

MINUTES  
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
EDWARD A. GREER EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM  
2832 E. FLAMINGO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 8912

WORK SESSION

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

8:01 a.m.

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Roll Call: Members Present  
Erin E. Cranor, President  
Linda E. Young, Vice President  
Patrice Tew, Clerk  
Stavan Corbett, Member  
Carolyn Edwards, Member  
Chris Garvey, Member  
Deanna L. Wright, Member

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary Ann Peterson, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Kim Wooden, Deputy Superintendent, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Jim McIntosh, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division; Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant to the Board, Board Office; Elizabeth Carrero, Executive Manager, Office of the Superintendent; Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; Loreasa Nary, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Trustee Tew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda, except move Item 4.01 to precede Item 3.01 and note additional reference material for Items 3.01 and 4.02.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Wright    Vote: Unanimous*

## HAZARD IMPACT STUDY REPORT

Presentation and discussion on the Hazard Impact Study, as recommended.

Superintendent Skorkowsky explained that a team was assembled to study the impact on CCSD facility structures and potential failures and plans.

Ms. Wooden and Dr. Turner provided an overview of the Hazard Impact study. Their presentation included the following topics: Model Development, Data Sources and Description, Model Specifications, and Findings.

Trustee Corbett asked about how the development of this report allowed for improved communication and what plans are to sustain some of those practices used in developing this.

Ms. Wooden said this process has been instrumental in facilitating the communication that needs to happen, and as early as tomorrow, staff is continuing the conversation and the work to work toward the recommendations.

Trustee Corbett asked if there were lessons learned during this process that tie in to the District's strategic plan in terms of process improvement and communication.

Ms. Wooden agreed that with striving for continuous improvement, these are the conversations that need to take place.

Trustee Edwards said it does not appear that there were any facility or maintenance experts on this committee.

Ms. Wooden said there were internal experts on the committee, and staff intends to reach out to community experts as well moving forward.

Trustee Edwards asked if the schools that are on year-round calendars were considered as facilities that have heavier use than others.

Ms. Wooden said enrollment was looked at as a factor in determining the level of use in a facility.

Trustee Edwards said whether a school is on a year-round calendar should be considered in terms of use of a facility. She commented that she understood that the District's deferred maintenance plan was eliminated because of budget cuts, and she asked if that would be reinstated.

Ms. Wooden said the committee has made recommendations to bring back some of the preventative maintenance programs.

## HAZARD IMPACT STUDY REPORT (continued)

Trustee Edwards said a question of Chuck Kubat of the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) was how this system could be used in conjunction with the Facilities Condition Index (FCI) and how it could be integrated with the FCI. She said she thought his questions were valid, and she cautioned that we are careful not to lose the continuity.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff is considering discontinuing use of the Maximo system in the future and placing it in SAP so the two systems communicate. He said he is also looking into some outside assistance, and there are some potential volunteers who are experts in the field that would look at integrating the systems.

Trustee Garvey asked about professional training for staff to meet these facilities maintenance needs.

Ms. Wooden said the committee had not had those conversations, but she has discussed it with Jim McIntosh, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division.

Trustee Wright asked if any consideration has been given to gathering input from the people who work most closely with these facility maintenance issues.

Trustee Young agreed with Trustee Wright that the people in the field are a resource and they should be included in this process. She said she would like to see more of the study from the Council of the Great City Schools.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the Council of the Great City Schools report would be provided to the Board when it becomes available. With regard to gathering input from "boots on the ground" staff, he said staff plans to include them in future discussions, but at the time he could not have them sit in a two-hour discussion when they were needed in the schools.

Trustee Edwards said the issue of people being afraid to talk to one another exists in the school district and needs to be addressed. She said her original question had been what kind of plan is in place for when a system fails and a school has to be closed.

Trustee Young suggested that a short presentation be created to share with community members and parents. She asked if an analysis could be conducted focused on the "poorer" schools, based on the Title I criteria, with a comparison to the other schools.

Trustee Garvey suggested that staff may need to go out and talk to the people in the field doing the work to gather their input.

Trustee Wright noted that if students had more opportunity for connectivity at home and better resources offered, learning could continue at home if a school needed to shut down for a short time.

## **HAZARD IMPACT STUDY REPORT (continued)**

Trustee Tew asked if there have been discussions with similar school districts facing similar challenges to learn what their best practices are.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he has had conversations with other districts, and they are all facing the same challenges because when choices had to be made because of the failing economy, choices were made to protect the classroom and not the facilities. He said some unique solutions are coming forward, but work has to be done to determine whether those are feasible for CCSD.

Trustee Tew said the culture of fear of talking needs to be dealt with, and she asked if the District offers any recognition to encourage collaboration or incentives for people for coming forward and communicating.

Trustee Edward said they should be considering whether there are legal ramifications or laws that need to be changed as these ideas come forward, such as allowing the students to attend school from home.

## **APPROVE FUTURE CAPITAL PROGRAM**

Approval for the development of a future capital program.

Mrs. Haldeman and Mr. McIntosh discussed the possibility of developing a ballot question for a future capital program, including reasons the previous ballot question failed, pros and cons of moving forward with a ballot question in 2014 and 2016, what remains of the 1998 bond program, the District's estimated capital needs, and costs to build new schools.

Trustee Edwards asked how much time would be ideal for planning to go out for a question.

Mrs. Haldeman said ideally she would like to start in fall of the previous year for a standard campaign. She said with all the work that needs to be done, she believes they would need between now and 2016.

Trustee Edwards asked if it would be wise now to begin developing a Political Action Committee (PAC).

Mrs. Haldeman suggested that at this time they need to identify needs, understand priorities, and know that they could execute them with trust and respect from the public.

Trustee Edwards asked if the facilities reorganization is set up so that it would be the right reorganization for a building program if a ballot question were to move forward. She asked what happens to BOC since there is no longer a bond program. She said it would be helpful to have a chart created that shows the rollover property tax predictions and outcome. She said legal implications should be considered here as well, and she asked if there is a possibility of a revisit of the property tax cap for commercial and residential property. She asked at what point a PAC should be developed.

## HAZARD IMPACT STUDY REPORT (continued)

Trustee Corbett asked if Mr. McIntosh could provide the tax revenue information in writing.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he would be hesitant to do that because that would become printed material available to the public, and those numbers change rather quickly.

Trustee Corbett said this particular information is being made public at this meeting, and he suggested providing it as a draft with the understanding that the information could change. He asked if an analysis could be conducted on factors that are conducive to students being in the best possible learning environment and which would also include challenges.

Trustee Cranor said she would think that analysis could also include current bonds that contribute to the learning environment, such as those associated with technology.

Trustee Corbett said he has seen that type of study done by other organizations and would be happy to share that information.

Trustee Young said there needs to be a communications plan so the community understands the critical need and the community and school district are cohesive and there is community buy-in.

Trustee Garvey said she believes dissolving some of the parent groups had a negative impact on the voting of the ballot question, and she asked what is happening to reestablish those connections.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff is currently developing a parent engagement plan that will roll out district-wide, and he said it will be a significant change in how the District reaches out to parents.

Trustee Garvey asked for information regarding charter schools' ability to bond and how the District looks in comparison.

Trustee Tew said the funding formula needs to change, and she asked what the impact is on the general fund for those schools that will trigger to year-round within a seven-year period.

Mr. McIntosh said this is a question that came out of the Hazardous Impact study: If these systems cannot be paid for through capital, what would be the impact on the general fund? He said the committee has taken a cursory look at this, and they will continue that discussion.

Trustee Edwards noted that Mr. McIntosh sits on the committee looking at the funding formula and said perhaps the discussion of year-round schools should be considered in those conversations at the committee level. She asked if perhaps there is another way to look at the Distributive School Account (DSA) and see whether there could be additional funding provided for year-round schools.

## **HAZARD IMPACT STUDY REPORT (continued)**

### **Public Hearing**

Jennifer Carballo (ph.) said there are many parents who understand the critical needs of the District and who are willing to support the District and who support the entire valley. She said her school community has volunteers ready to help.

Trustee Young said the community must be educated on these issues so that they want to support the schools.

Trustee Edwards said the Board needs to make a decision on when to move forward with a ballot question, keeping the timeline in mind. She said it is her preference to put it forward in 2016.

Trustee Wright agreed that the Board needs to make a decision soon. She requested that the Board begin receiving a physical list of school facility issues. She said it would be helpful to have community partners spread the word about the needs of the schools.

Trustee Edwards said a decision also needs to be made regarding the remainder of the 1998 bond program.

Trustee Corbett said there needs to be some additional community dialogue and feedback.

## **APPROVE PLANNING OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TRUSTEES**

Approval regarding topics, timelines, and materials for professional development for members of the Board.

Trustee Cranor said three descriptors she has been using in her interactions with the community as she requests resources for training opportunities for the Board are strategic leadership, fiscal structure, and student achievement data use.

Trustee Edwards suggested asking Consuelo Kickbusch to come speak with the Board.

Trustee Young said in order for her to do her job effectively and efficiently, she needs more resources and a professional working space.

Trustee Cranor said in terms of professional development, she is noting how the Board could function well within existing resources, but there may need to be a future agenda item to discuss some of the issues Trustee Young has brought forward.

Trustee Edwards said that this is not an appropriate agenda item for this discussion, and she suggested that this topic be placed on a future agenda for discussion. She commented that she has concerns about diverting funds from the classroom to the Trustees' office.

## **CCSD STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP**

Presentation and discussion on trustee involvement in gathering input on the draft interpretation of the Board of School Trustees vision and strategic imperatives.

Trustee Cranor said this would be a discussion on how the Trustees will engage as leaders and with the Superintendent as a governance team moving forward.

Superintendent Skorkowsky presented a draft strategic leadership chart which outlines proposed District goals and work stream responsibilities.

Trustee Young said as part of the District's strategic leadership, the community needs to begin to see the Board members as capable, qualified professionals.

## **BOARD MEMBER LEAVES**

Trustee Garvey left the board meeting at 11:17 a.m.

## **BUDGET UPDATE FOR THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR**

Discussion on the budget process for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Superintendent Skorkowsky discussed how the budget will be aligned to the seven focus areas and the strategic imperatives moving forward.

## **AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Trustee Young requested an agenda item to discuss GP-4.2: Board Members Principles of Operation.

Trustee Cranor said she would provide staff with the list of needed information related to a future capital program she compiled during this meeting.

Trustee Edwards requested an agenda item for discussion of Revision 18.

Trustee Cranor said the information needed to make a decision on the capital program would be a separate agenda item. She shared that the Board officers have discussed rotating the agenda development responsibility, and she said that would come forward as a future agenda for discussion.

Trustee Corbett requested an agenda item to discuss the English Language Learner (ELL) strategic plan and an agenda item to discuss the District's Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) capacity and technology capacity.

## **DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Ms. Carballo talked about issues that her community faces in relation to zoning, and she asked the Board to support proposal 2 when it comes forward. She asked the Superintendent to consider keeping full-day kindergarten at Ehtel W. Staton Elementary School.

**ADJOURN:** 11:28 a.m.

*Motion: Young Second: Wright Vote: Unanimous  
Trustee Garvey was not present for the vote.*