

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

TELECONFERENCE ONLY

Adoption of the Final Budget

Monday, May 18, 2020

5:33 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Lola Brooks, President
Linda P. Cavazos, Vice President
Danielle Ford, Clerk
Irene Cepeda, Member
Chris Garvey, 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; Jason Goudie, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Unit; and Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office.

Adoption of the Agenda

Adopt agenda, except note additional reference material provided for Item 4.02.

Motion: Wright Second: Garvey Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Public comments can be found under the corresponding agenda item.

Public Hearing, 2020-2021 Tentative Budget

This is the time and the place that was advertised for the public hearing on the tentative budget per Nevada Revised Statutes 354.596, and interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the 2020-2021 Tentative Budget of the Clark County School District. Please submit comments in writing by email to BoardMtgComments@nv.ccsd.net by 2:30 p.m., Monday, May 18, 2020.

Trustee Brooks read the public hearing statement.

Public Hearing, 2020-2021 Tentative Budget (continued)
Public Hearing

Janet Vaughn, a substitute teacher, wrote that she would like to receive a higher living wage. She said she would like higher pay and benefits for accepting vacancies, as substitutes do the same job as teachers do.

Autumn Tampa asked how could CCSD notify all employees that they have a reasonable assurance of reemployment for the 2020-2021 school year with a projected budget deficit of \$37 million dollars.

Lisa Katic asked that substitute teachers receive a higher wage. She said many carry degrees and have years of experience that match or exceed teachers. She said she would like to see an increase for long-term positions as they take work home, work through their prep time, and are concerned they do not get sick leave or holiday pay.

Jazzmyne Lizarraga-Valle expressed disappointed in the potential pay raise for substitutes. She mentioned a substitute assignment at Harold J. Brinley Middle School and said she feels an increase of \$20.00 per day is insufficient for the work substitutes do, especially long-term substitutes.

Terri Shuman wrote that she does not want support staff to take the brunt of the cuts. She suggested that the people in higher positions take a cut in pay, not in title, during this time and that once we return to a positive position, their salaries be restored.

Lisa Roe stated she believes that any cuts should come from the top. She wrote that If the District wants to maintain a substitute teacher pool, a livable wage with affordable benefits must not be disregarded.

Fernando Valenzuela wrote to remind the Board of the importance of providing substitutes with a livable wage. He said he feels there will be record-high vacancies next school year. He said the Board cannot claim to put students first if they continue to put them in overcrowded classrooms, not ensure a consistent educator, or continue to disrespect substitutes.

Jamie Gruber stressed the importance of adequate pay for substitute teachers. He asked the Board to invest in future teachers by investing in substitutes with new programs to support them, fair pay and benefits, as well as appreciating them.

Approve 2020-2021 Final Budget

Approval on adoption of the 2020-2021 Final Budget and authorization for members of the Board of School Trustees to file as required by Nevada Revised Statutes 354.598, as recommended in Reference 4.02.

Approve 2020-2021 Final Budget (continued)

Mr. Goudie presented the 2020-2021 Final Budget as shown in Reference 4.02.

Public Hearing

Barbara Garrett asked how much savings the District would see in reduced utility bills and fuel cost because of having school closed for nearly three months.

Adrienne Dragon asked if teachers who have completed their Professional Growth Plan (PGP) and completed 225 Contact Units (CU's) would receive their raise, and if not, when. She asked if budget cuts would include the 5 percent raise National Board Certified teachers are to receive.

Bert Niimi stated that the Board needs to look for more innovative ways to reach students. He said more distance learning may be required and can be a cost saver when used correctly. He opposed more tax increases, stating that is the wrong way to balance the budget.

Bill Kasimoff wrote that someone needs to make sure the rainy day funds that have been opened get to the school districts. He said there should not be a short fall.

Janet Vaughn, a substitute teacher, wrote that she would like to receive a higher living wage. She said she would like higher pay and benefits for accepting vacancies, as substitutes do the same job as teachers do.

Autumn Tampa asked if education support professionals would lose jobs, positions, or raises to help balance the CCSD budget deficit.

Adam Berger wrote that high-needs schools in underserved communities are less equipped for a learning disruption than their wealthier counterparts. He said schools are struggling to adapt to remote learning within neighborhoods that are bearing the brunt of the coronavirus. He said the District needs to prioritize education and resist budget cuts that would impact the most vulnerable children.

Trustee Garvey asked when staff expects to receive the final budget figures from the state.

Mr. Goudie said CCSD has not been notified at this point. He said the last update he received was that information would be provided sometime in May.

Trustee Garvey asked how this deficit might impact the strategic budgets at the school level.

Mr. Goudie said staff has met with a group of principals, and they know they are going to have to look at potential changes to per-pupil spending to cover the deficit, and staff is also looking at central service cuts to cover the deficit.

Approve 2020-2021 Final Budget (continued)

Trustee Garvey asked if Covid-19 was affecting the District's average daily attendance to the extent that it is impacting the District financially.

Mr. Goudie said at this point the District is working with the state on how attendance is taken and how students are identified as being enrolled. He said they do not have projections as to that impact at this time.

Trustee Ford asked Mr. Goudie if he could speak to the areas in which he anticipates the cuts could occur in and what the impact might be to help prepare people who might be affected.

Mr. Goudie stated that at this point there is no way to ascertain what may be done at the school level because it will be the decision of the individual principals and their School Organizational Teams (SOTs). He said staff is still looking at any changes that could be made to central services and applying those cuts where possible. He also said staff needs to understand what the cuts are going to be from the state first, and they also need to take into consideration the funds the District would be able to receive through the CARES Act and how those could be used. He said the best approach is to be prepared and consider all of the pieces of information together before making individualized decisions.

Trustee Ford asked how soon after the District receives the information from the state could the Board expect to see a comprehensive plan.

Mr. Goudie said it should be fairly close, but it is going to depend on the significance of the cuts and the number of areas impacted and what the District is going to be allowed to do with the federal funding. He said he would anticipate being able to start having discussions approximately two weeks after all the information is gathered.

Trustee Wright asked Mr. Goudie to speak to cost savings the District has seen due to school closures.

Mr. Goudie said there have been some savings, but the most direct savings has been the savings from fueling the busses that are not transporting students to and from schools on a regular basis. He said that information is built into the budget.

Trustee Cavazos asked if the school carryover funds would be carried over into 2021.

Mr. Goudie said yes, the \$108 million shown in carryover funds are projected to be carried over into 2021.

Trustee Cavazos asked if Mr. Goudie had an estimate of the amount of money that could be saved by making changes to central services.

Approve 2020-2021 Final Budget (continued)

Mr. Goudie said staff is still looking at everything they can, but it is a significantly smaller pool of funds than what is in strategic budgets.

Trustee Young asked if the student count being used in this budget is the same as the count prior to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Goudie said the counts Trustee Young is referring to are the counts for 2020 and those can potentially affect the funding the District is receiving for the current year. He said for 2019 the average daily enrollment was approximately 316,000, and 315,000 is the projection for the 2021 budget.

Trustee Young stated that she was opposed to any cuts solely to support professionals, that if cuts are necessary, it should be across all employee groups.

Trustee Cepeda asked if the new funding formula would be impacted.

Mr. Goudie said a reduction in funding would impact the budget no matter the funding formula but explained that the new funding model has protections of education funding built in.

Trustee Brooks asked if the employee raises and the PGP were built into this budget.

Mr. Goudie said all raises that were agreed upon with the bargaining groups last year, as well as the PGP or Professional Growth System (PGS) for the Clark County Education Association (CCEA) group, are built into this final budget.

Trustee Garvey asked if there have been any discussions about any potential impact on the District if the casinos are able to reduce their property values.

Mr. Goudie said he has begun to look at that, and he thinks the long-term implications would be more severe than the short-term impact for 2021.

Trustee Garvey expressed concern with the amount of school carryover money, stating the intent was to push the money down to schools so that it could be spent on students. She asked what the budget might look like if the District were to adopt a hybrid education model when schools open and what that would look like for staffing.

Mr. Goudie agreed that the school carryover is a large amount and attributed that to the school closures and to some principals' experience with seeing cuts happen for many years in the District so they have built up savings. He said it is important to have a balance and to have a good reserve and savings at the District level and not have to push cuts down to the school level as often and said staff continues to work on that.

Approve 2020-2021 Final Budget (continued)

Mr. Goudie said in terms of the education models, staff meets regularly to discuss what those models might look like and begin to layer in additional costs, but there is still information needed regarding the federal funding component and what the requirements will be from the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) before they can finalize those numbers.

Trustee Garvey asked that as staff continues that work on the education models that they include in the conversations possible reductions in grants from Senate Bill (SB) 178, Zoom, and Victory monies.

Trustee Cavazos asked if there was a plan for how the cuts would be equitably distributed once all the information is gathered.

Mr. Goudie said essentially the plan that was discussed with principals was a per-pupil cut, which allows for the most equity, but they would also need to consider how other cuts from grant funds might impact the schools and how federal funds could be used.

Trustee Ford said if universal cuts need to be made to employees, employees at the school level should be protected, and if cuts are going to be made to support professional, they should be made across all levels.

Trustee Wright asked Mr. Goudie if he would speak to the different school carryover funds and stated a document was sent out previously and principals were asked to speak to their SOTs about these funds sitting in an account. She asked Superintendent Jara when the Board would be able to make that document public and have a conversation about these funds and these schools specifically.

Mr. Goudie stated the amounts in the three major components are estimated to be Net Vacancy at \$34.4 million with growth by 2021 to \$45 million; Supplies at \$26.4 million with growth by 2021 to \$57 million; and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) at \$7.1 million declining by 2021 to \$6 million.

Superintendent Jara said he wanted to allow the principals and their SOTs to go through the budget process before posting the information online.

Mr. Goudie clarified that the amount the principals would be disclosing and discussing with their SOTs is the \$66 million from the prior year which is the actual amount that was carried over into their budgets.

Trustee Wright asked that the Superintendent keep the Board apprised of when the principals and SOTs have discussed the budgets in May so it could be placed on the agenda sometime in June.

Motion to accept the 2020-2021 Final Budget.

Motion: Ford Second: Wright Vote: Unanimous

Superintendent Communication

None.

Trustee Request for Agenda Items or Information

Trustee Garvey asked that the Board be kept apprised of information and discussions related to property reassessment and the CCSD Communications and Government Relations Unit work in that area in terms of communicating what the impact would be to the District.

Trustee Cavazos asked for information on a timeline for the approvals of graduation plans. She requested information related to the frequency of meetings with principals regarding the budget and communication to the rest of the administrators.

Trustee Wright requested information related to when the principals discuss the carryover money with their SOTs and then getting that on the Board agenda for discussion.

Trustee Young requested an agenda item for further discussion and review of the CCSD special education report from the Council of the Great City Schools, including suggestions for implementation.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Cherlynn Thomas strongly urged the Board to raise wages for guest teachers to attract more educated guest teachers. She wrote teachers are having a hard time finding guest teachers to cover their classes, they are combining classes with too many students, and they stay at school when they are sick. She said the practice cannot continue in the current environment.

Ramona Grays stated that substitute teachers are important for the health and function of CCSD. She expressed concern that \$90.00 or \$150.00 per day is not enough for the work and challenges substitutes face.

Jax Sandoval thanked the Board for keeping students safe.

Trustee Request for Agenda Items or Information (continued)

Autumn Tampa wrote that she hoped the Reopening Our Schools Working Group puts the safety of children and employees ahead of money, and that the public, the community and CCSD employees are allowed to give input that is seriously taken into account for the reopening of schools next year.

Adjourn: 7:12 p.m.

Motion: Cavazos Second: Ford Vote: Unanimous