

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 89121

WORK SESSION

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

8:00 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 Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda, except note additional reference material for Item 4.01.*

*Motion: Young Second: Edwards Vote: Unanimous*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Kathleen LaSpina spoke about how the Ombudsman Education Services program has impacted her son's learning, and she asked why the Board would consider discontinuing funding for this program.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (continued)**

Robert LaSpina talked about challenges he faces in his education and the positive impact the Ombudsman program has had on him.

Jeff LaSpina said the Ombudsman program offers his son individualized instruction, which is helping him learn and earn a high school diploma. He asked the Board to consider continuing to fund this program.

Jovan Bueno spoke about his experience at Ombudsman and the positive impact it has had on him and his education.

**APPROVE COMMUNITY LINKAGE PLANNING**

Approval on recommendations from board members on topics and dates of future community linkage meetings.

Trustee Cranor suggested holding a formal meeting with students, perhaps expanding the scope of one of the student advisory council meetings.

Trustee Wright said she tentatively scheduled a Henderson town hall meeting for Monday, April 20 with the forum possibly being a type of question and answer session about education. She said after discussions with staff, she is considering providing information on Common Core Standards to parents instead.

Trustee Edwards said previously there was an effort to hold a community linkage meeting with unions, which was not successful, and she suggested attempting that again.

Trustee Young said she would like to follow up with a community linkage meeting with the Southern Paiutes communities.

Trustee Corbett suggested holding a town hall meeting to discuss opportunities for economically disadvantaged families.

Trustee Young suggested holding a community linkage meeting primarily with the African-American community to provide information on the family structure, churches, and job opportunities as it relates to the current economic condition.

Trustee Tew suggested a community linkage meeting that would discuss wraparound services. She suggested that for segments of the community that are hesitant to attend meetings, that the District offer food at the event.

Trustee Cranor said she would give her notes of this discussion to staff for some preliminary planning.

## **APPROVE 2014-2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Approval on development and adoption of the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget, and authorization for members of the Board of School Trustees to file as required by NRS 354.596; and to authorize the Superintendent to initiate a reduction in force because of a lack of money or lack of work, per NRS 288.150(3)(b), is recommended in Reference 4.01.

Mr. McIntosh presented the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget. His presentation included the following topics: State Funding, Student Enrollment, Property Tax Revenues, Ending Fund Balance, Budget Priorities, Employee Compensation, General/Special Education Staffing, School-Based Staffing, School-Based Academic Initiatives, School-Based Support Initiatives, Capital Program (CIP) Staffing, Budget Summary, Open Book, and Timeline.

Trustee Edwards expressed concern with the inequities in offering free full-day kindergarten and with a reduced ratio to so many communities while others are being charged for the tuition-based program.

Trustee Wright said she wanted to be clear that "School Support" as listed in the Budget Priorities on page 7 of 21 would also include support staff in the schools.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said support staff, including front office staff, would be included and would receive training in cultural competency as well as customer service training. He said in the future parents will be able to rate their service in the schools immediately following their visit.

Trustee Garvey asked about the absence of college and career readiness on page 9 of 21.

Superintendent Skorkowsky pointed out that some of these areas will have college and career readiness supports in elementary school and are secondary supports because it is difficult to quantify that information at the elementary school level. He said work in the future would include being able to show direct alignment in each of the Focus Areas as well as the Strategic Imperatives.

Trustee Cranor said she appreciated this first step of aligning dollars to priorities, and the next step would be dollars to outcomes for students. She asked to be provided with the total cost of complying with the full-day kindergarten program mandate, including what proportion of it is being funded by the state. She asked how the data visualization toolset referenced on page 15 of 21 fits into the larger strategy of the data integration project necessary for connecting the District's objectives with its spending.

Superintendent Skorkowsky explained that the data visualization tool is identified to pull student data information sources together in real time so administrators can see which students are on track to graduate. He said this tool will also be a precursor to some larger projects with outside partners.

## **APPROVE 2014-2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET (continued)**

Trustee Young referenced page 11 of 21, and she asked about the increases in special education.

Kristine Minnich, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services Division, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit, said there has been an increase from October of 2012 to October of 2013 of 1,300 students, and since October of 2013, there has been an increase of over 2,500 students. She said it is important to also note the disabilities being identified. She said there has been a 308 percent increase nationally over the last 10 years in autism alone. She said CCSD's class size for autism is eight students, and the staffing increase that is shown here includes the teaching personnel, the support staff, and related service personnel.

Trustee Young asked what support is being provided to the special education population in terms of these increases.

Ms. Minnich explained that the resource rooms have instructional assistants, the self-contained classrooms have the Specialized Programs Teacher Assistants (SPTAs), and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) aides are assigned to specific students to provide additional support as necessary.

Trustee Young said she would like to see the parent, family and community engagement piece under school-based support initiatives tied into the school-based academic initiatives to provide more communication and understanding to parents about the Nevada Academic Content Standards.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff is in the process for setting up the structure through the budget process for the parent engagement piece, and then a formal plan would be developed and put in place that will allow staff to move forward connecting that piece to student achievement and proficiency, specifically, achievement gaps and disproportionality. He said it would also comply with the new Nevada educator performance framework, which includes a parent engagement component.

### **Public Hearing**

Rudy Flores, Ombudsman Educational Services, talked about the support this program offers to students, and he provided information to the Board about the value of the program and how it impacts the taxpayers.

Stephen Augspurger expressed appreciation for the information provided in the tentative budget presentation. He offered that there are leverage points that should be focused on, which are ensuring that there is a teacher in every classroom, an adequate number of substitutes and addressing employee absenteeism, and a clear process by which poor performing employees exit the system. He said the practice of placing employees who were not successful in their positions in other positions needs to stop.

### **APPROVE 2014-2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET (continued)**

David Gomez talked about the District funding programs or projects that he feels are not necessary or helpful. He said support of some programs is creating more of a problem, and that is hurting his children.

Trustee Young and Trustee Tew acknowledged Ombudsman Educational Services and their partnership with CCSD and their efforts and contributions.

Trustee Cranor asked that staff elaborate on the three priorities described by Mr. Augspurger by the final budget presentation in May.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S "OPEN BOOK."**

Presentation and discussion regarding the budget visualization tool known as "Open Book."

Mr. McIntosh gave an overview of Open Book.

#### **Public Hearing**

Seth Rau asked if school level data would be available on Open Book at any time in the future so parents could see that data.

Trustee Cranor said it is her understanding that the data integration project would need to be completed first.

Trustee Corbett suggested making Open Book accessible in other languages.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he would look into that possibility.

Trustee Young asked about developing an application program for this information.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he would also look into that suggestion.

Trustee Tew asked if the District's budget deficiencies could be added to this tool.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said that information may be better served on the District's main page once the legislative priorities are established.

Trustee Tew suggested placing some type of "myth busters" information in Fast Facts.

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

None.

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

Trustee Cranor noted that the Board Retreat was tentatively scheduled for August 8, 2014.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Sylvia Keyes talked about an incident in which her son was attacked on his school campus, questioned by school police with a weapon, and read his Miranda rights, and now has to appear in juvenile court. She requested that no student be questioned by a police officer without an adult present. She also expressed concern with police officers carrying firearms in the presence of students.

David Gomez spoke about his son being bullied at school. He expressed his disapproval with how the District addresses this problem and how the District police deal with people.

Adrian Moran talked about the positive impact Ombudsman has had on his education and in his life.

**ADJOURN:** 10:24 a.m.

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Tew    Vote: Unanimous*