

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, August 5, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present

Terri Janison, President
Carolyn Edwards, Vice President
Sheila R. Moulton, Clerk
Chris Garvey, Member
Deanna L. Wright, Member
Dr. Linda E. Young, Member

Member Absent

Larry P. Mason, Member

Dr. Walt Rulfes, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mark Wood, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Dr. Lauren Kohut-Rost, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction Unit; Jeffrey Weiler, Chief Financial Officer, Operations Support Unit; Paul Gerner, Associate Superintendent, Facilities Division; Dr. Edward Goldman, Associate Superintendent, Education Support Services; Sue Daellenbach, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment and Accountability, Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement; Dr. Mike Barton, Principal, West Prep, Preparatory Institute, School for Academic Excellence at Charles I. West Hall; Sharon Dattoli, Director II, Demographics, Zoning, and GIS Department, Operations Support Unit; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; Elizabeth Carrero, Secretary to the Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent; Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda, except move Item 2.01 to follow Item 3.01 as Item 3.01a.

Motion: Young Second: Edwards Vote: Unanimous

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL

Discussion on the history, program offerings, facilities, funding, achievement, and recent community input regarding West Prep, Preparatory Institute, School for Academic Excellence at Charles I. West Hall.

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL (continued)

Dr. Rulfes gave a brief outline of how the current position of West Prep and its program came to be. He explained that West Prep started out as West Middle School, which was eventually turned over to Edison Schools, a private organization; that the District then recovered West Middle School because under Edison Schools, there was no improvement in student achievement; that at the time West came back to the District, there was a proposal to turn West into a K-12 school, primarily by Dr. Goldman; that in the process of converting the school to a K-12 program, while maintaining the existing facility, it was proposed that the middle school students would be rezoned to neighboring middle schools.

Dr. Rulfes went on to explain that the District decided not to rezone the middle school students, leaving the facility inadequate to accommodate the K-12 program, which now included the zoned middle school students who resided in that area. He stated there was then a request to place portables on the campus to accommodate the middle school students. He stated that at that time he indicated to Dr. Goldman that if the K-12 program continued, some adjustments would be made for the high school students.

Dr. Goldman stated West Prep was originally built to give the members of that community the opportunity to attend a secondary school in their own neighborhood. He talked about the declining condition of the school and the neglectful manner in which it had been handled. He stated half of the school population left the school under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). He stated another challenge West Prep and the District faced was that through the District's desegregation program, students were brought in as 6th-graders from 54 different schools. He stated he believed in small high schools, and the high school program of West Prep was modeled from the Foshay Learning Center in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) because of its small high school concept. He talked about the development of the K-12 program, bringing in the high school concept.

Dr. Rulfes stated that West Prep was included in the empowerment schools proposal so the school received the same funding and guidelines as the empowerment schools, which gave the school lower class sizes, extended school days, and supplemental healthcare for the students.

Dr. Goldman continued that because of growth and the school's success, it is a challenge to accommodate the number of students now attending and potentially enrolling in the school, and to continue the K-12 program, the portables were necessary.

Dr. Barton gave a PowerPoint® presentation outlining the academic program at West Prep. His presentation included, but was not limited to, the school's history, including vandalism throughout the facility and the school's materials; low test scores; students opting out to attend other schools, inability to attract teachers; a lack of instructional rigor and management; gathering of public input, including meetings held with local minister alliances.

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL (continued)

Dr. Barton's presentation continued with the BARPAC (former Board member Shirley Barber's parent advisory committee) meeting held where the vision of West Prep was shared with stakeholders, planning meeting held with Mrs. Barber to gather public input; continued public input meetings regarding the school's reconstruction; community walks held to inform the community of the K-12 vision for West Prep; K-12 program model/philosophy; incoming students from 54 schools; Foshay Learning Center-LAUSD-Howard Lapin; limited transitions for students; college readiness theme; supplemental programs; conceptual framework for curricular planning and program development at West Prep.

Dr. Barton's presentation also included a timeline for phasing in the K-12 school program, including phasing in of 9th-grade class during 2006-07, phasing in of K-3 and 6-10 in 2007-08, K-4 and 6-11 in 2008-09, K-12, along with kindergarten in 2009-10; academic results, including progress over the past three years, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results; success, achievement, Percent Above the Cut (PAC) rates; High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) pass rates; school governance at West Prep, including the Site Decision Team, Friends of West Prep, Parent Vision Committee; operational cost for West Prep, including the Summer Institute, Extended Day Program for 8-12, Saturday school, and class size reduction; Strategies Proven Most Effective with Minority Students, including cooperative learning structures, computer-assisted instruction, peer and cross-aged tutoring.

Trustee Edwards asked what the cost of the school was under Edison Schools in comparison to current costs.

Mr. Weiler stated he would provide that information to the Board.

Trustee Edwards asked if there were records or data kept on the past community meetings regarding who attended.

Dr. Barton stated the meetings were well attended.

Trustee Edwards asked if all ethnic groups in the community were represented.

Dr. Barton stated he believed they were.

Trustee Edwards asked if the AYP results presented here show that all criteria were met through appeals.

Dr. Barton answered West Prep did not write an appeal this year.

Trustee Edwards asked how many zone variances West Prep has currently.

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL (continued)

Ms. Dattoli stated last year there were 1,550 students enrolled with 141 from out of zone with 95 being elementary school students.

Trustee Young mentioned the past expulsion rate and the potential dropout rate and stated she has since witnessed a turnaround in those areas through the use of the current model, which was put in place to address the needs of the community. She commended those involved in the development of the program at West Prep. She stated the format of the West Prep model works well for the community that it serves. She credited the school program with encouraging and assisting students and providing post-secondary educational opportunities.

Trustee Moulton commended those involved in the successful progress being made at West Prep. She asked when the portables were added to the campus.

Dr. Barton stated the portables were added during the 2007-2008 school year.

Trustee Moulton asked what the percentages were of students who attend the Summer Institute and the Saturday school program.

Dr. Barton answered the Summer Institute is attended by approximately one-third of the students; and the Saturday program is attended by approximately 120 out of 1,300 students on average.

Trustee Janison recognized the students of West Prep in attendance, Assemblyman Harvey Munford, former senator Joe Neal, and Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) member, Frank Hawkins.

Trustee Garvey asked about the number of students at West Prep in relation to the Strategic Plan. She asked what the guidelines and parameters would be with regard to which and how many students would be accepted to West Prep.

Dr. Goldman stated the Strategic Plan was developed in 2006, and he stated he believed the campus could hold 2,000 students with the portables and should never exceed that number; that zone variances are only accepted if there are seats available or in accordance with District regulations outlining zone variances granted by the principal; and that if there is not enough room for the number of requests, a lottery system would be engaged, but preference would be given to siblings.

Ms. Dattoli offered utilization capacity and projection information for West Prep, stating 6,483 K-12 students actually live within the West Prep boundary with 3,630 being K-5, 1,236 being middle school students, and 1,617 being high school students. She stated that for the 2008-2009 school year, of the 1,550 students enrolled at West Prep, 952 were middle school, 393 were elementary, and 205 were high school, and of those students, there were 141 students attending from out of the zone. She stated that the projection for next school year, including their growth for their 5th-grade and 12th-grade students coming in, would be 1,734.

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL (continued)

Ms. Dattoli added that the West Prep facility was originally designed for 1,700 middle school students and with the original design in mind today, based on the specialized programs assigned, the program capacity would be 1,539 without portables; and looking at the program without portables as a K-12 program, the capacity would be 1,226. She stated taking into consideration 100 students per grade level, requiring 22 doublewide, portable units or 44 classrooms, the capacity would be 1,989; 125 students per grade level with 26 units, the capacity would be 2,138; and 150 students per grade level with 30 units, the capacity would be 2,289.

Ms Dattoli continued that the available seating capacity in the surrounding area is as follows: At the elementary school level on a 9-month calendar, there are 426 seats available; on a year-round calendar, there are 1,070 seats available; at the middle school level, there are 1,126 seats available; and at the high school level, there are 1,352 seats available.

Trustee Moulton asked what the radius was of the schools used in the comparison.

Ms. Dattoli stated Roy Martin Middle School is 4.8 miles away from West Prep, and Marvin Sedway Middle School is 2.2 miles away.

Trustee Moulton asked how many available seats there are at Sedway.

Ms. Dattoli stated there were 47 seats available at Sedway.

Trustee Moulton asked what high schools in the area have seating capacity.

Ms. Dattoli answered Canyon Springs, Western, Cheyenne, Advanced Technologies Academy, and Veterans Tribute.

Trustee Janison asked Ms. Dattoli to address the number of portables and the number of available seats.

Ms. Dattoli explained that the portables on the West Prep campus are there because the number of portable units needed for full implementation of the program was ordered during the 2007-2008 school year.

Dr. Barton stated he expects every portable on the campus to be utilized this year.

Trustee Garvey stated the only scenario in line with the Strategic Plan would be the 100 students per grade level as presented by Ms. Dattoli.

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL (continued)

Dr. Goldman stated the school could accommodate up to 125 students per grade level for zone variances, and that adjustments would be made if necessary, but the campus would not exceed the total of 2,000 students with room for minor adjustments to be made for specialized programs.

Trustee Moulton asked if smaller class sizes for grades 1 through 3 and appropriately sized restrooms for kindergarteners are accommodated within the portable units.

Dr. Barton stated the elementary school children are mostly in portables, and there is a restroom in close proximity, a restroom adjacent to the cafeteria, and other restroom facilities in the main building when children are transitioning to their specials.

Trustee Moulton asked what other K-5 schools are in close proximity to West Prep that would feed to West Prep.

Ms. Dattoli answered those schools would be Wendell Williams, Mabel Hoggard, Ollie Detwiler, Matt Kelly, Kit Carson, Kermit Booker, H. P. Fitzgerald, and Jo Mackey.

Trustee Moulton asked if the classrooms are accommodating to the high school students.

Dr. Barton stated the high school is in the 800 wing, the gymnasium is shared with the middle school, but the hood typically found in a chemistry class is not available at West Prep, so extra care must be taken in what is offered in the chemistry program.

Trustee Moulton asked if students are allowed to participate in the extracurricular activities in their zoned school, such as sports or band.

Dr. Barton stated the high school students are able to participate in the band but very few do, and that students are able to play sports for their zoned high school, but there have been only about five students participating because transportation is an issue.

Trustee Moulton asked what transportation is provided in to the school besides for the special education students.

Dr. Barton answered it is limited with only three buses.

Dr. Rulfes stated given the changes that have occurred since the Strategic Plan was proposed in 2006, he encouraged that the focus should be on what the Strategic Plan would look like presently.

Trustee Young commented that Dr. Barton has been successful in employing smaller learning communities and in making strides toward student achievement. She stated she would like to replicate the model used by Dr. Barton to some degree to help other communities achieve.

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL (continued)

Trustee Wright expressed concern with the number of empty classrooms on the West Prep campus. She asked why there are 14 computer and science lab classrooms.

Dr. Barton stated that the utilization report Trustee Wright was referring to was last year's report, and that all the portables would be utilized this upcoming school year. He explained that all the labs are not independent science labs; that there are six computer labs; and that the science labs are instructional classrooms as well.

Trustee Wright commented that the data shows a decrease in students from 2006-2007 to 2008-2009.

Dr. Barton stated the reason for the drop in enrollment is primarily due to families moving.

Dr. Ruffes commented that the pattern of declining enrollment shown here is also present in many other high schools between 9th grade and 12th grade.

Trustee Wright stated the decrease in enrollment should not be happening when children and their families are choosing to attend this school.

Dr. Ruffes stated he believed some of those numbers may be reflective of the dropout rate that occurs in later years of high school.

Trustee Janison suggested that perhaps the assistance of a parent volunteer could be enlisted to follow up with those students who did not return. Referring to page 32 of 63, she pointed out that there are many empty seats in the surrounding elementary schools and expressed hesitancy to opening up elementary school seats at West Prep.

Ms. Dattoli commented that it may require patchwork or leapfrog zoning, which the Board had moved away from, to fill seats in the area middle schools.

Trustee Edwards asked of the 54 schools the children came to West Prep from, how many of those schools were Prime 6 planned schools.

Dr. Goldman stated those 54 schools include the neighborhood schools as well as the Prime 6 planned schools.

Trustee Edwards asked if that was still true today.

Dr. Barton stated he received a feeder list this year, and it was still 54 schools including the schools in the local area.

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL (continued)

Trustee Edwards pointed out that was a separate issue and a separate discussion than what was being discussed today, and there would be a discussion on the Prime 6 program on August 13, 2009.

Trustee Garvey asked how the revitalization plans for the housing in proximity to Matt Kelly would impact the enrollment at Matt Kelly or West.

Ms. Dattoli explained there are 113 students of Matt Kelly living in this housing development, and staff anticipates that in the school year 2010-2011 their homes would be demolished, and those students' families would be given vouchers from the Housing Authority to assist with relocation, so it is unknown at this time where those students would be living.

Trustee Edwards asked how many charter schools are in this area and what their capacities are.

Dr. Goldman stated there are eight charter schools, including Odyssey Charter School.

Ms. Dattoli stated she would have the charter schools' enrollment numbers, not their capacities. She said there are approximately 1,450 students enrolled in the charter schools.

Ms. Daellenbach gave a brief overview of achievement within the West Prep academic program. Her presentation included math and reading proficiency rates from 2005-06 to 2008-09; AYP English/Language Arts PAC Rates; AYP math PAC Rates; 10th-grade math and reading HSPE; elementary math and reading Criterion Referenced Tests (CRT); middle school math and reading CRT; 8th- and 11th-grade writing assessment; West Prep and surrounding schools percent proficient comparison in different grades for reading, math, writing, and AYP; average class sizes; and enrollment.

Trustee Edwards noted that for the math proficiencies at the 8th-grade level, there has been either no improvement or an actual decline in the results. She stated work needs to be done in that area to prepare the 8th-grade students for the 9th grade. She commented that the District needs to continue to target the achievement gap, and there may be some examples at West Prep to use as a guide in all the schools that have a low socioeconomic population.

Trustee Young commented positively on the gains shown in the math proficiency rates.

Trustee Janison expressed her appreciation to Dr. Rulfes and staff for their efforts in bringing this information forward.

Mr. Weiler referred to page 36 of 63 for the total estimated cost per student. As a point of reference, he stated the numbers used in the accountability report are calculated by the state, and the District is not accountable for those particular calculations because the state arrives at their numbers differently.

WEST PREP, PREPARATORY INSTITUTE, SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CHARLES I. WEST HALL (continued)

Trustee Janison agreed that some clarification should be made at some point because the District's numbers differ from the state's numbers greatly.

Trustee Edwards noted that this per-pupil cost would be used to calculate any comparison costs per student, but costs such as maintenance and transportation are not included in these numbers.

Mr. Weiler agreed with Trustee Edwards.

Trustee Edwards asked if the cost included specialists.

Mr. Weiler stated it includes all staff members, including title-funded staff, who were assigned to the school as of this past year.

Trustee Moulton stated she would like to see the average cost comparable in elementary and high school and whether or not the information includes grant monies.

Mr. Weiler answered he could give the cost comparison for the elementary and high schools, and he would follow up with Dr. Barton regarding any funds that may have come to West Prep directly.

Trustee Janison stated the Board had asked for information in the past that included a breakdown of costs per student and grant monies.

Dr. Kohut-Rost stated she had not seen that request but would look into it.

Trustee Janison made a formal request to have that information come to the Board.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AGENDA ITEMS/RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Trustee Janison read the Board's policy GP-11: Public Hearings.

West Prep – Juanita Simpson, Andres Mendoza, Dina Neal, Anyika Kamal, Deborah Jackson, Marzette Lewis, Helen Toland, Alex X., Katie Duncan, Tamara Scytin, Michael Franklin, Kathy McManus, Sam King, Senator Mumford, Carol Santiago, Joe Neal, West Prep student Jade Jones.

The above-mentioned individuals expressed their profound concern for the students and citizens of the West Prep community. The specific issues mentioned included: retaining the excellent academic program at West Prep, improvement in the program at Von Tobel Middle School to liken that of West Prep, an adequate facility to house the students, equality among all students of all races and ethnicities, appropriate use of taxpayers' dollars, the benefit of small class sizes, misuse of the 1998 bond fund monies, the need for a gathering place in West Las Vegas that could hold a large number of people for activities like spelling bees and school dances, the need for a larger high school at West Prep that would offer sports programs, the need for transparency related to the expenditure of the bond program monies, and the benefits of a K-12 program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AGENDA ITEMS/RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

Trustee Edwards thanked the community members, students, and parents for coming forward and being active. She commented that all schools in the District that are not performing well may need additional resources and improvements to their facilities. She explained that the District nor the Board is arguing that there is not a need in West Las Vegas or at West Prep, but that all the needs in the CCSD need to be balanced; that West Prep receives more funding per pupil than many of the schools in the District; that West Las Vegas had received monies from the 1998 bond fund; and that many schools have been built or revitalized in the West Las Vegas community. She stated there is a list of unfunded projects that need to be addressed that equal approximately \$300 million, and the funds the Board approved last week would be going toward programs and schools already listed to receive attention.

Trustee Janison clarified that those funds were approved by the Board only to go before Debt Management.

Trustee Edwards added that if those funds are approved, it would be used for the remaining needs list that already exists. She requested that staff ensure that the list is current and the current status of campuses on the list is accurate and for it to be brought back to the Board. She stated it would also be helpful for staff to produce information that would show what portion of the bond monies benefited the West Las Vegas community.

Trustee Young expressed her support of the West Las Vegas community and reiterated that everyone must continue to work together to ensure the success of the students.

Trustee Moulton spoke about beginning to think creatively in terms of looking at what is slated for which projects and possibly making adjustments to build or revitalize a new West Prep academy.

Trustee Garvey stated many of the schools in the West Las Vegas community are old and stated the needs of all the schools and children in West Las Vegas need to be considered, not just those of West Prep.

Trustee Janison pointed out that many other schools have portables on their campuses as does West Prep, and she asked that as staff goes out and seeks community input, all those campuses are given equal attention as well when taking the expenditure of bond funds into consideration.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS/RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Jaunita Simpson, Marzette Lewis, Deborah Jackson, Anyika Kamal, Katie Duncan, Anthony Snowden

Ms. Simpson expressed her appreciation and support of Dr. Barton and Dr. Goldman. She spoke positively about a parent information meeting that was held at the Doolittle Community Center to inform parents about magnet schools, superintendent's schools, and empowerment schools. She stated she would like to hold a parent information meeting targeting charter schools.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS/RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

Ms. Lewis stated none of the other schools mentioned at today's meeting are in the same condition as West Prep, and she stated the only school that should have been discussed at this meeting was West Prep.

Ms. Jackson spoke about the inequities in the schools being built across the District in different areas. She stated the citizens of West Las Vegas want and deserve a high school in their community that would offer the same programs and opportunities as any other high school.

Mr. Kamal stated the Board needs to revisit the plan originally put in place for West Prep.

Ms. Duncan spoke about her son being bussed to a school outside of their community during desegregation. She stated building a new facility for West Prep would be a big step toward integration of that community.

Mr. Snowden encouraged the Board to consider providing equal opportunities, including adequate facilities and programs, for all the children of the District to ensure their success.

Dr. Rulfes expressed that the District and the Board have the same concerns expressed today. He stated the program at West Prep validates the efforts of the empowerment program to show that with additional funds the District could do more for student achievement. He stated the District has not made a practice of placing portables on a campus as a permanent solution, and typically portables have been used in cases of overcrowding or interim use. He stated the obvious next step would be that the West Prep facility should be considered in relation to the overall needs of the District during the bond issue planning. He agreed that the replacement of portables needs to happen across the District and not just in one community; that availability of seats must be a factor; and that some time needs to be taken in considering what options may be available while working with the community.

ADJOURN: 12:30 p.m.

Motion: Edwards Second: Moulton Vote: Unanimous