

Minutes
Clark County School District
Meeting of the Board of School Trustees

Officers Meeting

TELECONFERENCE ONLY

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

3:04 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Linda P. Cavazos, President
Irene Cepeda, Vice President
Evelyn Garcia Morales, Clerk

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

Also present were: Luke Puschnig, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Joe Caruso, Executive Director, Community Services Department, Office of the Superintendent; Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office, and Dr. Thomas Alsbury, Balanced Governance Solutions™.

Adoption of the Agenda

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Cepeda Second: Garcia Morales Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment on Agenda Items and Non-Agenda Items

Mrs. Krohn provided a summary of the written comments submitted, as follows:

Item 3.02

A writer hopes that all CCSD Trustees will advocate for education funding and positive legislative changes on the record and publicly, as much as they are legally allowed, in all areas that they come to a legal consensus on as a Board.

Non-Agenda items

A person asked to remedy the inadequate process and procedure for public comments for virtual CCSD School Board meetings that have been used since the pandemic, which have sometimes rendered public comments to be unheard, insufficient, incomplete, and sometimes inaccurate.

Comments were received expressing concern that Black students and families are underserved and severely impacted by distance education. Many families feel the current model for distance education does not consider family work schedules and a different model should be well thought out and implemented. In addition, the writer submitted items that they would like to see addressed.

Approve Calendaring and Frequency of Officer Meetings

Approval on the calendaring and frequency of Officer Meetings.

Trustee Cavazos stated that scheduling regular Officers Meetings would provide structure and consistency and would contribute to a collaborative nature.

The Board Officers discussed the goals and intentions for the Officers Meetings.

Trustee Garcia Morales suggested they start by holding quarterly Officers Meetings.

Trustee Cepeda agreed with scheduling quarterly meetings with the opportunity to add more meetings if necessary.

Motion to schedule Officers Meetings on a quarterly basis and to add others, as needed.

Motion: Cepeda Second: Garcia Morales Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Involvement and Advocacy – Legislative Session

Discussion and possible action regarding a plan for the Board of School Trustees' involvement and advocacy at the 81st (2021) Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Superintendent Jara said the structure and frequency of the Trustees' involvement and advocacy at the legislative session have not yet been established. He said he has asked Dr. Brad Keating, Director, Government Relations Department, Office of the Superintendent, to begin preparing a schedule of Education Committee meetings and other activities and said Dr. Keating would be updating the Board regularly. He said he has also asked Dr. Keating to prepare a schedule for the Board's involvement for the full Board to discuss and vote on at a Board meeting.

Trustee Cepeda suggested bringing this item back once they have more information around the structure of the Trustees' involvement.

Superintendent Jara offered that he and Dr. Keating can work on the schedule together as they get more information and then bring it to the full Board at the last meeting in January.

Trustee Garcia Morales said consistent messaging, as well as the supportive data around that messaging, is going to be critical. She asked about potential training around advocacy at the legislative session.

Trustee Cavazos explained what the Board has done in the past in terms of support for the Board members in this area.

The Trustees discussed their different comfort levels and concerns with regard to their involvement in activities and advocacy during the legislative session.

Trustee Involvement and Advocacy – Legislative Session (continued)

Mr. Puschig briefly addressed the legalities of lobbying in the Nevada State Legislature and the Board members' involvement in advocacy.

The Trustees agreed that the Board should have some sort of definitive training to make sure they are aligned with their governance model and Nevada law.

Trustee Cavazos stated this item would come back to the full Board for continued discussion.

No action was taken on this item.

Trustee Parent Advisory Committee Meetings and Community Engagement Meetings

Discussion and possible action regarding Trustee Parent Advisory Committee Meetings, Community Engagement Meetings, including Facebook Live and Town Halls.

Trustee Garcia Morales recommended that the Trustees view community engagement as a two-way communication, addressing topics that are relevant to the community and perhaps holding joint community meetings with other Trustees.

Trustee Cepeda said she was in favor of the more collaborative platform of having staff present at the community meeting and Trustees being able to have an open dialogue with community members. She said the distinction should be made between the community meetings a Trustee holds in their capacity as a Trustee, serving as the voice of the community, and the community meetings a Trustee holds when they are campaigning.

Trustee Cavazos stated that the Trustees are looking at utilizing the more open and collaborative structure for future community engagement meetings to reach as many people as possible.

Trustee Garcia Morales said she was supportive of the use of technology. She questioned whether staff could use existing data to develop a schedule of topics for community meeting presentations by staff. She suggested these topics could also be in line with the Superintendent's topics for presentations to be able to share that information with the community.

Superintendent Jara said he wants to ensure they are best utilizing staff time to support the Board's efforts and the District.

Trustee Cepeda said she was in favor of having more joint Trustee community meetings and of having the meeting topics align to Focus: 2024. She suggested that establishing a calendar of meetings and topics could attract more attendees.

Trustee Cavazos reminded everyone that as they move forward in putting these community engagement meetings together and considering resources, they remain cognizant of the talent within the District.

Trustee Parent Advisory Committee Meetings and Community Engagement Meetings (continued)

The Officers agreed that this would be a topic to bring to a Work Session for further discussion with the full Board.

No action was taken on this item.

Agenda Planning: Items for Future Agendas

Dr. Alsbury talked about conversations and work on policies and protocols that had begun with the previous Board President and with Mr. Caruso. He said he has worked on the different policies as requested by the Board in collaboration with Trustee Brooks and Mr. Caruso, which he said are in draft form and ready for the Board to review and provide feedback on.

Trustee Cavazos suggested looking at the draft policies in an Officers Meeting before bringing it to the full Board at the February Work Session.

Trustee Cavazos suggested having Officers Meeting topics with the ongoing goal for the Officers Meetings of having better interactive communication.

Trustee Cepeda suggested continuing the discussion around community meetings.

Superintendent Jara suggested for clarity that Trustee Cavazos work with Mr. Caruso to identify what needs to come back to the full Board and calendar those out so they can get those items publicly posted.

Mr. Caruso discussed the timeline for bringing the revised policies to the Board in an Officers Meeting and then to the full Board at the February Work Session.

Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, January 14, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Adjourn: 4:45 p.m.

Motion: Cepeda Second: Garcia Morales Vote: Unanimous