

Minutes
Clark County School District
Special Meeting of the Board of School Trustees
Board of School Trustees Subcommittee for AB 469 (2017)
Administrative Center, Room 466
5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

3:06 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Lola Brooks, Clerk
Lisa Guzmán, Member
Katie Williams, Member

Kellie Kowal-Paul, Chief Strategy Officer

Also present were: Nicole Malich, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Luke Puschnig, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Mark Newburn, Vice President, Nevada State Board of Education; Felicia Gonzales, Consultant; and Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office.

Flag Salute

Trustee Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Agenda

Adopt agenda, except note reference material provided for Item 3.01.

Motion: Guzmán Second: Williams Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment Period on Non-Agenda Items

Autumn Tampa said she is a proud member of the Education Support Employees Association (ESEA) and is supportive of ESEA president Jan Giles and the organization. She discussed the different reasons why employees are leaving the District and said now is the time for all employee bargaining groups to come together and support one another.

Ed Gonzalez expressed appreciation for the creation of this subcommittee and said he sees this as an opportunity to address issues with the state board, as well as underlying issues.

Implementation and Compliance of Assembly Bill 469 (2017)

Discussion and review of the Clark County School District's implementation and compliance of Assembly Bill 469 (2017).

Implementation and Compliance of Assembly Bill 469 (2017) (continued)

Public Hearing

Kenneth Paul discussed several struggles for autonomy over the past several years, which included the areas of proportionality, utilities, 85 percent unrestricted funds to precincts, math books, carryover, and no forced placement of teachers.

Autumn Tampa said she understands that the Board must comply with the law and that building principals want the autonomy to make certain decisions, but she discussed areas of concern, including the decision-making of some principals, School Organizational Teams (SOTs), and the surplus process.

Ed Gonzalez agreed with Ms. Tampa that all principals are not great but says he believes this law shows when a principal is not doing a good job. He commented on the status of "Allocation of funds to school" on Page 2 of 4, Reference 3.01(A), and said he does not understand how one can be possibly compliant.

Mr. Newburn discussed the history of what has taken place and what has been attempted in addressing how to move toward a more decentralized district and site-based decision-making, and he discussed the spirit and intent of the reorganization law.

There was discussion around why the District is not in compliance in the area of "Authority to select school staff" and how the District can work with the bargaining units; different interpretations of the law and gaining clarity; the CCSD Board and State Board working in a partnership to bring the District into compliance; the State Board's investigation process and response for areas they deem the District to be not in compliance and next steps for the Board; actions the Board should be taking, such as getting training and putting this on their agenda to hear input from the precincts; the work the District has done and the harmful conversation around the false claim that the District refuses to work toward compliance; and frustration and challenges around this work.

Trustee Brooks asked which items have bubbled up to the state that have not fallen into one of the categories in Reference 3.01(A) that the Board is legally responsible for.

Mr. Newburn offered to give the Board a list of their "traffic tickets."

Ms. Kowal-Paul said the notion that the District has done nothing in five years is not accurate. She stated while there is frustration in misinterpretation, there is no open defiance of compliance, at least not from an operational standpoint. She said her role is to work to bring the District into compliance and that staff has not received a finding from Jhone Ebert, Nevada Department of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction. She said staff responds to questions and continues to state their challenges and work toward those challenges.

Implementation and Compliance of Assembly Bill 469 (2017) (continued)

Trustee Brooks asked that the Trustees concerns be conveyed to the State Board and that the Trustees would like to discuss Reference 3.01(A) and the areas that show the District is not in compliance. She also said the Trustees would like to have those “parking tickets.” She asked if it would be appropriate to send an invitation to State Board members who are on School Organizational Teams (SOTs) to share their thoughts.

Ms. Gonzales suggested Trustee Brooks send that invitation to State Board President Felicia Ortiz.

Trustee Guzmán asked how long it would take to get a list of their “tickets.”

Ms. Gonzales suggested Trustees include that in their request to Ms. Ortiz.

Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, May 19, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Trustee Brooks stated the next Board meeting would be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Public Comment Period on Non-Agenda Items

Kenneth Paul said one issue is how they are to address differences between site-based and central administrators. He stated that principals, School Organizational Teams (SOTs) and Community Education Advisory Boards (CEABs) were asked to make presentations to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and over some time, a majority of members have concluded that CCSD central administration is not aligned with the law and seek to be their own final authority on the intent and implementation of the law.

Autumn Tampa said she has been following the reorganization law since the beginning, and she has heard many conversations on the topic. She said she thinks a lot of the issues everyone is arguing about are not about the children but about the adults. She said she is grateful to have a union that has fought for her rights as an employee, and she disagreed that the District is not trying to comply with the law. She suggested the unions could work together on this.

Anna Binder spoke about the challenges many people have in being able to attend meetings and said everyone is not able to attend and the people who do show up are the voice for those who fear retaliation or do not have time to attend. She said the change everyone wants to see for the children is going to come from the legislature.

Public Comment Period on Non-Agenda Items (continued)

Carrie Kaufman stated Ms. Kowal-Paul and Trustee Williams were exchanging notes during this meeting, and she requested a copy of those notes.

Adjourn: 4:41 p.m.

Motion: Williams Second: Guzmán Vote: Unanimous