

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, January 9, 2019

8:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Deanna L. Wright, President
Lola Brooks, Clerk
Linda P. Cavazos, Member
Irene Cepeda, Member
Danielle Ford, Member
Chris Garvey, Member
Linda E. Young, Member

Jesus F. Jara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Eleissa Lavelle, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Ancillary Support; Diane Gullett, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Deputy Superintendent; Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Chief Instructional Services Officer, Instructional Services Unit; Jesse Welsh, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Professional Development Division, Instructional Services Unit; Shannon La Neve, Director, Humanities, Instructional Services Unit; Robert Jones, Coordinator, Library Services, Humanities, Instructional Services Unit; Elizabeth Carrero, Executive Manager/Director II, Office of the Superintendent; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Jeanetta Edmond, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office.

Flag Salute

Trustee Ford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Brooks Second: Cavazos Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment Period on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees—President

Approval on the election of the Office of the President.

Trustee Cavazos nominated Trustee Brooks for the Office of the President.

Trustee Young nominated Trustee Garvey for the Office of the President.

Trustee Garvey said although she is honored to be nominated, she cannot accept at this time due to personal family issues.

Trustee Young expressed concerns with Trustee Brooks serving as Board president at this time, stating Trustee Brooks has been on the Board for less than three years, and she lacks experience serving as vice president. She said a protocol should be followed whereby a Trustee serves first as clerk, then vice president, then president. She also noted that Trustee Garvey was never given the opportunity to serve as Board president. She said the Board needs to change the perception and restore confidence in the Board and show the community that they are professional and are committed to the education of all children.

Trustee Brooks said she understood Trustee Young's concerns. She said the Board needs to discuss succession planning because the longest standing Trustees' terms would be ending and the remaining members need to be prepared. She expressed her belief in and commitment to public education. She shared how she would contribute as a leader on the Board.

Trustee Ford commented that in being involved in various groups, she felt Trustee Brooks was the only Trustee that stood out in being a bridge between the Board and the parents. She agreed that the Board could benefit from having a Board president with more experience but said they need to keep the future in mind and noted that in two years Trustee Brooks would be the Board member with the most experience.

Trustee Cavazos stated that the Board president needs to be someone who could be available to attend many different events and to fulfill all of the duties of that position. She said she nominated Trustee Brooks because she believes she possesses the leadership abilities and is extremely intelligent and exhibits common sense and logical thinking in dealing with issues that come before the Board.

Trustee Cepeda agreed with comments made by Trustees in support of Trustee Brooks. She said with a new Board comes change, that the Board is moving forward, and they are all a team.

Motion to close nominations.

Motion: Cavazos Second: Brooks Vote: Unanimous

Vote on Trustee Brooks for Office of the President: Yeses – 5 (Brooks, Cavazos, Cepeda, Ford, Wright); Noes – 2 (Garvey, Young)

The motion passed.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees-Vice President
Approval on the election of the Office of the Vice President.

Trustee Wright nominated Trustee Cavazos for Office of the Vice President.

Vote on Trustee Cavazos for Office of the Vice President was unanimous.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees—Clerk
Approval on the election of the Office of Clerk.

Trustee Brooks nominated Trustee Garvey for the Office of the Clerk.

Trustee Brooks said she believes Trustee Garvey would be an asset to leadership on the Board.

Motion to close nominations.

Motion: Cepeda Second: Young Vote: Unanimous

Vote on Trustee Garvey for Office of the Clerk was unanimous.

Senate Bill 178, Victory, and Zoom Updates — 2017-2018

Presentation and discussion on program structures and achievement data for the Senate Bill 178, Victory, and Zoom categorical funds within the Clark County School District.

Dr. Larsen-Mitchell and Dr. Welsh presented Senate Bill (SB) 178, Victory, and Zoom Updates as shown in Reference 4.01.

Trustee Young suggested considering a way for School Associate Superintendents to share what their more successful schools are doing with the other schools.

Trustee Brooks said anytime the State publishes a report related to student achievement, the Trustees should receive it in their email so they could be better prepared for discussion.

Superintendent Jara and Dr. Welsh said they did not receive the report from the State either.

Trustee Brooks asked if the population in these schools was relatively stable or were there increases in the highest risk students in the lowest performing schools.

Dr. Welsh said that was not part of the analysis, but staff could look at transiency and changes in population.

Senate Bill 178, Victory, and Zoom Updates — 2017-2018 (continued)
Public Hearing

Sylvia Lazos congratulated the new Board officers. She stated that Zoom works because there is the English Language Learner (ELL) Master Plan and structure, which neither Victory nor SB 178 have. She commented also that analysis of SB 178 presented by CCSD is confusing. She said these programs need to be monitored.

Yvette Williams congratulated the new Board officers and the newly elected Trustees. She questioned whether the chart showing the growth percentile for SB 178 is reflective of the targeted population or of the school overall and said that is an important distinction. She said if it is the school overall data, then that data is pulling down the success rate of the targeted population. She said she wanted to encourage more transparency of the data so stakeholders in the community could review it and present purposeful questions to the Board and Superintendent.

RECESS: 10:08 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:18 a.m.

School Libraries

Presentation and discussion on school libraries within the Clark County School District.

Dr. Larsen-Mitchell, Ms. La Neve, and Mr. Jones presented information related to CCSD school libraries as shown in Reference 4.02.

Trustee Young asked what was being done to connect to students and families during afterschool hours, holidays, or summer vacation.

Mr. Jones said the APPLE CORE reading program is in 121 CCSD elementary schools in Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas and is for students to read with their families outside of school hours.

Trustee Garvey expressed concern with the number of schools eliminating the librarian position. She questioned how requirements and obligations under the law are being met with the elimination of these positions. She said in looking at the policy which states the librarian would be included in the committee making decisions, perhaps the policy should be reviewed.

Superintendent Jara said libraries need to be a place where students feel comfortable learning as they look at schools and libraries in the 21st century, and he agreed that they might need to update the policy.

Trustee Garvey said the Board may need to refine the policy, but she needs more information from principals related to whether or not these positions would be restored if the funding was available, whether all schools would be forming a committee, and what their plan would be.

School Libraries (continued)

Superintendent Jara said he could put together a team of principals to address those questions.

Trustee Garvey asked for a list of schools that have decided to eliminate the librarian position and their star ratings.

Mr. Jones said he could provide that information to the Board.

Trustee Cavazos requested a list of schools that do not have a librarian but that do have a library aide, as well as a list of schools that do not have anyone in either position.

Mr. Jones said he could provide that information.

Trustee Ford said libraries are about more than just reading, and she agreed with Superintendent Jara that a library should be a place to study and to connect. She said a library can also be a safe place for many students. She stated that libraries have to be a place that students want to spend time in.

Board and Superintendent Communication

None.

Trustee Requests for Agenda Items or Information

Trustee Cavazos requested a future presentation and update to include principals and how they are meeting the needs of the students in relation to the discussion in Item 4.02.

Public Comment Period on Non-Agenda Items

Yvette Williams talked about how important the library was to her as a child. She agreed with the idea of redesigning the library so students want to be there.

Adjourn: 11:06 a.m.

Motion: Brooks Second: Cavazos Vote: Unanimous