



**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting/Public Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 16, 2017 • 6:30 p.m.
LCPS Administration Building, Board Room**

I. Introduction

A. *Call to Order*

President Flores called the meeting to order 6:39 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, Cameron from Centennial High School (CHS), to the meeting.

D. *Pledge of Allegiance*

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

E. *Performance*

Superintendent Ewing introduced the performers from Mayfield High School under the direction of Mr. Johnnie Lang.

F. *Approval of Minutes*

President Flores entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the March 3, 2017 Board Retreat, the March 7, 2017 Closed Executive Session, the March 7, 2017 Special Meeting (Work Session), the March 14, 2017 Closed Executive Session, the March 14, 2017 Regular Meeting, and the April 4, 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*

Sra. Flores entertained a motion to approve the agenda. 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.C.2. Approval of SY 2017-2018 Title I Application, V.C.3. Approval of SY 2017-2018 Bilingual Program Funding Application & Title III English Language Acquisition Funding Application, V.D.1. Approval of Budget Adjustments, V.D.2. Approval of Property Dispositions, V.D.3. Approval of Vendor Payments, VI.B.1. Third Reading and Approval of Policy EB Safety Program, VI.B.2. Third Reading and Approval of Policy EBAB Environmental Program and Hazardous Materials, VI.B.3. Second Reading and Approval of Policy EBCF Firearms and Weapons on School District Property. Mrs. Dallman made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, which was seconded by Mr. Castro. The motion was approved unanimously.

I. *Report on Closed Executive Session of May 16, 2017*

Sra. Flores reported the board met in closed executive session on May 16, 2017 from 5:28 p.m. to 6:35 p.m. to discuss limited personnel matters, specifically so the Superintendent can update the board regarding investigations of certified and classified employees as well as to inform the Board regarding specific employees impacted by the Superintendent’s reorganization; and communications with legal counsel regarding pending litigation, specifically a due process hearing complaint, DPH No. 1617-24; 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 New Mexico K-6 State Chess Championship*

Mr. Manuel Castillo, a staff member at Camino Real Middle School and USCF Certified Chess Coach, will be sharing exciting news about the Monte Vista Elementary Chess Students and their outstanding performance in the 2017 K-6 State Chess Championships

2. *2017 New Mexico School Board Association Excellence in Student Achievement Award*

Sra. Flores announced that Mr. Mike Milam had been awarded the 2017 New Mexico School Board Association Excellence in Student Achievement Award in Las Cruces for the invaluable services he has provided to the District and his continued dedication to the Student Advisory Council

3. *National Board Teaching Certification*

Ms. Jane Gurnea, Staff Development Specialist, presented Ms. Maggie Hornung with a certificate honoring her for earning her National Board Teaching Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

4. *Dr. Sandra K. Nakamura Professional Development Excellence Award*

Ms. Gurnea presented certificates honoring the recipients of the Dr. Sandra K. Nakamura Professional Development Excellence Award to:

- Ms. Bernadine Cotton, 2016 Elementary Winner
- Ms. Christina Parra, 2016 Middle School Winner
- Ms. Lisa McCullar, 2016 High School Winner

5. *Community Partnership Awards to the 2018 Las Cruces Public Schools Teacher of the Year Finalists*

Ms. Gurnea presented teacher of the year finalists Ms. Ashley Cartwright, Ms. Natalie Goodwin, Ms. Terri Stockberger, and Ms. Rosilyn Skibyak with individualized checks donated from community partners.

III. Public Input

Mary Lou Barrio, community member, spoke to issues regarding bullying of her daughter. She expressed dissatisfaction with processes that have taken place to resolve her issue. She urged for more to be done for students experiencing similar bullying situations. Dr. Ewing directed Ms. Tiffany Gomez, Director of Elementary Principals, to contact Ms. Barrio for resolution.

Andre Gonzales, previous SAC President and community member, thanked Ms. Barrio for sharing her story as he was also bullied while a student. He advised that he was attending as representative from Civic Duty New Mexico, a 501c(3) non-profit organization. He stated he had received many communications from public members who are concerned with state fine arts funding, which enrich students' curriculum and aids in their growth.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. *Superintendent's Update*

1. *Announcements*

Dr. Ewing had no announcements to share.

2. *Fine Arts and Athletic Program Update*

Dr. Ewing vocalized his support for all fine arts and athletic programs as well as the teachers who instruct those courses. He advised there is no plan to cut such funding. He shared that principals recently received hiring allocations, and Centennial High School specifically had 10 allotments more than what was consistent with the standardized hiring formula. As such, the principal, Mr. Michael Montoya, has had to examine the courses and programs that have less student enrollment when planning courses for the following school year.

3. *Budget Update*

Dr. Ewing advised they are still awaiting the Legislative Session regarding the budget to be scheduled in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He shared a conservative budget had been presented to the Board, which is contingent upon no further funding being returned from district accounts.

4. *Central Office Reorganization Plan*

Dr. Ewing shared he met with Executive Cabinet earlier in the day as well as briefing the Board of Education that evening in Closed Executive Session regarding eliminated and newly created positions. He advised attendees that naming of position recipients will be shared in June as some positions are simply title changes while others are positions open to applicants.

5. *Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with CSEC-LC Temporarily Expanding the Provisions of Article 6, Section E Due to Reorganization*
Dr. Ewing thanked Irma Valdespino, Classified School Employees Council (CSEC)- Las Cruces President, for approving the Memorandum of Agreement offering employment to Supervisors in eliminated positions. Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with CSEC-LC; it was seconded by Mr. Castro. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Valdespino shared she felt it was essential and ethical to offer employment to displaced individuals so as they were not simply let go from their employment. She thanked Sean Barham, Human Resources Coordinator, for his assistance in this matter.

Mr. Bruce Hartman, National Education Association (NEA)- Las Cruces President, shared he emailed Dr. Ewing's 90 Day Plan to certified staff and has received much positive feedback. He also vocalized NEA's support of Dr. Ewing's leadership.

Ms. Amy Simpson, NEA member, shared she has closely followed the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) budgets for several years, and the processes undertaken this year have been the most transparent than in past year. She commended Ms. Crystal Valdez, Mr. Edward Ellison, Mr. Gabe Jacques, and Ms. Connie Stewart for their hard work and generosity in keeping the public informed. She provided a written request from NEA-LC to quantify how many resources and hours are used to administer state assessments within the district.

V. Other Reports

A. *Student Advisor Report*

Cameron shared that six members of the SAC visited the Federal Reserve housed in El Paso, Texas with Dr. Ewing. He stated SAC members were both intimidated and fascinated. He advised that SAC recruitment has been in full-swing, and that they are looking for to the approval of Policy BDF and Regulation BDF-R Student Advisors to the Board and Superintendent. Finally, he stated an academic assembly had been held, which ultimately awarded \$1.5 million in scholarships to students from institutions across the nation. In closing, Cameron shared the Special Olympics are being hosted at CHS on May 17, 2017. Mr. Jaramillo congratulated Cameron on his election to Student Body President at CHS.

B. *Human Resources Development*

1. *Certified/Classified Employee Report*

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

C. *Instruction*

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

4. *Project Unify Presentation*

A video created by Sierra Middle School students highlighting Project Unify activities at their school site was shared with the audience.

D. *Finance*

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

4. *Approval of Las Cruces Public Schools SY 2017-2018 Budget*

Ms. Crystal Valdez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed LCPS SY 2017-2018 Budget. Sra. Flores thanked Ms. Valdez and her team for creating the budget in a timely manner and providing it to them in advance for review. Mr. Jaramillo questioned the consequence of approving a budget and then receiving another cut; Ms. Valdez advised that any additional changes would come before the board for approval as an addendum. Mr. Frank shared he had many questions regarding the budget, and Ms. Valdez graciously met with him privately for an hour to clarify his concerns. Mr. Castro made a motion to approve the LCPS SY 2017-2018 Budget as presented; it was seconded by Mrs. Dallman. A roll call vote was taken. Mrs. Dallman- yes, Mr. Castro- yes, Mr. Jaramillo- yes, Mr. Frank- yes, and Sra. Flores- yes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. *LCPS Third Quarter Report*

Mrs. Valdez presented the LCPS Third Quarter Report. There were no questions or comments.

6. *Board Financial Report*

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

7. *Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes*

Ms. Valdez presented the Finance Advisory Meeting Minutes from the May 11, 2017 meeting. There were no questions or comments.

E. *Operations*

No items were presented or discussed.

F. *Technology & Research*

No items were presented or discussed.

VI. Board Items

A. *New Business*

1. *First Reading of Policy ADF Wellness for Students and Staff*

Mr. Gabe Jacquez, Associate Superintendent of Operations, presented the first reading of Policy ADF Wellness for Students and Staff. He advised the policy had not been updated since 2014, and updates were included to reflect United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements. Sra. Flores

stated there is no mention of the ninth-grade state required health course, and she feels it would add validity to the policy. There were no additional questions or comments.

2. *First Reading of Policy JIJ Student Nutrition*

Mr. Jacquez presented the first reading of Policy JIJ Student Nutrition. He advised the policy had not been updated since 2014, and updates were included to reflect United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements. Mrs. Dallman questioned the impact of policy on federal rollback requirements. Mr. Jacquez shared they are basing the policy off the 2016 memorandum, but the new rollback requirements will be examined. Mr. Castro questioned III.A.1.'s use of "Smart Snacks" terminology, and Ms. Barbara Berger advised the federal government has deemed their health requirements "Smart Snack Requirements". She also shared the previous policy stated regulations will be followed, but it does not list the explicit requirements, so any rollback changes would be covered under this terminology. There were no further questions or comments.

3. *First Reading of Policy EFE Competitive Food Sales and Vending Machines*

Mr. Jacquez presented the first reading of Policy EFE Competitive Food Sales and Vending Machines. He advised the policy was developed in 2016, and updates were included to reflect United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements. Mrs. Dallman questioned the sale of assorted chips and various snack items during the lunch hour. Mr. Jacquez advised that conversations have been held with principals to outline guidelines on what can be sold on campuses and at what times that is acceptable. There were no further questions or comments.

4. *First Reading of Policy EFD Meal Applications, Prices, and Charges*

Mr. Jacquez presented the first reading of Policy EFD Meal Applications, Prices, and Charges. He advised this is a new policy based on committee feedback. Mr. Jacquez advised comments had been shared from legal counsel that will be present for the second reading. He also spoke to federal regulations prohibiting Operational funds being used to pay student charge account. Mr. Castro questioned how big of an issue the charged accounts are for the district, and Mr. Jacquez advised they currently have \$8,000 worth of unpaid charges in accounts. Mrs. Dallman requested that IV.D.2. specify all homeless students are to receive a meal, not only in elementary school, but also in secondary schools as well. There were no additional questions or comments.

5. *Rubric for Superintendent's Evaluation*

Sra. Flores advised board members to complete the rubric and provide to her as quickly as possible as feedback will be delivered at the June 6, 2017 Special Meeting (Work Session). There were no further comments.

6. *Discussion and Approval of Board Member Travel and Attendance at NMSBA School Law Conference June 1-3, 2017 or Local Alternative*
Sra. Flores stated she hoped to conduct a training locally to save the district any associated costs. Mrs. Dallman vocalized her support in this cost saving approach. Mr. Frank stated he would like to attend a local alternative in order to be presented with pertinent legal issues. Mr. Jaramillo questioned if the local training would qualify for the required hours the Board of Education must meet with the New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA). Board Counsel Elena Gallegos, of Walsh Gallegos, stated they are willing to work with NMSBA to ensure credit is received. Mr. Castro made a motion to approve a local training as an alternative to the NMSBA School Law Conference; it was seconded by Mr. Frank. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Old Business*

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

4. *Adoption of Resolution Supporting Ethnic Studies in the Las Cruces Public Schools*
There were no questions or comments regarding the resolution. Mr. Jaramillo made a motion to adopt the resolution; it was seconded by Mr. Castro. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

5. *Second Reading of Policy BDF and Regulation BDF-R Student Advisors to the Board and Superintendent*
Ms. Jo Galvan, Chief Communications Officer, presented the second reading of Policy BDF and Regulation BDF-R Student Advisors to the Board and Superintendent. She advised the only changes were recommendations from legal counsel and they were highlighted in blue. Mr. Frank again questioned the verbiage of “administrator”, and Mrs. Dallman expressed concern over administrators shucking the role to other staff members if they are not required to participate. Sra. Flores questioned the possibility of allowing staff and community members to participate in addition to administrators. There were no further questions or comments.

VII. Board Member Business

1. *Board Member Reports*

Mrs. Dallman shared she attended the Bulldawg Best Buddies Dimes for Down Syndrome Kickball Event and it was very joyous. She was moved by witnessing a previous student as a “buddy”. She believes we hear mostly negative comments but much good is being done throughout the district.

Mr. Frank expressed concern over the report of bullying earlier in the evening. He stated it should be of the highest priority.

Sra. Flores shared she was deeply moved by the speeches given and sheer enthusiasm generated by parents when attending the Institute of Parent Engagement graduation. She attended a forum on education hosted by Mayor Miyagashima at City Hall, and felt lack of funding and the desire for the public to volunteer were the overriding themes. Additionally, she also attended the

Celebration of Excellence Dinner, the Academic Signing Day, the Community Summit of Attendance, and the Middle School Track Meet. Sra. Flores shared she had recently been elected as President of the Dona Ana Community College (DACC) Advisory Committee as well. In closing, she shared her visits to Picacho Middle School, Vista Middle School, East Picacho Elementary, and the Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy were quite enjoyable.

2. *Calendar of Events*

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

VIII. Adjournment

Mrs. Dallman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Frank. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 9:01 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary

Minutes taken by Rebecca Archuleta