

MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
BONANZA HIGH SCHOOL, THEATER
6665 WEST DEL REY, LAS VEGAS, NV 89146

COMMUNITY LINKAGE

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

5:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present

Carolyn Edwards, President
Lorraine Alderman, Vice President
Deanna L. Wright, Clerk
Erin E. Cranor, Member
Patrice Tew, Member
Dr. Linda E. Young, Member

Member Absent

Chris Garvey, Member

Dwight D. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary Ann Peterson, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office;
Pat Skorkowsky, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction Unit; Joyce Haldeman, Associate
Superintendent, Community and Government Relations; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant to the
Board, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Edwards said Trustee Garvey was unable to attend tonight's meeting because of her work schedule.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Cranor Second: Tew Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AP Clark asked for an overview of the District's bilingual program and for that summary to include the program's successes, failures, a plan to address those failures, and the cost to taxpayers.

Michael Hollis raised concerns regarding the District's public concern process. He said that in certain areas of the District, African-American parents' concerns are not being addressed.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Discussion in a forum which allows information, ideas, concerns or suggestions to be exchanged between the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, District Staff, and members of the public with no action or deliberation on the part of the Board. Any ideas, concerns or suggestions which may require deliberation or action by the Board, may be brought forward on a future agenda at the discretion of the Board.

Mrs. Haldeman gave a legislative update on recent actions of the Legislative Session. She provided a list of legislators and their contact information. She talked about ways to effectively communicate one's views or concerns to the legislators. She gave an overview of some of the bills important to education that are being discussed during the Legislative Session.

Sam King offered other ways to communicate with legislators and present one's viewpoint without traveling to Carson City.

Linda Johnson asked what the Board's position is on AB230 on sex education. She said the bill would change the way students are allowed to view content from parents having to give permission to an opt-out provision. She said she is not in favor of that because the forms do not always make it home to the parents, especially with elementary school students.

Carrie Russo said she is concerned about third-grade literacy. She asked about the current policy to help students who have already been passed through the third grade who are not at the level they need to be to move forward.

Dawn Johnson spoke in support of AB230, stating that CCSD is the 4th highest in the nation for teen pregnancy. She said she is hoping this will create a dialogue at home between parents and their children.

Michael Hollis talked about living and working in a right-to-work state and how that affects student funding and how it affects employees' salaries.

Stone Hacker expressed her concerns with teacher-student interaction. She asked what the Board's position is on this topic and what the District's plan is to improve those relationships.

Clorinda Fontano said that Mojave High School offers an "advisory" program which is meant to provide students with more individualized attention. She said she believes some middle schools have the same type of program, and she wondered how those schools are able to fund their programs.

Sara Lemma spoke in support of AB230. She said she is a graduate student studying public health, and she offered that the teen pregnancy rate is lowered for those who receive age appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive sex education.

RECOGNITION

Trustee Edwards recognized Boy Scout Troop 430.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE (continued)

Trustee Edwards gave a brief update on the superintendent search process. She said the District's Purchasing Department would be negotiating with the search firm McPherson and Jacobson; that there would be community input meetings; and that the Board has appointed Mr. Skorkowsky as Interim Superintendent.

Public Hearing

Justin Howard commented that there are qualified people right here in Clark County to be considered for the position of superintendent. He said the District does not need to spend money hiring a search firm to look for qualified candidates.

Jill Panozzo asked why the District cannot retain a superintendent. She asked where the money is coming from to employ the services of a search team since the District does not have adequate funding for other things.

Sam King said she is asked by others about the consultants that were brought in under Superintendent Jones' direction. She said in looking for the next superintendent, there ought to be an expectation by the Board and by the public that the next superintendent would utilize the staff that is already in place. She said the superintendent coming in should gain the support of the Board, the community, and the staff.

Paula Barton said the community is looking for longevity in a superintendent. She said the superintendent should be someone who is vested in the District and in the community and who has worked in many different capacities in the District. She expressed support for Mr. Skorkowsky because of his familiarity with the unique needs of the District.

Michael Hollis said the new superintendent should be someone who has spent time in the classroom and should be someone with fresh, new ideas. He said the search needs to be opened up to find someone with new ideas.

Jerry Mann offered that the single most important factor in looking for a superintendent should be whether or not that individual believes that every child deserves to have a certified teacher in every classroom.

Fernando Romero spoke in opposition to a national search, stating that the last two searches did not result in the most desirable candidate. He said he would like to see a person who has a doctorate in education, particularly in special education; a person who is aware that this is a minority-majority community; a person familiar with the English Language Learner (ELL) issues unique to the District and the dropout rate issues that need to be addressed.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE (continued)

Carrie Russo said she would like to see a superintendent who involves the parents and the community in the Districts' decision-making processes. She suggested sending out phone blasts to families about the upcoming community input meetings.

Jose Solorio spoke about the needs of the District, including the high dropout rate, low graduation rate, and the need for an improved ELL program, and he suggested that these needs should be an important priority in the superintendent search process. He said this person should also be willing and able to demand more funding for education.

AP Clark said she would like the superintendent to be someone who can manage the funds and resources that the District has available as opposed to asking for more money, more consultants, and more administration.

Derek Canty said the superintendent should mirror the attributes we want to see in our students, looking at the Board's vision for students; should be willing to reach out to other school districts that are successful; and should be willing build relationships with parents and the community. He suggested that we should be tapping in to the power of our students to help turn the District around.

Paul Moradkhan, on behalf of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of a national search and expressed support of the Board during this process.

Kevin Raiford said the Board's vision statement is focused on preparing high school students, but the areas that his college students are lacking are attributes or skills that should be attained in the early elementary school grades, so he would hope that the superintendent would look at more than just the numbers; look at every child's ability to succeed. He said the superintendent should also be willing to be open and make changes where necessary and do whatever it takes.

Meryl Grant said the District should be working to improve its ranking and be in the top 10 in terms of academic achievement. She spoke in support of Mr. Skorkowsky holding the position of interim superintendent for an extended period of time for continuity. She said Mr. Skorkowsky should receive 10 percent higher salary than the current highest salary at CCSD as a show of leadership but not as high as Superintendent Jones' salary. She suggested that the Board should consider a different search firm, a larger search firm. She said the new superintendent's salary should not be more than Superintendent Jones' salary, and there should be penalties for early termination written into the new contract.

Mr. Skorkowsky talked about revamping the parent engagement meetings to include the Trustees and the Performance Zone Academic Managers in an effort to increase communication and parent involvement.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE (continued)

Ashley Williams said that economic achievement gaps are a national problem so selecting a superintendent from another state is not necessarily the answer. She asked what math and science programs the District has that draw students into this area.

Yvette Williams expressed appreciation for the work being done through the Superintendent's Education Opportunities Advisory Council (SEOAC).

Linda Johnson congratulated Mr. Skorkowsky on being appointed as Interim Superintendent and expressed support of the work that he will be doing to reach out to parents. She encouraged the District to send people out to the schools in a "secret shopper" fashion to see how parents are really treated when they visit the schools.

Jose Solorio spoke in the capacity of his role on the Education Committee of the Latino Leadership Council about ELL issues and diversity and representation among school administration and staff, which also affect parent engagement.

Justin Howard said attention needs to be given to the Teach for America initiative, which he says is harming the community because it brings in new college graduates who are not necessarily interested staying in the District.

Michael Hollis said he has not been compensated for work he performed as a basketball coach, and that he believes he has been terminated as an act of retaliation for pursuing payment.

Carrie Russo suggested that Mr. Skorkowsky form a parent advisory committee to help determine the best way to reach out to parents, and she suggested utilizing headsets for translation during meetings to increase parent engagement. She said she would like to see parent engagement on all levels, not just at the school level, but also at the local District and District-wide levels.

Stone Hacker suggested that the District tap into the resources of CCSD alumni who have been successful and now attend universities.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

Trustee Edwards noted that the Board would be discussing their Vision Statement and the District's budget at the Board's April 3 Work Session. She announced that there would be a safety meeting held on April 4 at Desert Pines High School at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ADJOURN: 7:24 p.m.

Motion: Wright Second: Young Vote: Unanimous