

MINUTES  
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
EDWARD A. GREER EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM  
2832 E. FLAMINGO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89121

Thursday, March 21, 2013

4:00 p.m.

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

Dwight D. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

**FLAG SALUTE**

Desert Pines High School ROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Reverend Camille D. Pentsil, Senior Pastor, Zion United Methodist, performed the invocation.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda, except delete Item 5.12, move Item 7.02 to follow Item 6.01 as 6.01a, and note revised backup material for Items 5.13 and 5.14.*

*Motion: Cranor    Second: Tew    Vote: Unanimous*

**STUDENT REPORTS**

Natalie Ramirez, student body president at Desert Rose High School, and Kiara Eppenger, senior class resident at Rancho High School, both represented by Lorraine Alderman, District D Trustee, gave brief overviews of present and future activities, plans, and goals for their respective schools.

**STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

Javier Agut-Torres, chair of the Student Council Advisory Committee, reported on the March 5, 2013, meeting of the Committee. He said Trustees Cranor, Edwards, and Tew were in attendance, as well as Academic Managers, Deputy Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky, and members from the CCSD nutrition department. He said topics of discussion included Trustee Cranor's involvement with the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB), CCSD's school food menu, the superintendent's evaluation process, and student concerns. He invited everyone to the Committee's April 2 meeting.

## **RECOGNITION**

Trustee Edwards recognized Dr. James Crawford and Marjorie Conner with the Urban Leadership program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in attendance along with the first Urban Leadership Masters Cohort from the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs at UNLV.

## **PRESENTATION OF LAS VEGAS PHILHARMONIC**

Recognition of the Las Vegas Philharmonic for providing free youth concerts for fourth-grade and fifth-grade students for the past fifteen years. Beverly Mason, Director, School-Community Partnership Program, Clark County School District.

## **PRESENTATION OF NORTHERN S.T.A.R.S. SAFETY VILLAGE**

Presentation on the Northern Safety Training and Rescue Skills (S.T.A.R.S.) Safety Village, a 5/8 scale village that teaches classes to children about fire safety and internet predator prevention. Captain Cedric Williams, North Las Vegas Fire Department.

**RECESS:** 4:40 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 5:15 p.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Michael Hollis expressed his concerns regarding the District's public concern process and how he should proceed with Mr. Skorkowsky now moving into the position of Interim Superintendent since his next step in the process was to meet with the Deputy Superintendent. He also expressed concerns with how African-American men are treated in schools in certain areas of the District.

Marzette Lewis said the Board needs oversight and should not evaluate itself.

## **ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA**

Adoption of Consent Agenda.

### **Public Hearing**

Marzette Lewis spoke on Items 5.13 and 5.14. She talked about disparities between schools related to how the 1998 bond money has been spent. She accused the Board of being dishonest with the public about the availability of the funds and how the money has been spent.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Cranor    Second: Tew    Vote: Unanimous*

## **ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA (continued)**

5.01 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. Discussion and possible action on the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of February 6, 2013, is recommended.

[Contact Person: Carolyn Edwards] (Ref. 5.01)

**ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA** (continued)

- 5.02 TRAVEL AND REGISTRATION—NEVADA DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION CLUBS OF AMERICA. Discussion and possible action on authorization to contract with the Nevada Distributive Education Clubs of America, also referred to as the Nevada Association of Marketing Students, for registration fees, lodging and transportation for 102 students and 14 adult advisors from 22 high schools to attend the International Career Development Conference on April 24-27, 2013, in Anaheim, California. At the January 24, 2013, meeting of the Board of School Trustees, expenditures of approximately \$64,000.00 were approved for students and advisors attending the State Career Development Conference on February 10-12, 2013. An additional purchase for an approximate cost of \$80,000.00 is proposed, for an approximate total cost of \$144,000.00, effective March 22, 2013, through June 28, 2013, to be paid from Fund 0279, Internal Order G4447004013, with no impact to the general fund, is recommended. [Contact Person: Pat Skorkowsky] (Ref. 5.02)
- 5.03 STUDENT EXPULSIONS. Discussion and possible action on approval of student expulsions according to NRS 392.467 (Board Policy 5114 and Regulations 5114 and 5141.1), as listed, is recommended. (CONFIDENTIAL) [Contact Person: Pat Skorkowsky] (Ref. 5.03)
- 5.04 LICENSED PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT. Discussion and possible action on approval to employ licensed personnel, is recommended. [Contact Person: Staci Vesneske] (Ref. 5.04)
- 5.05 PURCHASE ORDERS. Discussion and possible action on ratification of the purchase orders in the total amount of \$491,744.05, as listed, is recommended.  
[Contact Person: Jeff Weiler] (Ref. 5.05)
- 5.06 PURCHASING AWARDS. Discussion and possible action on approval to purchase goods or services in the estimated total amount of \$4,493,000.00, in compliance with NRS 332, as listed, is recommended. [Contact Person: Jeff Weiler] (Ref. 5.06)
- 5.07 WARRANTS. Discussion and possible action on ratification of the warrants as listed in the Bills Payable Transmittal and the Board Memorandum to be presented at the Board meeting, is recommended. [Contact Person: Jeff Weiler] (Ref. 5.07)
- 5.08 RECAP OF BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS. Discussion and possible action on authorization to include the Recap of Budget Appropriation Transfers between governmental functions of all funds for the period beginning January 1, 2013, and ending January 31, 2013, in the official Board minutes as required by NRS 354.598005, is recommended.  
[Contact Person: Jeff Weiler] (Ref. 5.08)

**ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA** (continued)

- 5.09 RENEWAL OF ENGAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDITOR FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013, KAFOURY, ARMSTRONG & CO. Discussion and possible action on approval to renew the engagement with Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. as the independent financial auditing firm for the Clark County School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, to perform the District's financial and federal compliance audits; review the annual reports for Vegas PBS in order to meet certification requirements of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and review of compliance with the Board of School Trustees' Governance Policies EL-5: Financial Planning/Budgeting, EL-6: Financial Condition and Activities, EL-8: Asset Protection, and EL-9: Compensation and Benefits, for an approximate fee of \$206,773.00, to be paid from Cost Center 1010001060, Fund 1000000000, is recommended. [Contact Person: Jeff Weiler] (Ref. 5.09)
- 5.10 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM, STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURES AND TRAINING. Discussion and possible action on authorization to submit and implement the Homeland Security Grant program from the United States Department of Homeland Security, in the amount of \$49,500.00, for the anticipated project period of March 25, 2013, through June 30, 2013, for the funding of a consultant to develop standard operating procedures for the use of multiband radios and to conduct training for selected schools and administrators enabling effective interoperable emergency communications, with no impact to the general fund, and for J. P. Gerner, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, is recommended. [Contact Person: J. P. Gerner] (Ref. 5.10)
- 5.11 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, GRANT PROGRAM. Discussion and possible action on authorization to submit and implement the United States Department of Health and Human Services Grant program through the Nevada State Health Division, in the amount of \$88,780.00, for the anticipated project period of March 25, 2013, through June 30, 2013, for the funding of a consultant to develop a prototype model for School Nurse Strike Teams (SNSTs), training, and exercising for the purpose of delivering coordinated and effective care to victims of all hazards, including public health emergencies, with no impact to the general fund other than staff time for development, training, and exercising, and for J. P. Gerner, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, is recommended. [Contact Person: J. P. Gerner] (Ref. 5.11)
- 5.13 CONTRACT AWARD: COOLING TOWER REPLACEMENT, CHARLES SILVESTRI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. Discussion and possible action on approval of an award of contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder to replace the cooling tower at Charles Silvestri Junior High School, to be paid from the 1998 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3080000000, Project C0012555, and for J. P. Gerner, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, may be recommended. [Contact Person: J. P. Gerner] (Ref. 5.13)

**ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA (continued)**

5.14 **CONTRACT AWARD: LOCAL AREA NETWORK, AUDIO-VISUAL, BROADCAST AND CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION, AND SECURITY SYSTEMS UPGRADES, ELAINE WYNN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** Discussion and possible action on approval of an award of contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for upgrades to the local area network, audio-visual, broadcast and closed-circuit television, and security systems at Elaine Wynn Elementary School, to be paid from the 1998 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3080000000, Project C0012192, and for J. P. Gerner, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, may be recommended. [Contact Person: J. P. Gerner] (Ref. 5.14)

5.15 **CHANGE IN SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT.** Discussion and possible action on ratification of total change in services to the architectural/engineering services agreements for a net increase of \$3,125.00 for Moapa Valley High School (Nevada By Design), is recommended. [Contact Person: J. P. Gerner] (Ref. 5.15)

**APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Approval regarding all aspects of the search and selection of a new Superintendent of Schools for the Clark County School District, including but not limited to, search firm negotiations.

Bramby Tollen, Director, Purchasing, Warehousing, Mail Services and Graphic Arts, Business and Finance Division, gave a report on the contract negotiations with the search firm McPherson and Jacobson.

Trustee Young said she would have preferred to open up the search for a search firm and not just award it to McPherson and Jacobson. She said the details and pricing are not accurately being presented because "expenses" vary. She said she would like to know what the exact amount would be including expenses.

Trustee Edwards said she would like to have added to the expectations that if a candidate drops out of the application process, McPherson and Jacobson must replace that person with another candidate. She suggested that an electronic survey could be conducted for the community to give their input, and she said she would like to see the consultants be involved in the community input meetings near the end of the process when the finalists are presented to the community. She said there should be a limit placed on the expenses paid by the District.

Trustee Alderman asked if there are any controls in place for the cost of expenses such as airline tickets, hotels, and rental cars.

Ms. Tollen said the District has out-of-district consultant travel guidelines, as well as staff per diem and traveling rates, and the Board could request that the search firm adhere to the Las Vegas per diem and GSA hotel rates.

### **APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)**

Trustee Alderman agreed with that suggestion, and she asked if those consultant and staff rates could be made more readily accessible to the public.

Trustee Young suggested adding contingencies to the contract tied to the search firm fees to ensure the deliverables are being met. She said she would like to have the opportunity to share this information with her constituents.

Trustee Cranor asked about the conditions under which the Board could fire the search firm, and whether one of those conditions would include dissatisfaction with the transparency of the process or control of the process. She asked about how the Board would go about being released from their obligation with the search firm, and employing another firm and any restrictions that apply. She said she would be more comfortable with the fee of \$41,900 because it would mean paying less since the Board would be doing more of the work than during the previous search.

Ms. Tollen clarified that the \$7,700 is the maximum not-to-exceed amount for the onsite services which includes 26 days. She offered to change the number of days to 10 or 15 with the option of adding days if necessary. She said the termination clause dictates that they give 15 days' notice of termination regardless of cost, and the District would only be responsible for fees incurred.

Trustee Edwards said she wants to make sure that the parameters for what they are looking for in a superintendent are structured in such a way that internal candidates have an equal opportunity. She said Michael Casserly, Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools has offered to come speak with the Board and offer some insight to assist the Board in the search.

Trustee Alderman suggested gathering historical process data from the search firm to help with the efficiency of the process.

Trustee Garvey asked if the search firm could provide a list of individuals they view as top candidates for the position.

Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, said that could be included in the contract but suggested that the Board should allow the search firm to provide them with the advantages and disadvantages of providing such a list because the list would become public.

Trustee Young said she would like to see a chart identifying the services to be provided by the search firm and what District employees can do themselves. She said she did not agree with the current proposed schedule.

## **APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)**

### **Public Hearing**

Susie Lee agreed that the community time with the search firm should be spent toward the end of the process when the finalists are presented to the public. She commented that if the Board decides it wants to have an internal candidate, then perhaps they can determine that one finalist should be an internal candidate, but she disagreed with softening the criteria just to allow an internal candidate to qualify.

Punam Mathur commented that it makes sense to continue with the community meetings with the intent of gathering new information, and she agreed with designating one finalist as a local or internal candidate.

Lex Anderson read a letter from his community association executive board expressing their concerns with Superintendent Jones' breaking his contract and forcing the need for a superintendent search.

Marzette Lewis questioned why the community is giving their input when the Board has made up its mind. She disagreed with the examples of criteria suggested.

David Gomez spoke in support of Pat Skorkowsky, and said it does not make sense to look outside of the community for a superintendent.

Paul Moradkhan, on behalf of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, expressed support of the Board in its decision to conduct a national search and in its efforts moving forward.

Andres Mendoza urged the Board to listen to constituents and learn from the previous superintendent search.

Trustee Tew asked for a copy of the original proposal and contact with McPherson and Jacobson.

Trustee Cranor listed the conditions that should be included in the contract negotiations that she has heard expressed during this evening's discussion: to ensure that the fees are split up in such a way that they are placed on the interview end so the District would only be obligated for fees incurred in case of dissatisfaction; ensure that a "do-over" is in the contract with the same search firm; that the total projected cost of the contract and search would be less than the 2010 search; and that the expenses and reimbursement procedures would be in alignment with the District's internal policies and procedures for per diem, travel, accommodations, et cetera.

*Motion to authorize Ms. Tollen to proceed based on this evening's discussion and to bring back information on April 3, and requests that the backup material post at least a few days prior to the Work Session for the public's review.*

*Motion: Cranor     Second: Garvey*

## **APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)**

After further discussion, Trustee Edwards asked Trustee Cranor to restate her motion.

*Trustee Cranor restated her motion as follows: "Motion to authorize Ms. Tollen to engage in negotiations with the search firm, including the additional parameters that we have discussed tonight and to bring us back information – hopefully, to be posted ahead of time – that might allow us to vote on a contract on April 3."*

Trustee Edwards asked that Trustee Cranor specify the parameters.

*Trustee Cranor said the parameters would be, "splitting up the fees monthly so we do not incur lump costs if we were to sever the contract as we have discussed before; to negotiate the cost in context of the discussion we have had tonight; to make sure that the free do-over is in it; and to talk about having the expense and reimbursement procedure be in line with our internal procedures."*

Trustee Alderman suggested that some Trustees could seek input from the public on Tuesday night to gather input from individuals who are not able to attend the daytime meetings.

Trustee Young agreed and said she would be willing to participate in that effort.

Trustee Edwards said she has requested that Vegas PBS live broadcast the Board meetings where the superintendent search is to be discussed.

*Vote on Trustee Cranor's motion was unanimous.*

Trustee Cranor proposed that the Board have a discussion regarding a hiring freeze of all central office, non-school, administrative positions until a new superintendent is named.

Trustee Edwards suggested that Trustee Cranor bring that forward in another agenda item.

Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations, presented community input meeting options for the Trustees to consider.

Trustee Alderman requested that interpreters with headsets be available at the community input meetings.

Trustee Young said she would like to add one or two meetings to be held in her district to reach as many people as possible.

Trustee Tew suggested possibly using technology to allow constituents to participate via telephone and/or computers.



**APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)**

Mr. Skorkowsky offered to bring some options back to the Board for connecting with those people who live in the outlying areas.

Trustee Alderman suggested working with community partners who may have the necessary equipment available.

Mr. Skorkowsky said he would check to see if the video conferencing equipment in the rural schools is in working condition.

Trustee Young asked about having a presentation that could be used to share with other organizations that she meets with or at various meetings that she attends.

Mrs. Haldeman said there would be a standing presentation that could be used in any setting.

**APPROVE LEGISLATION**

Approval regarding state and federal legislation which may affect education, including, but not limited to, reports of current legislative issues and events; the development of the District's legislative goals, platform, and courses of action; the establishment of the District's position on proposed legislation; and guidance to District representatives in the legislative process.

Mrs. Haldeman gave a brief update on the Legislative Session. She said a continuation of the Distributive School Account (DSA) hearing is scheduled to be held at the Sawyer Building on Saturday, March 23 at 8:00 a.m.; the bill concerning concealed weapons on school property would be heard at 9:00 a.m. on Monday in the senate judiciary; Assembly Bill (AB) 222I would be heard at 3:15 p.m. on Sunday; the bill concerning the high school proficiency act would be heard at 3:30 p.m. in Senate Education; and in Senate Education on March 27, Senate Bill (SB) 193, SB 290, and SB 320 would be heard. She added that March 26 is Nevada Youth Legislature day.

**UPDATE ON THE BUDGET AND OTHER FINANCIAL ISSUES**

Presentation of information and discussion, if needed, regarding an update on the District's budget and other financial issues.

Jeff Weiler, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division, gave an overview of the budget process used this year to determine the District's preliminary budget.

Trustee Cranor requested a history of proportions of FTE positions and any indication of a trend showing a support of school based positions more heavily than non-school based positions. She also requested more detail concerning the statement of the Number 1 and Number 2 budget priorities, and some detail on what the initiatives are and the cost of the initiatives in Number 3.

**UPDATE ON THE BUDGET AND OTHER FINANCIAL ISSUES (continued)**

Trustee Alderman expressed some concern with regard to English Language Acquisition, and what might be different for next year with Lucy Keaton now in the new position of Assistant Superintendent of the English Language Learner (ELL) program, and what might be involved in the new agreements that might be reached with the bargaining units.

Trustee Cranor requested further detail and clarification of the Number 2 priority with regard to school-based staffing being restored.

**BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Skorkowsky reported on the principal meetings he attended over the past two days. He shared that CCSD has been named one of the best communities for music education in the nation for 12 consecutive years.

**AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Trustee Alderman suggested having an agenda item to discuss having interpreters at all Board meetings.

Trustee Cranor requested an agenda item to discuss any and all options of how the superintendent search could be funded.

**BOARD REPORTS**

Trustee Wright reported on her first meeting as the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) Board liaison. She shared that Dr. Jesse Welsh, Principal, Thurman White Middle School, attended her recent parent meeting on student-owned devices on campus. She said the parents were receptive to the idea, but the concern was whether the schools had the infrastructure to support those devices.

Trustee Alderman reported on the kickoff event held at Vegas PBS for the Women's Engagement Council.

Trustee Tew reported on her recent parent meeting where the topic of discussion was legislation.

Trustee Alderman reported on this year's Attendance Zone Advisory Commission (AZAC) luncheon.

Trustee Edwards reported on the State Board of Education meeting she attended today where attendees received a presentation on alternatives to the proficiency exam from WestEd. She said the Trustees would be receiving an electronic copy of an article that talks about school boards' impact on student achievement.

**DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Trustee Edwards suggested that on April 3 there can be a discussion, and the Board could possibly begin to schedule special meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

David Gomez said a new facility needs to be built for the West Prep campus, and he asked for the Trustees' support.

**ADJOURN:** 8:25 p.m.

*Motion: Wright    Second: Tew    Vote: Unanimous*

Meeting minutes transcribed by Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.