

Minutes  
Clark County School District  
Special Meeting of the Board of School Trustees  
Edward A. Greer Education Center, Board Room  
2832 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121

Friday, February 18, 2022

8:04 a.m.

---

Roll Call: Members Present  
Irene Cepeda, President  
Evelyn Garcia Morales, Vice President  
Lola Brooks, Clerk  
Linda P. Cavazos, Member  
Danielle Ford, Member  
Lisa Guzmán, Member  
Katie Williams, Member

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

Also present were: Nicole Malich, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office, and Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office.

**Flag Salute**

Trustee Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

*Adopt agenda.*

*Motion: Williams    Second: Guzmán    Vote: Unanimous*

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

None.

**Trustee Requests for School Safety Agenda Item**

Discussion and possible action regarding three Trustee requests for an agenda item pertaining to school safety.

**Public Hearing**

Marie Neisess asked if educators are now expected to police the schools with the increase in violence on campuses. She said one of the most common concerns is how educators are supposed to handle situations of aggressive behavior.

Trustee Cepeda said following this discussion, staff should be able to prepare a presentation and be prepared to answer Trustees' questions at the March 10, 2022, Board meeting.

### **Trustee Requests for School Safety Agenda Item (continued)**

Superintendent Jara noted that the March 10, 2022, Board meeting would include a monitoring item on disproportionality in suspensions and expulsions.

Trustee Cavazos suggested the agenda item for school safety for the March 10, 2022, Board meeting should be structured in such a way that there is transparency, communication, and weigh-in from the community. She suggested the agenda item should include the following factors: safety policies with regard to violence in the schools; policies or procedures that guide educators in what to do in these instances; and communication to parents, employees, community, media, and Trustees regarding violent incidents.

Trustee Ford said she envisioned that the item, if it had been on the Board's upcoming February 24, 2022, meeting, would have been more heavily based on Board discussion and that discussion would have taken into consideration what the Board has heard from the public and would have been a way of responding to public comment. She said that would have been a launching point for the Board to decide what information staff would be asked to bring back. She said she would have suggested all current policies around violence be included as reference material so they could determine where the District is right now in terms of school violence and decide how to move forward.

Trustee Ford said areas of discussion would include how this is being handled, what educators are expected to do, whether there is any type of punishment if an educator does get involved, whether the District has lost educators because of school violence, how violence in schools may be affecting other areas of the District, and how a functional approach could be developed to solve this problem. She suggested the conversation at the March 10, 2022, Board meeting focus more on where the District is right now and less on all the data and said she would encourage the public to come speak on the topic and offer solutions. She suggested including in the discussion how well the student success coordinators are working out and the disproportionality of student success coordinators in schools.

Trustee Williams offered to include as reference material notes from a youth group event she attended where students discussed violence in schools. She shared some of the key points they discussed and common themes that she has heard from them and other students. She said some of the topics they discussed were parent involvement and that violence starts in the home, resources to support families, resources to support students, the role of campus police, and involving community leaders.

Trustee Cepeda offered that as they talk about involving the community and providing information to the community, the Board has the option to hold a community meeting in addition to its regular meetings.

## **Trustee Requests for School Safety Agenda Item (continued)**

### Public Hearing (continued)

Anna Binder said she liked the idea of involving the community and inviting community members into the discussion. She said she is disheartened to hear that this may be placed on a regular Board meeting agenda and suggested this topic is so important it should be prioritized and should be a separate meeting.

Suynn Davis said this is an important topic and the Board needs to talk to the community. She said they need to define what violence is and determine how they will combat it and how they will correct it.

Pastor M. J. Ivy said this discussion was had years ago and said he is insulted because of all the hours of work that he has put into this topic as a member of the guns and safety taskforce. He suggested the Board review what that taskforce produced. He said he is a faith leader and always available.

Trustee Guzmán said violence is mentioned as an altercation in the “Needs to Know” communication that goes out to the Trustees, but she said an altercation looks different to her than the violence they have seen on campuses or the incidents that have been mentioned during public comment. She asked for the definition of violence. She suggested including the CCSD Police Department (CCSDPD) in the conversation to talk about the use of pepper spray on campuses.

Trustee Brooks said she does not think the structure of Board meetings is conducive to the type of conversation this topic warrants. She suggested having a high-level overview of the policies at a meeting. She agreed with involving school police in the conversation. She acknowledged that there have been discussions and meetings on this topic in the past and suggested having some of that historical information provided and then determining a path forward.

Trustee Garcia Morales agreed with having the definition of violence and the historical information provided. She said she looks forward to learning more about the School Justice Partnership as well as learning about and discussing the parameters around the law and protection of minors while still addressing the issues and being transparent and involving the community. She said she was in favor of discussing this topic in a community meeting to be better able to have a dialogue with the public.

Trustee Ford suggested Trustees get briefed by staff before March 10, 2022, on the historical context; have an item on the March 10 agenda with the intention of answering where the District is currently and looking at anything related to violence in schools, including policies and the work of previous taskforces; at the end of March or early April hold a number of community meetings with the intention of discussing resources and solutions; and schedule a meeting for the Board to discuss what they have heard and perhaps discuss modifying policies or bringing new initiatives to the District.

**Trustee Requests for School Safety Agenda Item** (continued)

Trustee Williams suggested a member of CCSDPD provide a briefing or presentation to the Board in an open meeting regarding their processes and procedures.

*Motion to place an item on the March 10, 2022, Board meeting agenda that would include an overview of the current policies on safety and violence in schools.*

*Motion: Cavazos      Second: Brooks*

*Trustee Brooks offered a friendly amendment to the motion to have the item include catching the Board up on the historical context, as well as providing the Board with a briefing prior to the meeting, and that all the additional topics that come out of this are addressed at an all-day community event that would allow a two-way dialogue.*

*Trustee Cavazos said she might be open to that amendment if it were more specific.*

*Trustee Cavazos restated her motion to have an item on the March 10, 2022, Board meeting agenda to have an overview of the present policies in place for school safety and violent incidents if a briefing on historical context for all Trustees has already taken place before March 10, 2022.*

There was some discussion about how the briefing would be provided and how that information would be made available to the public.

*Trustee Brooks withdrew her second to the motion.*

*Trustee Guzmán seconded the motion.*

*Trustee Guzmán offered a friendly amendment to the motion to bring forward a presentation of the historical context with the common definition of violence.*

Trustee Ford offered the suggestion that the agenda item would be for discussion and possible action for a violence in schools overview of current policies in place, to include a 15-minute briefing about the historical context, up to a 15-minute briefing from CCSDPD, to define violence in schools, and relevant policies and data to be included as reference material.

There was further discussion around what relevant data is and what would be included and what action could be taken.

Trustee Guzmán clarified that the motion was for two presentations, one on historical context and one on current policies on violence in schools; that there could be a presentation from CCSDPD on their definition on violence in schools; and that the data requested would be the data that was provided to Channel 8 News and violent incidents that took place in schools in the last month.

**Trustee Requests for School Safety Agenda Item** (continued)

*Trustee Cavazos restated her motion to have an agenda item on the March 10, 2022, regular Board meeting agenda to have an overview, including a historical data briefing, up to 15 minutes that it would include information on current policies already in place; to include a brief presentation by the CCSD on current policies; and to include the data that was released to Channel 8 News and the number of violent incidents that took place in the last month as reference material.*

*Trustee Guzmán agreed to the motion as the second.*

*Vote on Trustee Cavazos' motion: Yeses – 4 (Cavazos, Cepeda, Guzmán, Ford); Noes – 3 (Brooks, Garcia Morales, Williams)*

*The motion passed.*

Trustee Brooks asked for clarification of “review all relevant policies” for staff so they understand what they are expected to provide.

Trustee Cepeda clarified that it would include current policies regarding violence in schools, the specific data point of the number of violent incidents in addition to the data that was provided to Channel 8 News, and historical context overview to include the work of the taskforce.

Superintendent Jara asked for confirmation that the March 10, 2022, agenda item is not an action item per the motion.

Ms. Malich stated there was nothing defined in the motion that warranted action.

Trustee Cepeda stated she felt that the agenda item would be for information and discussion then a follow-up meeting on March 24, 2022, which would require some direction. She offered to have the Board officers reconvene during the first week of March to craft an agenda item for March 24, 2022. She also mentioned organizing the community meetings with staff's help.

Trustee Ford explained that the suggested motion she gave included possible action because her intent for March 10 was for the Board to come to a consensus of how to move forward and have the community see the Board approve the next step.

Trustee Cepeda stated she would schedule an officers meeting, and the officers would form a plan for direction and bring it back to the full Board.

**Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, February 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

Trustee Cepeda stated the upcoming Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. would be held in the boardroom.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Anna Binder addressed the community and encouraged parents who might be struggling or who have children that might be struggling to seek help through the mental health community resources available.

**Adjourn:** 9:38 a.m.

*Motion: Garcia Morales    Second: Williams    Vote: Unanimous*