

MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
KLVX COMMUNICATIONS, 4210 CHANNEL 10 DRIVE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

SUPERINTENDENT INTERVIEWS

Monday, January 9, 2006

8:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Ruth L. Johnson, President
Sheila Moulton, Vice President
Susan C. Brager-Wellman, Clerk
Larry P. Mason, Member
Shirley Barber, Member
Mary Beth Scow, Member
Terri Janison, Member

Dr. Walt Rulffes, Superintendent
Dr. Agustin Orci, Superintendent

Also present were: Bill Hoffman, General Counsel, Legal Department; Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Kathy Harney, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Bob McCord, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Scow Second: Brager-Wellman Vote: Unanimous

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mr. Robert J. Collins was interviewed by members of the Board of School Trustees for the position of Superintendent.

RECESS: 10:00 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:30 a.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Dr. Peter C. Goreman was interviewed by members of the Board of School Trustees for the position of Superintendent.

RECESS: 12:30 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:30 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Dr. Walt Rulffes was interviewed by members of the Board of School Trustees for the position of Superintendent.

RECESS TO A TIME, DATE, AND PLACE CERTAIN

Approval to recess the January 9, 2006, board meeting to 8:00 a.m., on Tuesday, January 10, 2006, in the television studio of KLVX Communications, 4210 Channel 10 Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, for the purpose of continuing the superintendent interviews.

Motion: Brager-Wellman Second: Moulton Vote: Unanimous

The January 9, 2006, board meeting recessed at 3:30 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2006

The January 9, 2006, board meeting reconvened at 8:00 a.m., January 10, 2006, in the television studio of KLVX Communications, 4210 Channel 10 Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

All board members were present. Also present were: Bill Hoffman, General Counsel, Legal Department; Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Kathy Harney, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Bob McCord, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Dr. Edward Lee Vargas was interviewed by members of the Board of School Trustees for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

RECESS: 10:00 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:30 a.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Dr. Bernard Taylor, Jr. was interviewed by members of the Board of School Trustees for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

RECESS: 12:30 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:30 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Mr. Eric Nadelstern was interviewed by members of the Board of School Trustees for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

RECESS: 3:30 p.m.

RECONVENE: 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Superintendent Search – Tom Nesmith, Isabel Medford, James Kelly

Mr. Nesmith congratulated the board on the process of hiring a new superintendent.

Ms. Medford stated that she was impressed with the candidates and their wealth of ideas.

Mr. Kelly spoke about the importance of the decision before the board to select a candidate to serve as superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Motion to cancel the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2006, and to direct staff to post the cancellation.

Motion: Moulton Second: Janison Vote: Unanimous

RECESS TO A TIME, DATE, AND PLACE CERTAIN

Approval to recess the January 10, 2006, board meeting to 8:00 a.m., on Thursday, January 12, 2006, in the television studio of KLVX Communications, 4210 Channel 10 Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, for the purpose of continuing the superintendent interviews.

Motion: Scow Second: Brager-Wellman Vote: Unanimous

The January 10, 2006, board meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2006

The January 10, 2006, board meeting reconvened at 8:10 a.m., January 12, 2006, in the television studio of KLVX Communications, 4210 Channel 10 Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

All board members were present. Also present were: Bill Hoffman, General Counsel, Legal Department; Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Kathy Harney, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Bob McCord, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED

Teleconference call with Mr. Mason was connected at 8:10 a.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Ms. Harney stated that their goal moving forward was to narrow the number of semi-finalist candidates down to finalists for the position of superintendent.

The responses from the receptions were as follows:

Dr. Taylor (40-50 cards)

- Mostly average to high ratings
- Honesty
- Personable
- Not enough experience and knowledge to run a district the size of Clark County

Dr. Vargas (44 cards)

- Not ready for a district the size of Clark County
- Not a strong speaker
- Needed to be more specific in answering questions
- Is experienced, passionate about education and is well polished

Dr. Ruffes (42 cards)

- Few negative comments
- Mostly positive comments
- Most wanted him for superintendent
- Great relationships in the community

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Mr. Nadelstern (50 cards)

- 35 pro Mr. Nadelstern
- 15 low scores
- Concern with employee relations

Dr. Gorman (50 cards)

- Few low scores
- Almost all positive comments
- Viable candidate with a bright future
- Not ready for big challenges in CCSD

Mr. Collins (60 cards)

- Mostly highly rated
- Experience with large districts
- Did not answer questions directly

Trustees discussed the factors that they took into consideration while considering which candidates they would like to see named as finalists.

Mrs. Barber expressed her concern with the identity of Dr. Taylor being released to the media prior to all of the other candidates.

Mrs. Moulton recommended the finalists as:

Dr. Gorman

Dr. Rulfes

Mr. Nadelstern

Motion: Moulton Second: Janison

Mrs. Moulton briefly mentioned her reasons for selecting those candidates.

There was further discussion held regarding the timeliness of selecting a superintendent.

CALL FOR THE QUESTION

Motion: Mason Vote: Yeses – 3 (Mason, Barber, Janison);

Noes – 4 (Johnson, Moulton, Brager-Wellman, Scow)

The motion failed.

A discussion continued regarding the motion on the floor.

Vote on Mrs. Moulton's motion: Yeses – 6 (Johnson, Moulton, Brager-Wellman, Mason, Scow, Janison);

No – 1 (Barber)

The motion passed.

TELECONFERENCE CALL DISCONNECTED

Teleconference call with Mr. Mason was disconnected at 9:28 a.m.

RECESS: 9:28 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:05 a.m.

TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED

Mr. Mason was connected to the meeting via teleconference call at 10:06 a.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Ms. Harney reported to the board that the three candidates named semi-finalists would make presentations on January 13, 2006.

RECESS TO A TIME, DATE, AND PLACE CERTAIN

Approval to recess the January 12, 2006, board meeting to 9:30 a.m., on Friday, January 13, 2006, in the television studio at KLVX Communications, 4210 Channel 10 Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, for the purpose of continuing the superintendent search process.

Motion: Scow Second: Mason

Ms. Miller mentioned that it would be helpful for it to be changed on the website to reflect that the meeting would be at 9:30 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m.

Mrs. Scow added to the motion that at the end of the third interview, she would like the board to have some deliberations concerning what the next steps would be; and that there would be a lottery to draw the names of the candidates to determine the order in which they would give their presentations.

Vote for Mrs. Scow's motion was unanimous.

The order in which the candidates were selected to conduct their presentations was:

- Dr. Rulfes
- Mr. Nadelstern
- Dr. Gorman

RECONVENE MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2006

The January 12, 2006, board meeting reconvened at 9:30 a.m., January 13, 2006, in the television studio of KLVX Communications, 4210 Channel 10 Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

All board members were present. Also present were Bill Hoffman, General Counsel, Legal Department; Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Kathy Harney, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Bob McCord, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Dr. Rulfes conducted his presentation to the board.

RECESS: 11:00 a.m.

RECONVENE: 12:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Mr. Nadelstern conducted his presentation to the board.

RECESS: 1:30 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Dr. Gorman conducted his presentation to the board.

RECESS: 3:40 p.m.

RECONVENE: 4:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Mrs. Johnson commended the superintendent search team for their work in this process and thanked the KLVX Communications staff for their cooperation and assistance.

The board members engaged in a discussion which included what the trustees learned about the candidates during the interviews.

Mrs. Brager-Wellman suggested narrowing down the number of finalists to two and then conducting some community research.

Mrs. Scow agreed with Mrs. Brager-Wellman's suggestion.

Mrs. Moulton expressed her thoughts on each of the finalists.

Mrs. Janison agreed with comments made by Mrs. Moulton but mentioned that she was not agreeable to narrowing the number of finalists at this point.

Mr. Mason mentioned some advantages to selecting Dr. Rulfes or Mr. Nadelstern.

Mrs. Barber commented on the importance of selecting the right superintendent for the students of Clark County School District.

Mrs. Johnson stated that she was impressed with Mr. Nadelstern, but that she was concerned with his lack of experience working with an elected board, having worked within an entity structured around governance, and his inexperience with the bond program. She stated that Dr. Rulfes' greatest strength is his known integrity. She went on to list advantages to selecting Dr. Rulfes. She shared some positive aspects of Dr. Gorman's experience and style.

Motion to select Dr. Rulfes and Mr. Nadelstern to move forward as finalists and to undergo site visits and for the board to make a decision based on information gathered from this further search.

Motion: Mrs. Brager-Wellman Second: Mason

Mrs. Scow expressed that she was agreeable to the motion.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Mrs. Johnson reiterated her concerns with considering Mr. Nadelstern for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Mrs. Janison stated that her concern with selecting Dr. Rulffes was his three- to five-year commitment and his lack of desire to bring significant changes to the district.

Mrs. Moulton stated that she could not support the motion because she agreed with comments made by Mrs. Johnson concerning Mr. Nadelstern.

Mrs. Barber stated that she would be in support of Mr. Nadelstern and Dr. Rulffes.

Mr. Mason spoke positively about Mrs. Brager-Wellman's motion.

CALL FOR THE QUESTION

Motion: Moulton Vote: Unanimous

Vote on Mrs. Brager-Wellman's motion: Yeses – 6 (Johnson, Moulton, Brager-Wellman, Mason, Barber, Scow); No – 1 (Janison)

The motion passed.

RECESS TO A TIME, DATE, AND PLACE CERTAIN

Approval to recess the January 13, 2006, board meeting to 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, in the Board Room of the Edward A. Greer Education Center, 2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada, for the purpose of continuing the superintendent search process.

Motion: Brager-Wellman Second: Barber Vote: Unanimous

The January 13, 2006, board meeting recessed at 4:40 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2006

The January 13, 2006, board meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, in the Board Room of the Edward A. Greer Education Center, 2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada.

All board members were present. Also present were Bill Hoffman, General Counsel, Legal Department; Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Kathy Harney, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Bob McCord, Consultant, Superintendent Search; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Board members expressed their thoughts about what they would like to accomplish in this meeting, including suggestions on what would help the board come to a decision with regard to the finalists.

Senator Steven Horsford spoke passionately about the importance of making the right selection for the person chosen to lead Clark County School District.

Motion to conduct a site visit to New York.

Motion: Scow Second: Moulton Vote: Unanimous

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)

Mrs. Scow suggested that two to three trustees could travel to New York while the other trustees engaged in gathering information here in Las Vegas. She also suggested that the trustees should meet again to review the information they gathered on Tuesday, January 24, 2006.

Ms. Harney suggested that they meet on Friday, January 27, 2006, to allow for the coordination of the trustees' site visit.

The trustees were agreeable to Ms. Harney's suggestion.

After further discussion, Ms. Harney and Dr. McCord clarified that Mr. Mason, Mrs. Moulton, Mrs. Janison, Mrs. Scow, and Mrs. Johnson would be traveling to New York in groups of two, and that Mrs. Barber, and Mrs. Brager-Wellman, would be conducting research here in Las Vegas.

The trustees reached a consensus that they would meet on Friday, January 27, 2006, at 3:00 p.m., to share and discuss the information they gather.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

Superintendent Search – Bill Hanlon, Eleanor Chow, Steven Augspurger, Louise Monet, John Jasonok, George Ann Ray, Erin Cranor, and Skip Rappaport

Mr. Hanlon expressed his concerns with autonomy. He stated that he was in support of Dr. Rulfes.

Ms. Chow spoke about the preparation necessary for the trustees' site visit.

Mr. Augspurger suggested that during the trustees' site visit, they should speak with those who are opposed to Mr. Nadelstern's beliefs.

Ms. Monet spoke about her concerns with smaller classrooms as suggested by one of the candidates.

Mr. Jasonok provided a letter to the board members which provided information regarding innovative programs in the Clark County School District.

Ms. Ray spoke about the importance of the site visits and gathering both positive and negative information.

Ms. Cranor spoke favorably about the board's ability to make the right decisions.

Mr. Rappaport suggested that the trustees should speak with region superintendents and their staffs on the issue of selecting the superintendent.

ADJOURN: 5:40 p.m.

Motion: Brager-Wellman Second: Barber Vote: Unanimous