

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, February 6, 2019

8:07 a.m.

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Roll Call: Members Present  
Lola Brooks, President  
Linda P. Cavazos, Vice President  
Chris Garvey, Clerk  
Irene Cepeda, Member  
Danielle Ford, Member  
Deanna L. Wright, 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; Jason Goudie, Chief  
Financial Officer, Finance Department, Operational 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 Cavazos led the flag salute.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

*Adopt agenda, except delete Item 4.01.*

*Motion: Garvey Second: Young Vote: Unanimous*

*Trustee Wright was not present for the vote.*

**Public Comment Period on Non-Agenda Items**

None.

## **Approve Notice of Intent Clark County School District Board of Trustees Governance Policy GP-18: Travel and Other Board Expenses**

Approval of the Notice of Intent to Adopt, Repeal, or Amend Clark County School District Board of Trustees' Governance Policy GP-18: Travel and Other Board Expenses prior to submission to the Board of School Trustees for approval on January 24, 2019, as recommended in Reference 3.01.

Trustee Garvey clarified that the request for travel funds from another Trustee does not have to be made in a public meeting and would only be recorded on the consent agenda if it did occur. She did not agree with having specific amounts in the policy as things change and that would require constant review of the policy. She said it would be good for the Board to look at specific conferences or events to attend that align with their strategic plan. She suggested those could be considered a Board function and would be a separate account for travel, thereby, keeping one Trustee's travel fund from being depleted when doing something that is of value to the full Board.

Trustee Young said she is uncomfortable going to any Trustee for travel funds because she has depleted hers. She suggested there should be a pool that Trustees could put money in to be drawn from with Board approval when needed.

Trustee Garvey said it would be beneficial to have a discussion about the requirements of the committees and what conferences need to be attended and how that impacts the budget and having those activities that benefit the full Board placed on the perpetual calendar and tied to an account separate from the individual Trustee travel. She asked if there were any guidelines or restrictions for having a pool of money for Trustee use.

Trustee Brooks clarified the Board would map out which conferences need to be attended, subtract that amount from the total amount of travel funds and divide the remaining portion evenly.

Mr. Goudie said there are no issues with that concept and said it is probably a better way to budget.

Trustee Young said she views the events and programs she attends as something that would benefit the Board, the community and the District. She suggested that the District should give \$2,000 - \$3,000 for "District related travel" for activities that would impact the students and staff.

Trustee Garvey asked Mr. Goudie to discuss how the Trustee travel fund has been utilized in past years.

Mr. Goudie stated that in 2017 the Board's travel budget, not including mileage, was \$43,500.00, the Board spent \$31,000 with \$12,000 remaining; in 2018 the travel budget was \$47,000, the Board spent approximately \$36,500 with \$10,400 remaining. He said this year after adjustments and additional funds for the legislative session, the travel budget is at \$62,000.00.

Trustee Garvey said it appears based on that information that it would be possible to create a money pool account with \$3,000 - \$4,000 without impacting a Trustee's pro rata share.

**Approve Notice of Intent Clark County School District Board of Trustees Governance Policy GP-18: Travel and Other Board Expenses (continued)**

Trustee Ford suggested that anything related to a committee and anything related to mandatory trainings should be included, and the Trustees' individual travel fund should be used at their discretion. She said also that travel and gas mileage should be included in the same allotment for each Trustee.

Trustee Cavazos said the Board needs to exercise personal and professional accountability in how they spend the money.

Trustee Brooks said she would be agreeable to having a reserve pool of money but said the Board would have to agree on what is appropriate travel and what conferences should be attended.

Trustee Garvey suggested that the Trustees could begin mapping out which conferences they feel would be of value to be placed on the perpetual calendar as a Board representation rather than an individual choice and then they could have a discussion at a retreat and agree on the conferences to be included. She said that discussion should include the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) required professional development.

Trustee Young suggested Trustees calculate their own travel budget for it to be reviewed by the executive committee because there may be other commitments Trustees have in connection with boards or committees they serve on.

Trustee Brooks suggested compiling a list of travel expenses and conferences attended over the last five years, sending it to all the Trustees, and the Board could then review it at a retreat and discuss which ones would be operating under the parameters of the Board.

Superintendent Jara said there was a request by a former Trustee to review all travel, and he believes that work has already begun. He said he could get an update and bring that information to the Board.

Trustee Garvey said if there is Board consensus to add the pool, the only change that would need to be made to the policy would be to add the money pool to number 4 on page 3 of 3 in Reference 3.01.

*Motion to accept GP-18: Travel and Other Board Expenses Notice of Intent with the changes to Number 4 as noted.*

*Motion: Garvey Second: Young Vote: Unanimous  
Trustee Wright was not present for the vote.*

### **Approve Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Representative and Debt Management Commission Representative**

Approval to appoint a Clark County School District Trustee as representative to the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition and Debt Management Commission whose term will be coterminous with his or her elected term, in accordance with the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Act, Chapter 489, Statutes of Nevada 1999, as recommended in Reference 3.02.

Trustee Young read a statement she submitted on January 22, 2019, explaining why she would no longer be able to serve on the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) and Debt Management Commission.

Trustee Young read an account stating that when Trustee Wright asked her to consider serving on the SNRPC and the Debt Management Commission, she said she would consider it but not at the expense of serving on the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) and Vegas PBS, on which she had never served. She said Trustee Wright made no commitment but said she would nominate her for those two positions. She said she was later informed by Trustee Brooks that she would be assigned to the Vegas PBS position but not NIAA. She stated that an African-American Trustee has never served on the NIAA. She said she submitted her resignation from SNRPC and the Debt Management Commission in protest because she felt that when she expressed her concerns for her community and her desire to serve on the NIAA, she and her community were summarily dismissed. She further stated she felt there was no professional protocol or cultural sensitivity or kindness. She said she also felt there was an appearance of retaliation.

Trustee Brooks stated that Trustee Young did not express that she wanted to serve on the NIAA because her community was not represented but because she had not served on it before. She said she tried to divide the committee assignments in such a way as to not overburden any Trustee, and she said she was not trying to prevent Trustee Young from serving on the NIAA. She said as far as her own committee assignments, she took what was left.

#### **Public Hearing**

Fouston Jordan said the current structure of Balanced Governance™ does not work for his community, it is not balanced, and it is not inclusive of all students. He said they must have some input on school and community issues. He said the Trustees were elected to represent the voices of the people, but some of them appear fearful to speak up. He said above all Trustees must ensure that the process in all they do is fair and transparent.

Dr. S.S. Rogers said he has been attending Board meetings for years, and he said it is time to take action. He said there are 49 high schools in the District with only three Black male principals, none in middle schools, and only one Black male principal at the elementary school level. He said he is unsure about the number of Black administrators, but the number is decreasing instead of increasing. He commended Trustee Young for her service on the Board and said he has seen how the Trustees vote against issues Trustee Young has brought forth for the community. He said he views this as discrimination.

**Approve Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Representative and Debt Management Commission Representative (continued)**

Public Hearing

Trish Geran said there is a lack of diversity in terms of Board representation. She said when a Black person leaves a position, they are not replaced by another Black person. She said African-American students have concerns and issues that are different from other races, and this is not a fair representation. She said having more diversity on the Board should be a priority.

Walter Jones said it is somewhat embarrassing to see the Trustees argue amongst each other. He said Trustee Young has done a marvelous job serving the community and she should be placed on a committee where she is needed and not where she has already served. He said as Nevadans we all need to work together, and it starts with the Board.

Trustee Young said everything they do is about the students, parents, and community, and unless they come together, they will not be able to fully support the Superintendent.

Trustee Brooks gave a brief description of the positions before them. She asked if anyone was interested in serving in this capacity. Since no one expressed interested, she said she would be happy to serve on the SNRPC and the Debt Management Commission.

*Motion to appoint Trustee Lola Brooks to serve on the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition and Debt Management Commission.*

*Motion: Brooks Second: Cavazos Vote: Unanimous  
Trustee Wright was not present for the vote.*

**Approve Appointment of Member to Fill Unexpired Term to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control**

Approval to appoint Irene A. Cepeda to fill the unexpired term of Carolyn Edwards to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control, effective February 6, 2019, through June 30, 2019, as recommended.

Trustee Young read a statement expressing in part that in carrying out the duty to assign Trustees to boards and committees, the Board president should ensure that each Trustee's district is fairly represented; that based on the District's equal opportunity statement, it is important to have cultural diversity balance on all appointed committees; and that she believes the leadership and direction of the current Board president is dismissive of the need to include diverse perspectives through the appointed committees.

Trustee Young said she will continue to speak out to ensure that all students are included.

Trustee Ford asked if the NIAA would make an adjustment and allow three Trustees to serve on the Board of Control.

**Approve Appointment of Member to Fill Unexpired Term to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control (continued)**

Trustee Cavazos said that would not be possible at this time and would require a vote by the Board of Control.

**Public Hearing**

Dr. S.S. Rogers asked the Board to consider that Trustee Young has served on the Board for nearly 11 years; that an African-American has never served on the NIAA; and that a school had not been built in West Las Vegas in 50 years. He said African-Americans always have to fight to be included. He said Trustee Brooks became Board president after serving only three years on the Board and without having the necessary experience. He said she needs to reverse her decision and give Trustee Young this opportunity.

Trish Geran asked if Trustee Cepeda could serve on the Debt Management Commission and Trustee Young serve on the NIAA. She said Trustee Cepeda lacks experience and appointing her to the NIAA shows a lack of diversity, and it does not look good for the school district.

Trustee Brooks stated that it takes a considerable amount of time to gain the needed knowledge to contribute fully on the NIAA and by the time Trustee Young gained that knowledge, she would no longer be on the Board. She said she gave equal consideration to all Trustees in assigning the committees.

**Public Hearing**

Walter Jones asked why Trustee Brooks would not assign Trustee Young to the committee she requested rather than placing her on a committee on which she had already served. He said Trustee Young has experience on the Board and in the school district so it may not take her very long to gain the knowledge needed.

Trustee Young said she worked with NIAA periodically for 30 years in her capacity as a school administrator.

**Teleconference Call Connected**

Teleconference call with Trustee Wright was connected at 9:18 a.m.

**Approve Appointment of Member to Fill Unexpired Term to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control (continued)**

Trustee Young talked about the work she does in the community because she said it is important for the community to see someone like her in various roles.

**Approve Appointment of Member to Fill Unexpired Term to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control (continued)**

Trustee Garvey said part of the problem is that because the Board must adhere to the Open Meeting Law (OML) there is no discussion surrounding the president's duty of assigning committees. She said she had not heard a concern expressed by the African-American community around representation on the NIAA. She said if that is an issue, it should have been and should be brought forward. She said it would be beneficial to have Trustee Young and her experience paired with a newer Board member on the NIAA. She said another factor is that many Board members now work and the time commitment to serve on a committee has to be considered.

Trustee Brooks said the time commitment needed to serve on the NIAA was actually a factor in assigning it to Trustee Cepeda because the time commitment is minimal.

Trustee Cepeda touched on her roots in the community and how she looks and said she was hurt by the comment that she looks like the rest of the Board. She said she has over 10 years of experience in education and has experience working with diverse populations, and she still works with students. She expressed her desire to serve on the Board and to be able to contribute.

Trustee Wright commented that the opportunity is not there for all Trustees to serve on all the different boards and committees. She stated that she has wanted to serve on certain committees and was not assigned to those committees. She said she does not feel this is personal or that it is an act of retribution. She said part of assigning committees is about mentoring and skill building.

Trustee Brooks said she believes the Board should have a discussion about committee assignments and make those decisions together as a Board. She said the process definitely needs to be improved.

Trustee Ford suggested, assuming there is at least one African-American on the Board in two years, appointing that person to serve on the NIAA.

Trustee Cavazos commented that she believes Trustee Young would be competent in serving on the NIAA. She said she was unaware that Trustee Young made the request to serve on the NIAA five years ago and was denied, and she was unaware that the NIAA had not had an African-American on the Board of Control in 30 years.

*Motion to appoint Trustee Cepeda to fill the unexpired term on the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control.*

*Motion: Cavazos Second: Garvey*

Trustee Garvey said she was unaware that Trustee Young would not continue her position on the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) and offered to step down and simply fill in where needed.

**Approve Appointment of Member to Fill Unexpired Term to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control (continued)**

*Vote on Trustee Cavazos' motion: Yeses – 5 (Brooks, Cavazos, Cepeda, Ford, Wright); Noes – 2 (Garvey, Young)*

*The motion passed.*

**Board and Superintendent Communication**

None.

**Trustee Requests for Agenda Items or Information**

Trustee Cavazos asked about scheduling a date for a Board retreat to have Michael Casserly, Executive Director, Council of the Great City Schools, come back.

Superintendent Jara said they could discuss that at the Board's Officers' Meeting.

Trustee Young requested cultural competency training for Board members to be placed on the agenda.

**Public Comment Period on Non-Agenda Items**

None.

**Adjourn:** 9:55 a.m.

*Motion: Cavazos    Second: Cepeda    Vote: Unanimous*