

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, May 7, 2014

8:01 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present

Linda E. Young, Vice President
Patrice Tew, Clerk
Stavan Corbett, Member
Carolyn Edwards, Member
Chris Garvey, Member
Deanna L. Wright, Member

Member Absent

Erin E. Cranor, President

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary Ann Peterson, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Kim Wooden, Deputy Superintendent, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Jhone Ebert, Chief Innovation and Productivity Officer, Innovative Teaching and Learning Unit, Technology and Information Systems Services Division; Mike Barton, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Instruction Unit; Staci Vesneske, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Division; Leslie Arnold, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement; Marty Gardner, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Curriculum and Professional Development Division; Kim Boyle, Director, Central Information Student and Human Resources Services, Technology and Information Systems Services Division; Wes Lockhart, Coordinator IV, Employee Business Training, Technology and Information Systems Services Division; Justin White, Coordinator IV, Data Services, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant to the Board, Board Office; Elizabeth Carrero, Executive Manager, Office of the Superintendent; Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Young stated that Trustee Cranor would not be in attendance.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Tew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda, except note additional reference material for Items 4.01, 4.02, and 4.03.

Motion: Edwards Second: Corbett Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Garvey and Trustee Wright were not present for the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Wright arrived at the Board meeting at 8:10 a.m.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING UNIT PRESENTATION

Presentation on the progress of the Student Information System implementation, the Data Visualization Project, and implementation of Smarter Balanced Assessments as related to classroom instruction.

Ms. Ebert, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Lockhart, Ms. Arnold, Mr. White, and Ms. Gardner gave a presentation on the progress of the Student Information System implementation, the Data Visualization Project, and implementation of Smarter Balanced Assessments as related to classroom instruction.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Garvey arrived at the Board meeting at 8:14 a.m.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING UNIT PRESENTATION (continued)

The Innovative Teaching and Learning Unit staff continued with the presentation.

Trustee Corbett asked about opportunities for instant feedback for parents to contribute. He said based on some conversations he has had with principals, there needs to be some support in terms of the training. He asked about monitoring the success of this system and the return on investment. He asked if there would be an opportunity to make information accessible to parents in a format that is easy to understand so they can see what is being taught. He asked to be provided with an inventory or briefing of schools that are technologically able to absorb the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

Trustee Edwards asked what type of parent feedback has been received, and she said parent feedback needs to be gathered through the entire fall semester. She said something needs to be in place for parents to access grades after ParentLink is discontinued. She said parents would like the ability to know during the school day if their elementary school child is absent. She asked if teachers would be required to input their data in a timely manner. She asked in what areas online payments would be accepted for. She said since unsuccessful transfers are directly related to the graduation rate, being able to better track unsuccessful transfers would be helpful. She said individual parents and students should be able to see the "drill down" on the visualization tool to see their data. She asked if rural schools are technologically capable of carrying this system.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING UNIT PRESENTATION (continued)

Trustee Edwards talked about addressing the issue of students who have already taken subjects for which the end of course exam is not yet available. She suggested that perhaps those students could receive a waiver.

Trustee Wright said with the lack of textbooks and materials for parents to have at home, being able to access some of that information on the Curriculum Engine is critical. She said parents are frustrated with the lack of resources available for them to help their students. She said communication between teachers and parents is vital for student success. She said she wants to ensure that online tools are easy for parents to access and to use and to navigate.

Trustee Young said she is concerned about parents who are not computer literate or do not have access to computers or to the internet. She also expressed concern for non-English speaking parents and parents and students with special needs. She said there are organizations and community groups working with students, and she suggested connecting with those groups. She also suggested reaching out to the higher education institutions as well. She suggested providing a presentation to the community with definitions and concepts.

Trustee Garvey asked when the phases shown on page 30 of 50 would roll out and whether there would be an additional cost to implement them. She asked what the timeline was for creating more information in the “buckets” of information that people would be able to drill down on. She suggested looking at ways to engage with the parent organizations so they can take information back to their parents.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the District is in discussions with the Nevada Department of Education regarding the state providing curriculum for the Nevada Academic Content Standards. He said conversation and information received at the recent Nevada Association of School Superintendents meeting included the District providing the Curriculum Engine as the tool and the support for the entire state and allowing other school districts to utilize it, making this a statewide project, which would provide support to teachers across the state.

Ms. Ebert explained some of the difficulties and the complexities of transferring to a new student data system.

Trustee Edwards asked if there was a way to notify parents of the student’s unsatisfactory status until the system is available on September 30.

Ms. Ebert said it is in policy that teachers must notify parents when a students’ progress is unsatisfactory.

Trustee Edwards said then the District needs to ensure that the policy is being followed.

Superintendent Skorkowsky offered that the auto-dialer function on ParentLink would be available to parents prior to September.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTERNAL TASK FORCE ON BULLYING

Presentation and discussion on the recommendations from the Superintendent's Internal Task Force on Bullying.

Billie Rayford, chair of the Superintendent's Internal Task Force on Bullying, presented the task force's findings and recommendations.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said subcommittees will be created for each of the 5 areas identified by the task force; that he would be taking this report to student and parent committees for input; and that the subcommittees would report to the task force in September, and staff would be looking to implement changes for the next school year. He stated that this is an issue that requires everyone working together, that keeping children safe is a shared responsibility.

Trustee Edwards said there needs to be a paradigm shift in the District toward resolving this problem. She asked why the District does not monitor reports of bullying during weekends or holidays. She asked if the District is taking on the responsibility of addressing bullying that happens outside of school areas. She asked if staff is looking at introducing health classes in grade 6, as described on page 6 of 12, as a part of the P.E. curriculum. She said bullying happens more often in P.E. and in between classes. She suggested that substitutes need to be included in the training piece because bullying also takes place more often when there is a substitute in the classroom. She said Bystander silence should also be addressed as a form of participation in the bullying. She said children who are bullies also need to be educated so they recognize their behavior and are then able to change it.

Trustee Wright agreed with introducing health curriculum in sixth grade, and she suggested that it could be paired with half-year classes, such as computer class. She said the trainer-to-trainer model discussed on page 7 of 12 of the presentation needs to be closely monitored so the information that is taken back to the schools is exact. She said bystanders need to be addressed in policies and regulations. She said she would like a timeframe included with "immediately" in the proposed language for Regulation 5141, specifically, page 3 of 4, Item 1, first bullet point. She said the District also needs to address the video-taping of bullying and be included in the progressive discipline.

Trustee Young suggested working with higher education institutes so they train teachers in this area. She said there needs to be more information for people with special needs. She suggested that the District share information with neighborhood associations. She said there needs to be parent training in this area as well. She suggested reaching out to churches and other community groups and organizations. She said there needs to be some emphasis on student self-advocacy, and health curriculum needs to begin in kindergarten or even pre-kindergarten. She said the Each One Read One initiative can also be helpful in this matter with books such as *The Recess Queen*.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTERNAL TASK FORCE ON BULLYING (continued)

Trustee Garvey said bullying develops from a pattern of unkind acts, and everyone needs to be able to recognize those unkind behaviors leading up to bullying. She said everyone needs to be allowed to take ownership of their part in resolving this issue, and they should be held accountable to answering the question of whether or not they want a culture of kindness at their schools. She suggested that there should be an early intervention piece in the classrooms where everyone acknowledges behaviors as a group and as a school community.

Trustee Corbett said there should be an opportunity for community feedback. He said there should also be external participation in the subcommittee work or maybe the subcommittee interfacing with other committees. He talked about involving students in a type of "peer mediation" program whereby students are empowered to use conflict resolution skills. He suggested looking at programs and practices that are in place and are working in other areas that can be expanded and become part of the culture across the District.

Trustee Tew talked about the need to be creative in the efforts in addressing bullying and changing the culture at schools.

Public Hearing

Jason Lamberth said the proposed language for Regulation 5141, Section A, bullet point 2, is not in compliance with current Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), specifically, NRS 388.1351, paragraph 2. He said parents have the right to know anytime a violation is reported and anytime their student is not in the classroom.

Daniel Lincoln said parents should be notified of a reported incident before an investigation. He said moving a bully to another school does not address the issue, and he suggested that there be mandatory counseling for any student who repeatedly bullies other students. He said he would be interested to know who would be serving on the subcommittee under recommendation number 2.

Theresa Hoard said nothing that is recommended here would make a difference without acknowledgement of the problem and accountability.

Jessica Hoard said something needs to be done to address this issue and to protect the children.

Erika Greisen said that the bullying is so severe that some children are attempting and committing suicide, and some parents are choosing to take their children out of CCSD and leave Nevada. She said students are not the only ones bullying students; in some instances teachers are bullying students. She suggested that parents and community members should be on the task force.

Audrey Demsey shared that she has created a 20-minute musical production that addresses bullying.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTERNAL TASK FORCE ON BULLYING (continued)

Jose Solorio talked about his son's experience with being bullied and having to confront the bully. He said parents need to be involved to help their children. He recommended that there be a short discussion on bullying during open house at the beginning of the school year. He said perhaps the counselor could visit each class and engage in a short discussion.

Carol Barber talked about using intervention and mediation to address bullying. She agreed that there needs to be a cultural shift in the school communities. She said with relation to suspension and reporting, there is a new directive that talks about handling discipline in the schools and not with the police departments.

Gina Greisen talked about issues she has dealt without throughout her daughter's educational career in CCSD. She said parents should be part of the task force. She asked why this agenda item was not first on the agenda so parents could speak and not wait so long. She said there needs to be a partnership between parents and the District.

BOARD MEMBER LEAVES

Trustee Garvey left the Board meeting at 11:22 a.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTERNAL TASK FORCE ON BULLYING (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he would look into monitoring the website for reports of bullying when school is not in session and see if and how the cost could be reduced. He said parents should be involved, but the first step was to look at the District's policies and procedures. He said members of the community would be involved as this process moves forward. He said staff could look at changing the health education to begin in sixth grade instead of eighth grade.

TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Garvey was connected at 11:24 a.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTERNAL TASK FORCE ON BULLYING (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky acknowledged that there needs to be extensive education for internal staff and for the community in terms of bullying. He agreed to look into the training for substitute teachers and see if they could incorporate some additional methods and practices. He said this topic could be included as a regular segment at the school level and at the Performance Zone level. He said the bystander piece is addressed as part of the professional development done with faculty and with students. He said a challenge in educating bullies and requiring them to go through training is that the counselor to student ratio is 1:500. He said it would be the responsibility of the Assistant Chief Student Achievement Officers to monitor this at the school level and talk with principals and administrative teams at the schools to ensure that policies, regulations, and statutes are being followed.

Trustee Corbett suggested following up with community recommendations, and he asked that someone follow up with speakers that talked about problems they are currently having.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTERNAL TASK FORCE ON BULLYING (continued)

Trustee Young recommended reviewing the Community of Caring. She suggested that perhaps the school psychologists could assist in working with students who need more in depth care.

RECESS: 11:29 a.m.

TELECONFERENCE CALL WAS DISCONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Garvey was disconnected at 11:29 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:49 a.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EXECUTIVE CABINET BUDGET ALIGNMENT PRESENTATION

Presentation and discussion by the superintendent's Executive Cabinet on the alignment of the proposed 2014-2015 final budget to the strategic imperatives and focus areas.

Ms. Wooden, Dr. Barton, Ms. Ebert, and Dr. Vesneske gave a presentation focused on aligning the budget with the strategic imperatives and focus areas.

Public Hearing

Jose Solorio said there are profound needs in improving how education is provided for English language learners, specifically. He said he hopes those needs are addressed in the future as the budget is looked at. He suggested that the support for parents needs to be at the school level and not at some other facility in another location.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Wright requested an agenda item in July for an update on any changes with regard to bullying that has gone out to principles for the next school year, including administrative codes or language.

Trustee Edwards reminded staff that she previously asked for an agenda item to discuss District-wide rezoning.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he would like to bring information requested by Trustee Wright to the August work session.

Trustee Corbett requested an update on the Innovative Teaching and Learning Unit presentation in October.

Trustee Tew asked if it would be an appropriate agenda topic to discuss how the Board conducts its meetings in terms of accommodating the public.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS (continued)

Ms. Peterson explained that the public comment time at these meetings is given pursuant, especially, to the Open Meeting Law (OML), so that would always remain. She said these are Trustee meetings, and the public are guests at these meetings, which are conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order. She said Robert's Rules of Order dictates that the workings of the meeting are coordinated by the president or the chair. She said she was unsure of how the chair would coordinate the meeting and make it a public meeting as opposed to a Trustee meeting.

Trustee Young commented on the different ways in which the Board has tried to accommodate the public over the years within the confines of what is necessary for the Board to conduct business.

Ms. Peterson said this could be brought forward as an agenda item for discussion.

Trustee Corbett said if this were brought forward as an agenda item, there would be an opportunity to communicate the different ways the public could contact and speak to the Board, that there are other opportunities to speak to the Board, not just at regular meetings.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jose Solorio suggested that the Board could accommodate the public by placing items first on the agenda that might be community-charged topics.

ADJOURN: 12:14 p.m.

*Motion: Edwards Second: Tew Vote: Unanimous
Trustee Garvey was not present for the vote.*