Mrs. Valdez presented an annual resolution providing insurance coverage for part-time employees that are 0.5 FTE and working between 15 hours but less than 20 hours per week. She shared that without a resolution the District is unable to offer coverage to these employees. Mr. Frank requested clarification on “job-share participants”. Dr. Ewing advised he will work with the Human Resources and Finance departments to provide a response to Mr. Frank. Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to adopt the resolution; it was seconded by Mr. Castro. The adoption passed unanimously.

7. *Board Financial Report*

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

E. *Operations*

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

2. *Approval of Temporary Construction Easement with the City of Las Cruces for Installation of “No Parking” Signs with Curb Painting near Sonoma Elementary*

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.

3. *Approval of Construction Installation of New Elevator at Mayfield High School*

Mr. Jacquez presented on the possible construction of a new elevator at Mayfield High School. He advised the current elevator has become too much of a liability to continue further usage; however, it will be left in place in case of an emergency. Mr. Castro and Mr. Jaramillo both commented that they are pleased to see this project come forward. Mrs. Dallman made a motion to approve the construction installation of a new elevator at Mayfield High School; it was seconded by Mr. Castro. The motion passed unanimously.

4. *Approval of Purchase of New Dump Truck, Toro Mower, JCB Backhoe, and Dodge 5550 Bucket Truck Using SB-9 Funds for Physical Plant Department*

Mr. Jacquez presented on the possible purchasing of a new dump truck, Toro mower, JCB backhoe, and Dodge 5550 bucket truck for the Physical Plant Department (PPD) with SB-9 funds. He advised that these machines have been leased and rented in the past, however, it is more economical for the budget as well as productive for PPD staff to be able to utilize machines owned by the District. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Castro made a motion to approve the purchase of a new dump truck, Toro mower, JCB backhoe, and Dodge 5550 bucket truck for the PPD; it was seconded by Mrs. Dallman. The motion passed unanimously.

5. *2018 Bond Timeline Update and Board Appointment*

Mr. Jacquez presented on the 2018 Bond timeline and welcomed discussion on which board member wished to participate. Sra. Flores will sit on the 2018 Bond Advisory/Capital Outlay Committee herself.

6. *Construction Projects Update*

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

7. *Update on Lunch Price Increase*

Mr. Jacquez provided an update on lunch price increases in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) annual review requirements. There were no questions or comments.

F. *Technology & Research*

1. *Discussion of Transcript Charges*

Mr. Albert Vega, Chief Technology & Research Officer, presented on possible charges for student transcripts in the 2017-2018 school year. He shared that transcripts are currently provided free of charge to all, however, several districts around the state have already moved to a paid model; charging anywhere from \$5.00 to \$12.00. A brief discussion ensued regarding possible alternatives or special rates for current students. Dr. Ewing advised a presentation would be brought forward at a later date with further data.

**VI. Board Items**

A. *New Business*

1. *Discussion and Approval of 2017 New Mexico School Board Association Scholarship Program Nominations*

Sra. Flores shared an overview of each nominee for the 2017 New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA) Scholarship Program. Board members expressed their admiration for each of the candidates. Mrs. Dallman nominated Olivia, from Centennial High School, for the 2017 NMSBA Scholarship. A brief discussion ensued where remaining board members expressed their agreement in Olivia being the official nomination. Sra. Flores entertained a motion to approve Olivia as the 2017 New Mexico School Board Association Scholarship Program Nominee from the Las Cruces Public Schools. Mr. Frank made a motion to approve the nomination; it was seconded by Mr. Jaramillo. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Old Business*

*Item Nos. \*1, \*2, \*3, \*4, and \*5 were approved earlier in the evening.*

6. *Adoption of Resolution Ensuring Immigrant Student Access to the Full Benefits of a Las Cruces Public School Education*

Board Counsel Elena Gallegos, of Walsh Gallegos, presented the resolution and drew attention to the verbiage correction which was requested at the April 4, 2017 Special Meeting (Work Session). There were no additional questions or comments. Mr. Castro made a motion to adopt the Resolution Ensuring Immigrant Student Access to the Full Benefits of a Las Cruces Public School Education; it was seconded by Mr. Jaramillo. The motion was adopted unanimously.

7. *Second Reading and Approval of JB Access to Education and Protections for Immigrant Students*

Ms. Gallegos presented the second reading of Policy JB Access to Education and Protections for Immigrant Students. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to approve Policy JB Access to

Education; it was seconded by Mr. Castro. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. *Second Reading of Policy EB Safety Program*

Mr. Jacquez presented the second reading of Policy EB Safety Programs. He advised that no comments had been received by the public since the first reading, and he recommended the policy for approval at the May 16, 2017 Regular Board Meeting. There were no further questions or comments.

9. *Second Reading of Policy EBAB Environmental Programs and Hazardous Materials*

Mr. Jacquez presented the second reading of Policy EBAB Environmental Programs and Hazardous Materials. He advised public comment had been made on language in Position IV.B.3. that would be presented at the third reading of the policy. A brief discussion ensued on Integrated Pest Management practices. There were no additional questions or comments.

**VII. Board Member Business**

1. *Board Member Reports*

Mr. Frank reported that he attended the Parent Advisory Council last week. He expressed concern over students who received prestigious awards that require large expenses to travel and what the district can do to alleviate those issues. Ms. Valdez advised that public funding cannot be utilized for donation purposes; however, we can request the LCPS Foundation assist in these matters. Dr. Ewing advised that this discussion must be placed on agenda for further comment.

Mrs. Dallman shared information about the Institute for Parent Engagement program and advised that the program is having a graduation ceremony the following evening. She shared the need for volunteers at Comcast Care Day on Saturday April 22, 2017 and urged the community to volunteer. She shared she recently visited Central Elementary, felt the warmth and closeness of the family environment, and was moved to be back in a classroom. She invited the other board members to visit schools and get to know the students and staff. She expressed gratitude to the Mesilla Park Community Church for their Soles for Souls donation of nearly 1,200 pairs of shoes to students in need.

Mr. Jaramillo reported that he has had many families contact him regarding concerns or issues, and he has referred them to Mr. Jaime Calderon, Community Relations Coordinator. He expressed how satisfied these families are when they return to him, and how greatly his work is appreciated. He shared that the Board of Education sat for their school board photo this morning. In honor of the recently deceased Mr. Chuck Davis, he contacted Mrs. Helen Davis to inquire if he could wear one of his ties in the photo to commemorate him. He was moved when she gifted him his favorite tie, and shared with him that is also happened to be Mr. Davis' birthday.

Mr. Castro expressed that he has enjoyed working alongside our new board members.

Sra. Flores expressed thanks to Mr. Frank for conducting the April 4, 2017 Special Meeting (Work Session) on her behalf. She attended a forum on the State of Black New Mexico, and shared there were many concerns that were raised for her that she will follow-up on. She encouraged board members to attend events included on their calendars, and to share their plans with her to better ensure a wide variety of events are being attended. She wished the board to be present and celebrate alongside the community at those events.

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 Mrs. Dallman. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 9:02 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Rebecca Archuleta