

MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
INNEVATION CENTER, COLLABORATION STATION, THIRD FLOOR
6795 EDMOND STREET, LAS VEGAS, NV 89118

BOARD RETREAT

Friday, May 16, 2014

8:00 a.m.

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: Kim Wooden, Deputy Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Kirsten Searer, Chief of Staff and External Relations, Office of the Chief of Staff; Jim McIntosh, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division; Staci Vesneske, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Division; Jhone Ebert, Chief Innovation and Productivity Officer, Innovative Teaching and Learning Unit, Technology and Information Systems Services Division; Mike Barton, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Instruction Unit; Joe Caruso, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief of Staff; Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations; Leslie Arnold, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement; Justin White, Coordinator IV, Data Services, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement; Nathan Trenholm, Coordinator III, IDS – Instructional Data Services, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement; and Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant to the Board, Board Office.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Cranor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda, except allowing the flexibility to split Item 3.01 to continue after Item 4.01, as necessary.

Motion: Edwards Second: Young Vote: Unanimous
Trustees Tew, Corbett, and Wright were not present for the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Nicole Soria expressed concern that with the passing of AB288, students who have not met the graduation requirements of passing the proficiency exams would not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony with the class of 2014.

Sandy San Nicolas said it is unfair that her son has met the credit requirements for graduation and has been a good student throughout school but would not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony because he has not passed the science proficiency exam.

Erin Rivera talked about the work her daughter did through school to get to the end of her senior year and what graduation means to her. She asked that her daughter be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Tew arrived at the Board meeting at 8:11 a.m.

FIRST-YEAR REVIEW

A review of Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky's first year, his next-level strategies for student success and how to invest them. Discussion of the Board's plan for school, district, and community collaborative work for student success going forward.

The Board reviewed and discussed Superintendent Skorkowsky's first year and his plans going forward, as well as the Board's plans for working toward student success.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Corbett arrived at the Board meeting at 8:20 a.m.

FIRST-YEAR REVIEW (continued)

The Board continued its discussion.

Trustee Edwards requested an assessment of reforms that were started under the leadership of former superintendent Dwight Jones. She said there needs to be a continued push to diversify the staff. She said there needs to be a strong leader in the area of English Language Learners (ELL) and literacy for all students. She said she has concerns with the Facilities Department. She said she also has concerns that the Superintendent's cabinet has no outside perspective, which she believes would be helpful. She said she would still like to see some movement toward offering some career and technical education (CTE) curriculum in the comprehensive schools. Lastly, she said the Board, with assistance from the Superintendent, needs to work on building community trust.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Wright arrived at the Board meeting at 8:25 a.m.

FIRST-YEAR REVIEW (continued)

The Trustees continued their discussion.

Trustee Wright asked that the Board be provided with Board request updates as in the past.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said there does need to be a method to determine whether a request made by one Board member is a request of the entire Board.

Trustee Cranor suggested that the Board officers could discuss that at their next officers meeting and determine a way to signify an official request for information.

There was some discussion regarding Board requests for agenda items.

Trustee Cranor stated that it is in the Board's policies that if one Board member requests an agenda item, that request is granted.

Trustee Edwards suggested that if one Board member requests an agenda item, staff could provide information to the Board on the topic first, and perhaps that would solve the issue or address the concern.

Trustee Wright suggested that in the Board request document, it could simply display the Trustee's agenda item request, which Trustee requested it, action taken, and date of resolution even if it did not go through the process of being placed on an agenda.

Trustee Edwards said if the request is operational, the Superintendent should be able to say that is something that is under his authority and not the Board's, which could be discussed and should also be documented. She suggested that throughout the meetings the Board has with the Superintendent, a request may change, and that should be documented as well.

Trustee Young mentioned that because of a level of distrust in the African-American community and sometimes racial tension, many community members in other Trustees' districts asked to meet with her. She said she does suggest that they meet with their Board representative before agreeing to meet with them.

Trustee Edwards said she would like to have a discussion about how the Board could discourage that division and encourage inclusion so that community members feel that each one of the Trustees is able and willing to represent their entire community.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the requests made by the Trustees were valid and very important. He said he appreciated the Board's input and the opportunity to have this discussion.

Trustee Edwards suggested having this type of discussion twice per year.

RECESS: 9:26 a.m.

RECONVENE: 9:51 a.m.

USING DATA TO INFORM DECISIONS

Presentation and review of national, state, district, and school-level student achievement data. Web sites such as the Nevada Report Card will be examined to illustrate how data informs the decision-making process.

The presentation included the topics of how data can create conversations, samples of questions to ask the schools that relate to data, and parent access for school and district data. They discussed how to access the Nevada School Performance Framework, the Nevada Report Card data, and the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Maria Fernandez-Mendiola expressed concern that her daughter has met and will have exceeded the number of credits needed to graduate but will not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony because she has not passed all of the required high school proficiency exams.

Ms. Soria talked about her daughter's accomplishments in school, and she said there is concern that if these students are not allowed to participate in graduation, they may not want to complete high school.

RECESS: 12:34 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:22 p.m.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Edwards suggested that the Board's October community linkage meeting could engage the parents in how to navigate the student achievement data using their own devices, and if they do not have a device, they could see a demonstration.

Trustee Cranor suggested including a demonstration on Infinite Campus as well.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

Trustee Young said she would like to have a follow-up community linkage meeting in November with the American Indian community.

ADJOURN: 1:25 p.m.

Motion: Young Second: Edwards Vote: Unanimous