

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

Work Session

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

4:01 p.m.

Roll Call:	<u>Members Present</u> Evelyn Garcia Morales, President Lola Brooks, Vice President Linda P. Cavazos, Member Lisa Guzmán, Member Katie Williams, Member Brenda Zamora, Member	<u>Member Absent</u> Irene Bustamante Adams, Clerk
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Jesus F. Jara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Nicole Malich, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office (via teleconference); Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Deputy Superintendent; Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office; and Denise Zagby, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office.

**Announcements**

Trustee Garcia Morales acknowledged that the land on which they are gathered is the territorial homelands of the Nuwu-the Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Band of Paiutes.

**Flag Salute**

Trustee Cavazos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

*Adopt agenda.*

*Motion: Zamora    Second: Guzmán    Vote: Unanimous*

*Trustee Williams was not present for the vote.*

**Community Engagement**

Information and discussion regarding a plan for future community engagement meetings.

Trustees discussed the topics they would like to bring to their community engagement meetings and how sharing information on those topics would support student outcomes, as outlined in Reference 2.01.

### **Teleconference Call Connected**

Teleconference call with Trustee Williams was connected at 4:28 p.m.

### **Community Engagement (continued)**

Trustee Garcia Morales stated she would take the feedback gathered here and work with the Superintendent to share the overall themes of community engagement topics that emerged, ensure that they are aligned to the Board's role and vision of the District, and ensure that they are strategic and will help move the District forward and address some concerns. She said this is a starting point, and she hopes to bring an update to the Board at the April work session.

Trustee Cavazos asked if the Board would be discussing the structure of the community engagement meetings. She also noted that the end of the school year is nearing and said the community has been asking some very strong questions, and she feels that part of regaining the community's trust is being able to answer at least some of those questions to some degree.

Trustee Garcia Morales said she believes it is feasible for the Board to hold a community engagement meeting by the end of March. She said she would consult with the Superintendent and that her goal is for the Board to have something take place in March.

### **Board Committee Reports**

Discussion and possible action on the process of how Trustees will report on committee meetings at future work session meetings.

The Board discussed the process, structure, and schedule for reporting on committee meetings. Trustees agreed that reports should be given within two to five minutes and should be held quarterly.

Trustee Guzmán recommended that the structure of the reports should be information based, and Trustees should consult with Board counsel to ensure the reports are appropriate and not violating any laws.

Trustee Brooks suggested considering a different structure for the Board committees. She said for those committees a community member who chairs a committee could come forward to report; they could report quarterly; and they could provide a specific update depending on the work of the committee.

Trustee Cavazos asked what the timeline would be for putting this into practice.

Trustee Garcia Morales said they would begin at the next work session.

## **Board Committee Reports (continued)**

### Public Hearing

Anna Binder said as a member of the Audit Advisory Committee, she would be suggesting that the Audit Advisory Committee provide a written report to the Board. She noted that no Board members have attended the Committee meetings since she has been a member. She suggested that the community and the Board should be getting reports from any committee doing any work in the local education agency (LEA) system.

No action was taken on this item.

## **Approve Reconsider Item 3.25 from the August 11, 2022, Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

Approval on a motion to reconsider Item 3.25, Adoption of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees Governance Policy GP-11: Public Comment, from the August 11, 2022, Clark County School District Regular Board Meeting.

Trustee Guzmán stated that when this item was heard on August 11, 2022, she asked if the Board would review to determine whether the changes to public comment were working for the Board and for the public. Said it has been stated at almost every meeting by the public that the current procedure does not work for the public, and she said students are not coming to share their voice with the Board. She stated she feels the public should be able to speak on any item the Board is considering even if it is brought forward as an information item.

Trustee Brooks clarified the process under Board policy for reconsidering an item.

Trustee Cavazos agreed with Trustee Guzmán's comment about the students. She said the community has a right to be able to address the Board and that she believes the current policy is suppressing the opportunity for them to do that. She said if they vote to rescind the previous vote, perhaps they can find a compromise.

Trustee Garcia Morales stated the reasons why she denied the request to bring this item to a regular Board meeting and said she offered to instead bring the item to a work session. She stated the Board is not taking anyone's right away to provide public comment. She pointed out that Board counsel advised the Board to ensure that the Board does not provide any preferences to any population and that they are in line with the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS).

Trustee Williams said the Board is not suppressing anyone's right to speak, but the changes have made their meetings more efficient business meetings, which allow students to attend the meetings and address the Board without having to wait until late into the night.

### Public Hearing

Autumn Tampa spoke in favor of reconsidering the item. She said she believes the changes were made to silence a few people and to shorten the meetings. She said she sees the changes that were made as a way to silence people.

**Approve Reconsider Item 3.25 from the August 11, 2022, Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
(continued)

Vicki Kreidel said following the law is not always the most important thing and she feels the most important thing is rebuilding the trust between the District and the community. She stated that reestablishing the two public comment periods would make it more accessible for people to be able to address the Board.

Jenna Robertson said since the changes in public comment were made, she feels less heard by the Board. She said she is aware of the chaos and ugliness some members of the public choose to bring to the meetings and at times it felt unsafe to attend the meetings. She agreed that changes had to be made but felt that the changes that were made were an overcorrection. She said the deaf community needs to see the faces of the speakers.

Jamie Tadrzynski said it was a disservice to take away that student voice that was at the beginning of the meeting. They said they have students graduating soon who deserve to voice their opinion regarding graduation regalia. They stated that it is important to hear from students; that it is important for the students to see people speaking during public comment; and that it is important for the community to know who is speaking during public comment.

Chris Giunchigliani shared information regarding the intent of the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML) and said this current policy flies in the face of that. She stated the language in Reference 2.03, "...encourages the public to first address their concerns with the staff member closest to the situation..." is not appropriate to the OML nor to public comment. She said as elected officials the Board has an obligation and responsibility to listen to the public and said finding a better balance within the public comment period would be more appropriate.

Jose Solorio said public comment should be effective, streamlined, and inclusive, and he noted the various opportunities to provide input. He said he thinks the public is unfamiliar with the Trustees' parameters and what is within their authority to do. He suggested having a type of written factsheet available for the public that would guide them to the appropriate avenues to have their concerns addressed. He stated the Board's time should be more focused on students, educators, support staff, funding, and the legislative process.

Brandon Summers said he believes the decision to remove public comment from the beginning of the agenda was a mistake but not an accident. He said removing this public comment period tells him that the Board does not want to hear from the public. He disagreed with the decision to not show the speaker at the podium and to discontinue the Facebook livestream as well. He asked the Board to stop sneaking in big decisions via the consent agenda.

**Approve Reconsider Item 3.25 from the August 11, 2022, Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
(continued)

Ed Gonzalez said he supported the changes to public comment and agrees with those changes for the most part. He recalled that the meetings had become chaotic and disruptive but said the item should be reconsidered. He suggested that the Board should not consider allowing 10 minutes for speaking on the consent agenda; that they should return to showing the speaker at the podium; and that they should allow public comment on information items.

Anna Binder said there were ways to go about shortening the Board meetings without changing public comment. She said when Trustee Cavazos was president, she did not get the support she should have. She said many times, parents come to address the Board because they feel like their concerns are not being addressed at the school level.

Trustee Brooks explained that changes to public comment were not made to shorten meetings or to be convenient to Board members. She said aspects of public comment that people have said they would like to see reestablished are things that the Board was legally advised against and will not be reverted to. She said the changes were made to make it fair for everyone so that they all have an equal opportunity to have their voice heard. She expressed appreciation for the comments that were made.

*Motion to reconsider Item 3.25 from the August 11, 2022, meeting of the Board of Trustees.  
Motion: Guzmán Second: Cavazos Vote: Yeses – 3 (Cavazos, Guzmán, Zamora); Noes – 3 (Brooks, Garcia Morales, Williams)  
The motion failed.*

**Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, March 9, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**

Trustee Garcia Morales stated the upcoming Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom.

**Public Comment on Items Not Listed as Action Items on the Agenda**

Autumn Tampa said students, parents, and staff are not in favor of many of the changes that have been made in the past several years. She expressed concerns related to how students are rushed to eat lunch and food being thrown away and the poor climate and treatment of support professionals.

James Bayliss spoke about issues surrounding the treatment of his son in CCSD. He shared his son's middle school report card and said what it shows is contradictory to what was said about his son. He advised the Board to stop ignoring the issue.

Jenna Robertson said Ms. Binder was informed that Ms. Robertson was a member of a CCSD special education committee. Ms. Robertson said she is not aware of any special education committee. She said if there is such a committee, she would like to attend the meetings and be able to address some issues. She said the public does not trust the Board.

**Public Comment on Items Not Listed as Action Items on the Agenda** (continued)

Jamie Tradzynski spoke about 47 CCSD schools losing their Title I status and said their concern is that there are some schools that students who do not live in the area attend, which is changing the demographic for students who do need those services. They said they do not know which schools are being impacted or how it is going to impact educators.

Jessica Tackett spoke about events leading up to what she said was the unjust firing of Palo Verde High School baseball coach David Meng. She stated that the allegations made against Mr. Meng are illegal and that neither the concerned parent who made the allegations nor the District reported this to the police.

Tony Bender said he has two sons who are in the Palo Verde High School baseball program, and he talked about how Coach Meng was dismissed based on information sent anonymously and based on information that is not true. He said District staff made the decision without any evidence. He said the bigger problem is that volunteer coaches are not protected in any way. He asked that this be looked into further and that Coach Meng be allowed to return.

David Meng said he feels that volunteering your time is very important and that he was proud that he did that for 10 years. He spoke about what took place and said students deserve better and future volunteers deserve better. He said after 10 years one anonymous email leads to his dismissal.

David Gomez commented on the situation surrounding volunteer coaches and said these problems persist because people do not know how to do their job. He spoke about his experience doing volunteer work and said being in an elected position does not mean they get to hide.

Brandon Summers expressed disappointment with the decision by the Board on Item 2.03 but said what is sadder is that even with the new Board members, the Board is still divided. He spoke about the need for changes to the substitute teacher pay structure. He shared that he had experienced police violence in 2018 and talked about how a Durango High School student was treated by the police and said more answers need to be provided.

Chris Giunchigliani expressed disappointment that Item 2.03 was brought forward at a work session instead of a regular meeting and said the way the vote was handled added to the frustration. She said she watched Trustees exchanging notes, and it is inappropriate and said trust is earned. She said with relation to community engagement, the Trustees have an obligation to meet regularly with their constituents, and she addressed some of the possible community engagement topics the Trustees brought forward.

**Public Comment on Items Not Listed as Action Items on the Agenda** (continued)

Eyan Bayliss said whether the baseball coach did or did not do those things, it was on his own personal time. He asked why there were no consequences for the police officer who body slammed a Durango High School student. He said the police officer that was involved was the same police officer that arrested him twice for things he did not do. He said the way the officer treated that child was assault.

Ed Gonzalez said it is Nevada Reading Week, and he said that Liliam Lujan Hickey Elementary School made an effort to invite as many people as they could onto campus. He said many of the topics the Board discussed for community engagement are similar to topics the community talks about. He said they invited the community because many people do not get asked to read. He asked that the Board recognize Nevada Reading Week, the teachers, and the librarians.

Anna Binder said she hoped that a municipality report on student achievement would be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting. She said when she saw the report on the Henderson Education Advisory Committee's agenda, she sent the report to all the other municipalities. She said this is the third athletics coach she has heard of being dismissed for questionable reasons, and she talked about the importance of athletics for students.

Trustee Garcia Morales thanked public speakers. She recognized Nevada Reading Week and educators, licensed personnel, and staff who make an effort to ensure students have the best experience.

**Adjourn:** 6:42 p.m.

*Motion: Cavazos      Second: Zamora      Vote: Unanimous*