



**MINUTES**  
**Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education**  
**Special Meeting (Work Session)**  
Tuesday, September 5, 2017 • 4:00 p.m.  
LCPS Administration Building Board Room

**I. INTRODUCTION**

*A. Call to Order*

Vice President Ed Frank called the meeting to order at 4:00 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. Maury Castro, Member
- Mrs. Terrie Dallman, Member
- Ray Jaramillo Secretary

Superintendent Gregory Ewing was also in attendance. Vice-President Ed Frank led the meeting.

*C. Welcome Student Advisor*

Cameron, Student Advisor, from CHS was not in attendance.

*D. Approval of Agenda*

A motion was made by Mr. Castro to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Mrs. Dallman. The motion was approved unanimously.

*E. Report on September 5, 2017 Closed Executive Session*

Sra. Flores stated that the Board met in Closed Executive Session on September 5, 2017 from 3:06 p.m. to 3:59 p.m. to discuss limited personnel matters as permitted under section 10-15-1(H)(2), specifically so the Superintendent can update the Board regarding the investigations of certified and classified employees by the Superintendent; to discuss Communications with legal counsel regarding pending or threatened litigation as permitted under section 10-15-1(H)(7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, specifically to discuss with legal counsel the possibility of initiating litigation; to discuss personally identifiable information about an individual student as permitted under section 10-15-1(H)(4) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, including information protected by attorney client privilege; to discuss collective bargaining strategies preliminary to bargaining negotiations as permitted under section 10-15-1(H)(5) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act; and to discuss a purchase that exceeds \$2,500.00 in amount and that can only be made from one source as permitted under section 10-15-1(H)(6)

**II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*1. Superintendent's Update*

Superintendent Ewing introduced former Las Cruces Public Schools Athletic Director Bump Elliott to speak on behalf of the community leaders who helped create the Field of Dreams. Bump Elliott requested that the Wall of Champions, which lists the name of every student and coach on an LCPS state championship team, be brought up to date. There are 549 names that have not been included in recent years due to lack of funding. He also noted there are improvements needed at the Field of Dreams such as painting, signage and parking lot refurbishing. Mr. Elliott also mentioned that an overhead sign to the entrance of the complex should be added. Mr. Elliott requested the items be added to the requests for the 2018 bond issue. Superintendent Ewing voiced the items would be forwarded to the bond capital outlay committee for consideration.

2. *Children’s Reading Alliance*

Superintendent Ewing introduced Ms. Rorie Measure, President, of the Children’s Reading Alliance. Ms. Measure discussed the success of its Book Buddies summer program. Throughout the summer, the program provided 9,000 new books to elementary school students enrolled in the K-3 Plus program. As part of the Book Buddies program, each participating child got to select and keep a total of four new books over the four-week program.

3. *Announcements*

Superintendent Ewing introduced Ms. Jennifer Raess, Special Students Services Social Worker. She discussed a proposal to coordinate a districtwide donation drive to help support the Houston Independent School District in the after math of Hurricane Harvey. Superintendent Ewing also introduced Ms. Heather Nevarez, a Vista Middle School math teacher along with students from Vista Middle School. Ms. Nevarez and students of Vista Middle School developed an idea for “Pennies for Pets” fundraising campaign. Students produced a promotional video for the fundraiser which was shown during the meeting. The fundraiser has a goal of \$1,000 and has already collected \$441.50.

4. *Discussion of Chinese Studies Programs, Dual Credit, and Travel*

Superintendent Ewing shared that he has met with New Mexico State University (NMSU) representatives in instituting a Chinese studies program in the District. A more detailed report will be provided to the Board in the near future. Superintendent Ewing invited Board members and administrators to visit schools in China for one week. Mrs. Dallman shared her concern with issues regarding certifications of individuals coming to the District from other countries to teach or attend classes. Superintendent Ewing is considering the programs to be instituted at Mayfield, Centennial, Ocate and Las Cruces High Schools.

5. *Budget Update*

Superintendent Ewing is still awaiting word from The Public Education Department (PED) as to whether Las Cruces Public Schools will receive the additional \$16.00 per student from the State Equalization Guarantee. If the funds are provided, this would be nearly \$700,000 for Las Cruces Public Schools.

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

Bruce Hartman, NEA-LC President, discussed the support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). He stated that staff cannot stay out of immigration issues because this concern focuses on human and civil rights and that they support all kids regardless of where they come from. Mr. Hartman is working on professional development for October and will need teacher and principal representation. Superintendent Ewing directed Dr. Wendi-Miller Tomlinson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, to add principals and teachers.

7. *Arrowhead Park Early College High School Update*

Jennifer Amis, Principal at Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy, gave the Board an update regarding the school’s pathways, graduation rate, and partnerships. The schools have maintained their 95% graduation rate and in May, the first seniors from the Medical Academy will graduate. The schools have numerous activities and clubs to help balance the lack of athletic teams. Josh Silver, Dean of Students, also presented on 13 STEM-related pathways and six medical pathways. Board Member Ray Jaramillo asked whether a pathway could be created for early childhood education. Jennifer Amis stated they do offer classes that are a springboard to earn bachelor’s degrees in education and will get more information if a defined pathway could be created.

### III. OTHER REPORTS

A. *Student Advisor Report*

None.

B. *Human Resource Development*

There were no items on the agenda.

C. *Instruction*

1. *Discussion on Staffing Allotment Update*

Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, discussed that district officials have reviewed, adjusted and finalized staffing allotments for schools across the district for the 2017-18 School Year. Mesilla Park Elementary and Valley View Elementary Schools, each lost one teaching position; and Monte Vista Elementary, Sonoma Elementary, Tombaugh Elementary, Columbia Elementary, East Picacho Elementary and University Hills Elementary Schools each gained one teaching position. A part-time math teaching position at Sierra Middle School was also made into a full-time position. Four elementary Educational Assistants were reassigned to kindergarten classrooms within the district. Each kindergarten class is entitled to an Educational Assistant once the class size reaches 15 students.

D. *Finance*

There were no items on the agenda.

E. *Operations*

1. *LCPS 2018 Bond Committee Update*

Gabe Jacquez, Deputy Superintendent of Operations and Leadership, reported on new data received from Architectural Research Consultants (ARC) which describes what schools need additional classrooms. This data is used for information for the February 2018 school bond issue. Mr. Jacquez said the tentative bond amount is \$52 million and requests for capital improvements have been made from almost all schools. He estimates the value of all the requests for the district total more than \$200 million. ARC data also indicated that a new school is not necessary in the upcoming election, but that additional classrooms are.

2. *LCPS Enrollment/Utilization and Capacity Update*

Gabe Jacquez, Deputy Superintendent of Operations and Leadership, reported the ARC data indicated that a new school is not necessary in the upcoming election, but that additional classrooms are. He also showed slides on the growth in the East Mesa area.

3. *School Attendance Zones Discussion*

Superintendent Ewing stated that families sometimes do not like to change their attendance boundaries, but that shifts in population and growth on the east side of Las Cruces and on the East Mesa have left some schools more crowded than others. Sra. Flores indicated that rezoning is probably needed at this point and that it is cost effective by not having to build more schools. Superintendent Ewing will direct staff to begin rezoning discussions.

4. *Water Quality Update*

Gabe Jacquez, Deputy Superintendent of Operations and Leadership, discussed the cost of water quality testing at school sites across the district.

F. *Technology & Research*

1. *Technology Division Updates*

Albert Vega, Chief Technology and Research Officer, discussed the cost of postage to mail Report cards. The cost has been between \$50,000 - \$75,000 a school year. Thousands of cards were returned as undeliverable. Report cards will no longer be mailed. This will encourage Parent View on the online portal. Mr. Vega also reported a change in recording student absences. The new method has teachers recording whether students are present, absent and tardy. This will create better, more complete data, which also can be reviewed by period, by subject or by teacher. During emergencies, Mr. Vega said the school will also have a true

representation of who is in the building.

2. *School Grades*

The PED recently released letter grades for all districts in New Mexico. Mr. Vega compared the 2017 letter grades to last year's. Superintendent Ewing praised him for providing a concise and understandable presentation about how the PED assigns grades.

*G Equity, Innovation & Social Justice*

*Update on Ethnic Studies and Restorative Justice Initiatives*

Andres Armijo, Coordinator of Ethnic Studies and Restorative Justice, announced that a pilot restorative justice program has been rolled out at three elementary schools. Sonoma Elementary, Booker T Washington Elementary, and Valley View Elementary; and two middle schools, Lynn Middle School and Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy; and one high school, CrossRoads. Representatives from the pilot program schools will join district officials and community partners to form a task force which will help develop the program into a districtwide initiative. Mr. Armijo also announced that the Ethnic Studies program will also form a task force to develop ethnic studies content and curriculum.

**IV. BOARD ITEMS**

**A. New Business**

1. *Authorize Legal Counsel and Superintendent to proceed with legal strategy as Discussed in Executive Session Agenda Item 11.B*

After discussion in Closed Executive Session earlier, Superintendent Ewing asked that this item not have action taken.

2. *Approval of Date for Joint Work Session and Possible Agenda Items with City of Las Cruces*

The date for the Joint Work Session was decided for November 16, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. The agenda items will be: (1) Parking at Central Elementary School; (2) Community Schools; (3) Possible redistricting of three to four elementary schools; (4) A plastic bag reward/fee proposal; (5) Excessive fees for fire and burglar alarms and (5) City use of solar power.

Mrs. Dallman made a motion to approve the date for Joint Work Session and Possible Agenda Items with City of Las Cruces; it was seconded by Sra. Flores. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Old Business**

1. *Discussion and Possible Adoption of New Mexico School Boards Association Resolutions*

Jo Galvan, Chief of Communications, presented the revised resolutions. The Board of Education adopted five resolutions to be sent to the New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA). The resolutions are as follows: (1) Requesting of the New Mexico Legislature to Increase Salaries for Certified Teachers; (2) Request for Adequate Funding to Provide Transportation to Our Students; (3) Encouraging Innovation and Expanding Access to Early Literacy Experiences for 3- and 4-year old students modeled after the successful K-3 plus program; (4) Bullying Prevention and Adoption of Restorative Justice Practices in Public Schools and (5) Requesting the New Mexico Legislature to Increase Funding to Public Schools and Provide Adequate Support for Public Schools as Required by Article X11 of the New Mexico Constitution.

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

Mr. Jaramillo proposed a bag fee. This proposal would be similar to the Citizens Bank debit cards with the school logo as a reward system. This could be the same for the bag fee and the money would be donated back to the school district and also benefit the environment.

**V. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Jaramillo and seconded by Sra. Flores to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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Board President

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Secretary

Minutes taken by Maria Wagner