

Minutes  
Clark County School District  
Special Meeting of the Board of School Trustees  
Moapa River Reservation, Administrative Building  
1 Lincoln Street, Moapa, Nevada 89025

Community Engagement Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2022

5:37 p.m.

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Roll Call:    Members Present

Irene Cepeda, President  
Evelyn Garcia Morales, Vice President  
Linda P. Cavazos, Member  
Lisa Guzmán, Member

Members Absent

Lola Brooks, Clerk  
Danielle Ford, Member  
Katie Williams, Member

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

Also present were: Nicole Malich, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office;  
Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Deputy Superintendent;  
Dr. Shana Rafalski, Chief of Staff, Office of the Superintendent; Tod Story, Chief Communications Officer, Communications Unit; Dr. Bradley Keating, Executive Director, Engagement Unit, Office of the Superintendent; Greg Manzi, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement Division, Academic Unit; Joe Caruso, Special Assistant to the Superintendent/Liaison to the Board of Trustees, Community Services Department, Office of the Superintendent; Della Frank, Coordinator, Indian Education Opportunities Program, Engagement Unit, Office of the Superintendent; and Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office.

**Flag Salute**

Trustee Guzmán led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

*Adopt agenda.*

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

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Mercedes Krause commented that a state law was passed related to removal or change of school mascots. She said she was very surprised that a decision was made to not remove mascots in CCSD schools even after the law was passed.

Diana Croci expressed concern that the Moapa Educational Support Center (MESC) has not been opened. She said Ms. Frank, who used to run the center, is now located in Las Vegas, and the concern is that they do not have anyone to monitor and assist students and to assist parents.

### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (continued)

Thelma Myers shared concerns of parents with special education children on the reservation that there is not a special education teacher at Ute V. Perkins Elementary School. She said they were looking at utilizing Impact Aid monies to have a special education teacher at Perkins Elementary School so that those children do not have to travel to another school.

A community member asked that the questions and concerns be answered before moving on to the next agenda item.

Trustee Cepeda and Ms. Malich explained that because these were non-agenda items, the Board cannot deliberate or act but could bring those issues forward on a future agenda item to discuss.

### **Achievement Updates for American Indian/Alaska Native Students**

Presentation and discussion on achievement updates for American Indian/Alaska Native Students who attend the Clark County School District.

Dr. Bradley Keating, Executive Director, Engagement Unit, Office of the Superintendent, presented an update for American Indian/Alaska Native students attending CCSD, as shown in Reference 3.01.

### **Public Hearing**

Sharol McDade asked questions related to student groups and how “two or more races” is determined. She questioned the accuracy of that data since American Indian/Alaska Natives who also check Hispanic/Latino, for example, are not counted in the American Indian/Alaska Native category. She asked if staff could extrapolate the data. She asked if the District had an action plan to incorporate LGBTQ matters into its academic teachings. She also asked about what the District offers in terms of support for families. She talked about the purpose of the Johnson O’Malley Program (JOM) and encouraged the District to consider options that would allow the tribal community to have a bigger voice.

Superintendent Jara spoke about the District’s efforts and resources in terms of support to students and families.

Diana Croci asked how they can get the MESC to be open for five days instead of three. She asked who would be overseeing the center and if that person would be the point of contact for the students and for the parents.

Dr. Keating said he would work to increase the number of days the center will be open. He said he thinks the staff working in the center will alternate. He said questions should be directed to Ms. Frank.

Superintendent Jara added that the level of need, number of students, is a factor in determining the number of days the center is open.

## **Achievement Updates for American Indian/Alaska Native Students (continued)**

Ms. Croci asked if a substitute could be a tutor.

Dr. Keating answered, yes.

Thelma Myers commented that in 2005 when the MESC was opened and had a student success advocate (SSA) and a counselor on site, they saw that students did very well. She said they would like to have an SSA be accessible to students in the rural areas and check on those students and work with them and provide support. She mentioned racial issues between students and families and school staff and asked if community members can request that teachers and school staff participate in cultural competency or diversity training or awareness.

Superintendent Jara stated staff is working toward providing culturally responsive training.

Mercedes Krause said these issues are happening in other places as well, and community members have been speaking up, and complaints have been made to the Office of Civil Rights. She asked how many college applications each student is allowed and how many were given support.

Ms. Frank said this is the first year Title VI is paying for college applications, and three were paid for out of five requests. She said two per person are allowed.

Mercedes Krause talked about the lack of awareness and ensuring that all students who are eligible, including those of two or more races, are taking advantage of the Indian education program. She asked how many students are enrolled in the program, which she said should be reflective of their census numbers. She also discussed cultural competency as it relates to issues with the curriculum.

Ms. Frank said staff oversees 736 students, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, throughout Clark County.

Rhiannon Fuller commented that automatically placing American Indian/Alaska Native students who also check Hispanic/Latino in the two or more races category is deceiving of the true number of their representation. She talked about the Johnson O'Malley Indian Education Committee's (IEC's) desire to work to have more students in Moapa and rural areas be able to participate in activities and events. She stated in the facility they are trying to have open for tutoring and support for students, there is no restroom or fresh water. She stated she does not feel that two SSAs is sufficient staffing for the MESC. She invited everyone to attend the JOM general meetings.

Shanandoah Anderson spoke about the importance of cultural sensitivity in the District and said the voices of the Southern Paiute in Clark County should be heard. She expressed frustration that their children are not being taught about the Southern Paiute but about other tribes instead. She said they should be teaching their children to be proud of who they are. She stated there is a need for cultural sensitivity training.

### **Achievement Updates for American Indian/Alaska Native Students** (continued)

Sharol McDade asked, in response to Superintendent Jara's statement about the number of students driving the level of need for the MESC, how many students would be considered "a lot." She also asked if the District has a type of report that would have a trending mechanism that would allow them to determine how that would affect the American Indian population.

Superintendent Jara said if there is a need, staff will review. He stated they will start with three days, and if there is a need for five, they would move in that direction.

Sharol McDade asked if the number of American Indian/Alaska Native children in a school determines how the funds are distributed. She said she has seen a disparity in the funding for different schools. She thanked the Board and staff for listening to their concerns and said it would be helpful to have some feedback based on the community's comments.

Ashley Marie Osbourn (phonetic) stated the District's data shows that there is an intention for need, that there is a gap. She said the demand needs to be made when the data shows there is a need for services. She said the District's action plan needs to address the social-emotional disparities and development of children in underserved communities. She talked about disparities, racism, bullying, and harmful interactions with children in school and said tolerance and respect needs to be taught in all schools. She spoke about how more resources need to be invested in underserved communities.

Mercedes Krause stated that although they share their experiences and concerns through stories, the data also reflects what American Indian/Alaska Native children are experiencing, and that the safety report shows that they had the least amount of emotional security in Nevada schools. She said data is very important so they can get the resources their children need. She suggested there should be assessment of past meetings to look at how long they have been having these same discussions and address the issues that have been coming forward year after year.

Trustees thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and concerns, assured them that they are listening, and discussed the issues that they heard and the need to address these matters.

There was discussion around American Indian/Alaska Native children not being counted, outside of the two or more races category, the form and process that must be completed to have the students counted, and how the data is used.

Superintendent Jara said an action item he would be taking back to staff is to look at the need for more staffing to find and assist more families with completing and submitting the proper forms.

Ms. Frank stressed the need for parent participation on the Title VI and the Johnson O'Malley parent committees.

**Achievement Updates for American Indian/Alaska Native Students** (continued)

Superintendent Jara noted that the Board recently approved the social and emotional curriculum, which is being implemented Districtwide and that last summer the Board approved CCSD Regulation 6150 for culturally sensitive and responsive curriculum. He proposed that staff would draft a plan moving forward, which Ms. Frank would then bring back to the Moapa community to begin addressing the issues and providing more supports to students.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

None.

**Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, June 23, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

Trustee Cepeda stated the upcoming meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. and would be held in the boardroom.

**Adjourn:** 7:20 p.m.

*Motion: Guzmán    Second: Cavazos    Vote: Unanimous*