

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, THEATER
2839 S. BURNHAM AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

Monday, January 29, 2018

6:08 p.m.

Roll Call:	<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Member Absent</u>
	Deanna L. Wright, President	Linda P. Cavazos, Member
	Carolyn Edwards, Vice President	
	Lola Brooks, Clerk	
	Kevin L. Child, Member	
	Chris Garvey, Member	
	Linda E. Young, Member	

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Greta Peay, Chief Instructional Services Officer, Instructional Services Unit; Kirsten Searer, Chief Communications, Marketing, and Strategy Officer, Communications Office, Ancillary Support; and Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Brooks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Edwards Second: Young Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Wright asked that the audience be respectful and keep their comments focused on the agenda item, which is about policy.

Trustee Edwards noted that additional reference material was provided for Item 2.01, and she noted a clerical error in Item 2.01, that the date should read "December 2017."

APPROVE GENDER DIVERSE DISCUSSION

Approval on the public input collected during a series of five public meetings in December 2018, including an online survey on the Gender Diverse Working Group recommendations, to include, but not limited to, the creation of a policy, regulation, and guidance procedures to ensure gender diverse students feel safe, respected, and supported.

APPROVE GENDER DIVERSE DISCUSSION (continued)

Ms. Searer and Dr. Peay presented the Gender Diverse Working Group recommendations and public input collected during public meetings, including an online survey, as shown in Reference 2.01.

Public Hearing

Jesus Faz, Ashley Ruiz, Elizabeth Sclafani, Erin Phillips, David Rowberry, Kyle Waite, Lindsey Dalley, Elizabeth Capson, Ruben Santiago, Gerardo Gonzalez, Karen England, Rachell Haiola, Melanie Wilkerson, Ayva Peterson, Kirt Brannen, Moises Camarillo, Shana Marx, Richard Tillman, Zaferino Solis, Frania Mendez, Tammy Ankennon, Suzanne Tillmond, David Cottan, Amie Webster, Jennifer Ferre, Maylene Battjes, Ariathna Sandoval, Yesenia Vazquez, Ethan Peterson, Lou Landini, Marisol Solis, Margarita Urrina, Jerry Harris, Marta Urbina, and Aurelio Loneli

The above named speakers spoke in opposition to the development of a gender diverse policy. Issues and concerns they stated included the following: the District does not know what is best for the students; there are already rules and regulations in place to address this; parents bear the responsibility of raising their children; instituting a policy such as this would cause more problems; the majority of people are against this recommendation; anti-bullying laws are already in place; studies show that transgender people sometimes change their minds; a policy like this could negatively affect personal privacy, safety, and respect; any policy created needs to be for the benefit of all students, not targeted toward one group; this is a waste of District dollars; each school should address the needs of its students; younger students do not need to learn about gender diversity; the policy would create an unsafe and discriminatory environment; parental rights would be violated; the other students' rights would be violated; a gender diverse policy would give rights and privileges to some students at the cost of other students' rights.

Some also noted issues with the integrity of the survey and an overall lack of transparency in this process. Some suggested that the District should provide a separate bathroom for gender diverse students, and that the District should simply focus more on education.

Micah Devynn, Ericka Castro, Jared Busker, Angie Sullivan, Charity Wellesley, Jason Lamberth, Makenna Cruz, Sydney Malone, Jayson Dagher, John Delibos, Karl Catarata, Leo Murrieta, Kenia Morales, Denise Seidl, Kristina Hernandez, Eric Kristiansen, Sharon Louthen, Amanda Khan, Andre Wade, Briceida Castro, Jamie Sprague-Ballou, Michael Weiss, Kelly Smith, Wendy Kraft, Scarlett Herrington, Sybrina Bernatci, Aimee Hairr, Shay Bravo, LaDon Henry, Stephanie Menard, Rachel Netterfield-Kline, Melody Jones, Dr. S.S. Rogers, and Lennora Valles

APPROVE GENDER DIVERSE DISCUSSION (continued)

The above named speakers spoke in support of the development of a gender diverse policy. Reasons they gave for supporting a policy included the following: this is not about taking away anything, but rather about dignity, self-respect, freedom, and human rights; this would provide a safe and inclusive environment; the current anti-bullying policy does not give schools the guidance needed to support gender diverse students and their families; a policy would protect gender diverse students; gender diverse people are known to be targets of bullying; equality for all includes the minority but does not protect them; gender diverse students have the same rights as every other group of students; protecting students does not violate any religious rights; not putting a policy in place puts students in danger; every child deserves safety and respect; anti-bullying procedures should be enforced even if the person in authority does not agree; anti-bullying policies do not protect gender diverse students; a gender diverse policy would be consistent with the spirit of the non-discriminatory policy in place; a policy would support consistency across the District; and that there are times when special accommodations are necessary.

The suggestions were made that gender diverse students should be allowed to use the bathroom in the nurse's office, and that perhaps parents should teach acceptance and diversity instead of shielding their children.

Rebecca Muhlestein, Joseph Meservy, and M. Parker

The above named speakers did not speak in support of or in opposition to the development of a gender diverse policy, but rather addressed the ideas of considering "gender fluidity" if a policy is to be developed and the fact that children cannot be protected from life, but can be prepared for life.

Rebecca Rasmussen signed up to speak as neutral on the topic, but when she began to speak about the policy putting girls at risk for sexual predators, Trustee Wright felt it necessary to stop Ms. Rasmussen from continuing.

Janson Cribbs, who also signed up to speak as neutral on the topic, engaged the audience, asking those in favor of a policy to stand and then those in opposition to a policy to stand. He then pointed out that "this is a democracy and majority votes."

At this point Trustee Wright said no more public speakers would be called since people did not want to follow the speaking guidelines.

Trustee Edwards said the current anti-bullying policy does not adequately address the concerns and issues raised by the Gender Diverse Working Group. She assured everyone that if a policy were developed and implemented, it would address safety issues for all students. She said it is not the Board's intent to put any student in jeopardy. She also assured everyone that if the Board decided to move forward, it would be done with consideration for all of the issues raised here.

APPROVE GENDER DIVERSE DISCUSSION (continued)

Trustee Child said he feels the anti-bullying policy in place protects all students from bullying for any reason. He said if the bullying incidents are not being reported, they cannot be addressed.

Trustee Garvey expressed concern that with the reorganization there is a conflict of autonomy at the schools, and there is no standardized procedure in place that outlines how everyone is going to be treated and to ensure that it is fair to all. She questioned how they are going to ensure everyone is respected and protected and that there is continuity. She said the Nevada Department of Education should have made a regulation, and then the District should be working with the community to develop a policy in alignment with that regulation.

Trustee Brooks said she does believe policy is needed but said she was not sure that everything in the recommendation needs to be included. She asked if the Board would discuss this further or if the policy was predefined.

Trustee Edwards said language has not been attempted. She said the recommendations from the Gender Diverse Working Group are simply topics that the Board may want to consider. She said if the Board decided to do anything at this meeting, it would be to move it to staff to begin to work on language.

Trustee Brooks said this policy would not be about just bullying, it would be about inclusion and accommodating students.

Trustee Young suggested that the safe and respectful learning environment policy could be enhanced to be made more inclusive. She said she is not in favor of developing a new policy. She suggested that guidelines can also be provided. She talked about respect and inclusion for all students.

Trustee Edwards said at this point gender diverse students in CCSD are not protected and do not know their rights or what options they have. She said there is nothing in place that guides the principals, students, or parents, and she said guidelines are not public, and this needs to be a public document.

Motion to direct staff to develop a policy, regulation, and guidelines for a gender diverse policy that protects the rights of all students.

Motion: Edwards Second: Brooks

Trustee Garvey reiterated that the State has not developed anything, and she said for the District to move forward on this first would be premature. She agreed that some guidance is necessary, but suggested that with the reorganization that needs to be a discussion between the school leadership and the School Organizational Teams (SOTs) so they can bring input back to the Board. She said she does not support developing a policy but would support having staff work on guidelines.

APPROVE GENDER DIVERSE DISCUSSION (continued)

Trustee Edwards responded that she does not think the District should wait for the State to protect its students, and she said the Board has a duty to do what is right for students. She said she believes what the State does will, in part, be based on what the Board does. She noted that the recommendation of the Gender Diverse Working Group was to look at developing a policy, regulation, and guidelines.

Trustee Edwards withdrew her motion.

Trustee Edwards asked for an agenda item for this to come back when the entire Board is present.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Edwards requested an agenda item for discussion on having a gender diverse policy, regulation, and guidelines at the Board's next available meeting.

Trustee Young requested an agenda item to review the need for a written policy, regulation, and/or guidelines regarding gender diverse students.

Trustee Child suggested that the meeting should be held a location that would accommodate a large number of attendees.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

Trustee Wright encouraged those in attendance to watch the Board's upcoming special meeting on February 8, 2018, regarding the superintendent search.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS (continued)

Trustee Young requested an agenda item to discuss recommendations for Regulation 5137 to support the gender diverse component.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ADJOURN: 9:11 p.m.

Motion: Edwards Second: Garvey Vote: Unanimous