

MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, ROOM 466
5100 W. SAHARA AVE., LAS VEGAS, NV 89146

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2014

11:30 a.m.

Members Present

Bowler, Richard	Lavelle, Eleissa
Earl, Debbie	Philpott, Steve
Haldeman, Joyce	Reynolds, Jacob
Halsey, Jim	Tate, Cameron
Kubat, Charles	

Members Absent

Bruins, David
Davis, Al
Hawkins, Frank
Lazaroff, Gene
Lopez, George

A recording of this meeting can be obtained by contacting the Capital Program Office at 799-8710.

1.01 ROLL CALL.

Jim Halsey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

1.02 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

Motion was approved to adopt the Agenda for August 21, 2014, with the removal of Items 3.02 and 3.04 as requested by staff.

Motion: Lavelle

Second: Kubat

Vote: Unanimous

2.01 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

Dawn Haviland spoke in favor of a gymnasium to be built in Sandy Valley and provided a picture illustrating the condition of the floating floor in the existing portable gymnasium and stated that the students in Sandy Valley should have the same amenities as other students in Clark County.

Ken Smith, a resident in Sandy Valley, spoke in favor of a permanent gymnasium and also provided pictures illustrating the conditions of the temporary floor.

Justin Jones, State Senator for the far southwest part of town, stated that he had visited with principals and teachers at some schools in the southwest. A principal complained that there are no lockers available for students. Two elementary schools do not have playgrounds due to the number of portable classrooms. Mr. Jones spoke in favor of a

new school in the southwest to relieve the schools that are over 50 percent capacity and offered his assistance in the Legislature.

Electra Smith, parent in Sandy Valley, spoke in favor of a permanent gymnasium for Sandy Valley schools and explained the floor moves and inhibits the physical educational programs.

Roy Shelton spoke in favor of a permanent gymnasium and explained the floor is in a constant need for repair.

Cam Walker, Mayor pro tem of Boulder City, stated that the District has never built a high school in Boulder City. The existing high school was built by the federal government. Mr. Walker stated the 1998 building program completed a phased replacement of Western High School. Boulder City High School only received one of four phases. Mr. Walker spoke in favor of new classrooms with the remaining funds from Revision 18.

3.01 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

Motion for approval of the Minutes for June 19, 2014.

Motion: Tate

Second: Reynolds

Vote: Unanimous

3.03 FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMS. NON-TRADITIONAL SOLUTIONS.

Joyce Haldeman, Executive Director of Community & Government Relations, stated the previous presentations have explained school construction and capital needs in the Clark County School District. Topics that have been covered include the number and location of available seats, number and condition of classroom portables, need for additional seats and land acquisitions, and transportation.

The topic for next month will cover the modernization needs for the existing schools and the topic for the month of October will be technology needs. Ms. Haldeman explained the purpose of the topic today covers non-traditional solutions for the purpose of thinking outside-of-the-box to obtain ideas to provide seats for students and education.

Jim McIntosh, Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Jesse Welch, Academic Manager of Innovative Learning Environments Department, provided a PowerPoint presentation, "Non-traditional Solutions to CCSD's Capital Program."

Mr. McIntosh summarized the problems, traditional responses, and enrollment history. Non-traditional solutions along with pros and cons for instructional buildings were presented to include the use of commercial property, portable campuses, regional early childhood centers, and fostering charter schools.

Dr. Welch summarized the non-traditional solutions and the pros and cons for innovative learning environments to include four options of blended learning (a combination of learning within a school facility and online instruction), and summarized the expansion of Magnet/select schools that are under capacity.

Mr. McIntosh summarized the option of establishing 5th grade academies within middle schools that have available space or at other locations, double sessions where students occupy a school in the morning and a separate set of students in the afternoon, and the pros and cons for each.

Mr. McIntosh also defined public/private partnerships, provided examples of its use, and reviewed the pros and cons.

Members made the following questions and comments on the topics listed:

Eleissa Lavelle:

Commercial Property – A great option. There may be restricted covenants that may interfere with District use.

Blended Learning – Teaches on a post graduate level with webinars and face-to-face instruction. Questioned how this would work with elementary students without seriously compromising the education experience. Questioned if the parents are more likely to use this method due to their financial means and/or having a parent who is capable of being home with the student. Dr. Welch stated that parental support will be a big factor and does not feel that it will be a financial issue. If there are homes that do not have WiFi access, the District will want to be able to help those that need it.

Charles Kubat:

Commercial Property – There are some good opportunities that may be quickly disappearing as the economy picks up and questioned if there could be a lease rather than a purchase.

Blended Learning – Shares same concern as Ms. Lavelle. Assuming students are spending half of the day on the computer; he questioned, under whose supervision and direction would they be, especially if the parent is working. Not a very good solution.

Private/Public Partnerships – This deserves some further attention. Eighteen years ago when the District was in this same situation, the company he was with (Howard Hughes Corporation) offered and was told it was not legally possible. The District could possibly benefit from the ability to pay back on a longer basis.

Evaluation of Options – Stated that a fifth grade or preschool campus would seem to be an option that would cost the least and would bring immediate relief. Questioned how the District will evaluate the options and determine the direction to take.

Mr. McIntosh explained that this presentation will be given to the Board of School Trustees next week and it will require their decision as to which direction to take. Mr. McIntosh explained the overcrowding conditions are currently being taken care of with the use of portable classrooms and year-round schedules. The concern is that we may have to resort to utilizing these non-traditional solutions if a ballot question is not passed in 2016. Staff will need to take the most viable solutions/recommendations to the Board to show the least cost, least impact to the students, and provide the best benefits.

Public notification of solutions – Mr. Kubat encouraged staff to find a way to help the community learn of the variety of resolutions and the impacts that are associated.

Steve Philpott:

Commercial property – Questioned what would be the average time to convert a commercial property for District use.

Blended Learning – Questioned what the students' testing results were compared to students learning from conventional methods. Dr. Welch explained that the District's Nevada Learning Academy at the middle school level started this new method this fall. Johnson Junior High School and Burkholder Middle School began a pilot program for their 6th grade math last year and the results were very positive. It was discovered that students were online at 10-11 p.m., as this was the time that these students were ready to learn and are able to learn at their own pace. The teachers are able to place more focus on the students that are behind. Mr. Philpott questioned how much time would a student spend in school on the A, B, C model. Dr. Welch explained that it would be the half the amount of time as a traditional model.

Charter Schools – Questioned how many charter schools were in the valley. Joyce Haldeman explained that these are State sponsored charter schools and provided an estimate of 20 schools.

Debbie Earl:

Blended Learning – Questioned how this would impact state funding and stated that this would not be for every family, but would be for families who are committed. Mr. McIntosh explained that the District would receive full funding.

Commercial property – Ms. Earl questioned what the capacity would be for the Sandhill property that was mentioned in the presentation and requested a cost comparison. Mr. McIntosh explained that the capacity for the Sandhill property would be approximately 650 students. If this property was made into a magnet/special school, the capacity could be increased.

Early Childhood Centers – Questioned who is eligible for this program since the District does not receive State funding, and questioned if federal funding covers the costs for the 4,700 students. Mr. McIntosh explained this is a Title I program/federal program for at risk students and stated the District receives some federal funding for those students. For the most part, the federal funding covers the costs.

Jacob Renolds:

Blended Learning – Is excited with this method. His son has learned how to read from an iPad. His two-year-old daughter walks up to their big screen television and wonders why she cannot operate it like a touch screen. She is already learning math from iPhone applications. Questioned if this will be a fixed course that will be downloaded and you can track which student is using which program, or will it be a live broadcast. Dr. Welch explained the online programs are customized for the students and not recorded videos. An example is Dreambox which provides customized lessons based on how students are progressing. They also have a learning management system to enable teachers and parents to see how the students are progressing.

Questioned the possibility of obtaining free technology from companies, such as Apple, Microsoft, etc., through a competitive process to reduce the upfront costs and provide a longer warranty. Dr. Welch explained the District does implement a Request for Proposal process to obtain the best price for equipment. Warranties can be purchased by parents.

Portable schools – Stated that it seems like the District would be constructing disposable schools and wonders if there is any thought that maybe in 10 years there may not be a need for any capacity within that same area. Questioned what cost does this impose on the District to build a facility that may be under-utilized in the future, and questioned if there are schools that are under capacity and if that is a nominal cost. Ms. Haldeman she does not foresee a District facilities being underutilized and explained that if this valley experiences a drop in population, the District would be able to make decisions based upon educational needs rather than facility needs. Mr. McIntosh explained that some middle and high schools are well over capacity and in most cases portables are the best solution. Rezoning will not solve the capacity issue for the elementary schools.

Regional Early Childhood Centers – Mr. Reynolds questioned how many students would be relieved from the capacity in the elementary schools if facilities for the early childhood centers were built. Mr. McIntosh explained that depending on where the children are located and where the facility is built, it would create capacity.

Cameron Tate:

Private/Public Partnerships – Questioned what type of support does the District have from the Legislature, is there any negative feedback to change NRS, and how would the timeframe impact the District. Mr. McIntosh explained that the next Legislature will begin in February 2015. The District will need someone to sponsor legislation to allow the use of capital funds. Ms. Haldeman explained that the District sponsored a bill draft request at the last session and it was changed into something different, and stated that there is support from some legislators.

Richard Bowler:

Double Sessions – The model needs to be changed in order to fill the maximum practical school day with classroom work instead of doubling it to bigger than a practical school day in order to get more students and teachers in a facility that is not fully utilized.

Charter Schools – Expressed the importance of teaching students outweighs the District losing land and funds due to handing the land over for Charter School use. Ms. Haldeman explained that if the only available parcel within a subdivision is utilized for a charter school, there would not be an available public school option.

Private/Public Partnerships – Suggested the District needs to explore programs where the debt that a private enterprise incurs is sponsored by government at a lower rate.

3.05 REPORT BY STAFF AND/OR LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES.

None.

3.06 QUESTIONS REGARDING MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS.

Ruby Alston explained there is \$40 million remaining from the 1998 Capital Improvement Program and explained that the funds could be utilized for building schools, acquiring property, and renovation of existing schools with the laws and the governing body that oversees bond proceeds. Revision 18 is in the process of being prepared to determine where the remaining funds from the 1998 Capital Improvement Program will be spent.

3.07 REPORT BY THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES LIAISON.

Trustee Linda Young thanked staff for the presentation and the committee members for their service. Trustee Young stated that the first day of school is on August 25, 2014, and count day is scheduled for September 19, 2014. Summer graduation at the Smith Center occurred recently with over 400 graduates and informed the members of the alternative program to licensure in order to hire more teachers.

3.08 QUESTIONS ON AND/OR REMOVAL OF ITEMS ON MOTIONS AND TASKINGS.

Steve Philpott provided additional information for staff to be able to respond to his April 17, 2014, request on "Meeting Construction Schedule Deadlines." Mr. Philpott stated that the District is upgrading closed-circuit items in certain schools as well as increasing band width. Mr. Philpott stated that the content is the same that flows over these two portals and questioned why is the District investing in both when one system is the only one being used.

Jim McIntosh stated that at times during the meetings, there are requests asked of staff and the request is not placed on the Motions and Taskings. Mr. McIntosh requested that if staff would like to receive additional information on a particular subject, that the request be made here so that staff can track the requests.

3.09 AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS.

Staff explained that if there are questions on the existing topics listed on the Motions and Taskings, or if members felt that a particular motion or tasking should be removed, it should be performed on "Questions On And/Or Removal of Items on Motions and Taskings. If members wanted information on a particular subject not listed on the Motions and Taskings, members should add the item to "Agenda Planning: Items for Future Agendas."

Jacob Reynolds requested information that if the Regional Early Childhood Centers are built, what effect would it have on the capacity in elementary schools. What are the numbers and how will this alleviate the problem.

Debbie Earl requested staff provide this committee an update on any conclusions made at the Board Work Session on Sept 3, 2014, following the presentation to the Trustees.

Charles Kubat requested staff provide clarification of the projects related to Sandy Valley and Boulder City, identify the projects in the past and current planning, and what funds are available.

4.01 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

None.

5. ADJOURN: 1:50 p.m.

Motion: Tate

Second: Kubat

Vote: Unanimous