

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

COMMUNITY LINKAGE

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

9:34 a.m.

Roll Call:	<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Member Absent</u>
	Carolyn Edwards, President	Chris Garvey, Member
	Lorraine Alderman, Vice President	
	Deanna L. Wright, Clerk	
	Erin E. Cranor, Member	
	Patrice Tew, Member	
	Linda E. Young, Member	

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations; Eric Johnson, Director, Math and Instructional Technology, Curriculum and Professional Development Division; Deena Holloway, Coordinator, Literacy Innovative Programs, Literacy, Social Studies, and Library Services, Curriculum and Professional Development Division; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; Eumelia Aller, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Alderman welcomed attendees to the community linkage meeting and thanked everyone for coming, and she thanked Valley High School for hosting this meeting.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Cranor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Young Second: Wright Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Edwards was not present for the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

COMMUNITY LINKAGE

Presentations on effective parent engagement, Common Core Standards, and a discussion with Superintendent of Schools Pat Skorkowsky, as recommended.

Trustee Young explained that the purpose and intent of the community linkage meetings is to foster the relationship and communication between CCSD and the community and families for the success of students.

Trustee Tew added that the Board and the District would like to expand parent engagement to family engagement to include all members of the family.

Superintendent Skorkowsky spoke about the issues of importance and priority that he gleaned from the meetings through the superintendent selection process during the Board meetings and the community input meetings, which were student achievement, employees, results, opportunity, innovation and technology, and community. He discussed the work streams that have been developed through these conversations.

Public Hearing

A gentleman commented that he appreciated the programs that are offered in both English and Spanish. He said he enjoys being involved in his children's educational experience. He added that his children complain about the school meals, and that some attention needs to be given to bullying.

Traci Taylor said that while she appreciates the work streams outlined by Superintendent Skorkowsky, she wonders how this work would be accomplished since all teachers are not adequately prepared.

Sam King offered her support to the District, and she said there is community support for parents that need help beyond what the District can offer.

A gentleman expressed disappointment with how Common Core Standards (CCS) is being implemented.

A woman commented that class size was not mentioned but is very important, and the time given for students to have lunch is also an issue. She said at the time the school rating is made available for parents, it is too late for her to be able to determine whether she wants to send her daughter back to the same school the next year based on that rating.

A woman said CCS takes away from families and the community. She argued that CCS is, in fact, a federally developed and supported program, and she asked if anyone from the state was involved in developing CCS. She invited everyone to compare the District's new community goals with those of the federal government.

COMMUNITY LINKAGE (continued)

A woman said the Common Core is for students who are achieving at mid-level, not for those who are exceeding. She said large class sizes are hurting the students who cannot keep up because teachers cannot give them the attention and time they need, and the high achieving students learn nothing.

Trustee Young said the District is making efforts to better education children with the help of the community and families.

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Holloway provided information on Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Their presentation included, but was not limited to, CCSS Nevada Transition Plan, SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, Key Instructional Shifts of the CCSS for English Language Arts (ELA), Middle School ELA Course Sequence, CCSS High School ELA Course Sequence, CCSS Math Content Standards, CCSS Standards for Mathematical Practice, CCSD Curriculum Middle School Accelerated Courses, CCSD Math Curriculum, Resources, and Parent Guides.

Public Hearing

Nancy Hoffman agreed with the implementation of CCS. She said she was discouraged that some teachers are not willing to make the change. She said the District is too large for these types of meetings, and they need to be conducted on a smaller scale.

Mary Iliev asked how students are going to be prepared for university standards, recalling how in high school she was a high achieving student but struggled as a UNLV student. She asked how students are supposed to continually adjust to newly defined standards.

Tia questioned how CCS helps students who are high achieving.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Edwards arrived at the Board meeting at 11:16 a.m.

COMMUNITY LINKAGE (continued)

Public Hearing

Christina Leventis asked if Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 386.350 gives the local board authority to control the curriculum. She asked what the exit strategy is in the instance that CCS does not work.

Joyce commented that parents and community members should be notified of these meetings earlier. She disagreed with CCS and said it has been unconstitutionally implemented in Nevada. She expressed concerns with testing, and she asked if it was possible to slow down and review these areas of concern.

A woman said there should be another meeting held in a forum that allows parents to have a conversation with District staff and Board members.

COMMUNITY LINKAGE (continued)

Mrs. Haldeman provided the Parent Engagement meeting calendars.

Public Hearing

Christine Carter suggested holding future meetings at 10:00 a.m. instead of 9:30 a.m.

Alice Turner said effective family engagement happens at home. She commented that in terms of the discussion of the math CCS, parents should not be told what not to do, but what to do to help support student success.

Tracy Taylor said there should be more evening meetings. She agreed with Mr. Johnson that students should be taught to think and not just memorize the material. She said CCS will help them go in that direction.

Janalee Gamett wondered if smaller school districts would serve CCSD and students and families better from not only an educational standpoint, but also from a financial standpoint.

Tara Miller said her request to volunteer in her child's classroom had been denied because she has her younger child with her. She asked how schools could be encouraged to get more parents involved in parent groups.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Christina Leventis asked if there would be a future meeting that would include public input on the next generation of science standards.

Ed Salazar thanked the Board and Superintendent and staff for providing useful and helpful information. He encouraged fathers to be involved in their child's education and school experience.

A gentleman encouraged people to tell others about the meetings and encourage them to attend, and he urged people to talk to their legislators about the funding formula.

Dawn Stoddard suggested that the District audit the school lunch program and find ways to save food and money.

ADJOURN: 11:57 a.m.

Motion: Wright Second: Edwards Vote: Unanimous