

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, September 6, 2023

4:05 p.m.

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Roll Call: Members Present  
Evelyn Garcia Morales, President  
Lola Brooks, Vice President  
Irene Bustamante Adams, Clerk  
Linda P. Cavazos, Member  
Lisa Guzmán, Member  
Katie Williams, Member  
Brenda Zamora, Member

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

Also present were: Nicole Malich, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; and Ben Mackey, Council of the Great City Schools (via teleconference).

**Teleconference Call Connected**

Teleconference call with Trustee Williams was connected at 4:05 p.m.

**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 Brooks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

*Adopt agenda, except note revised reference material provided for Item 2.03.*

*Motion: Guzmán Second: Brooks Vote: Unanimous*

**Approve Revision of the 2023 Calendar of Board Meetings**

Approval of the revision of the calendar of work sessions and regular meetings of the Board of School Trustees for the period January 2023 through December 2023, as requested in Reference 2.01.

### **Approve Revision of the 2023 Calendar of Board Meetings (continued)**

Trustee Garcia Morales noted the revision removing the November 30, 2023, Board meeting from the calendar as shown in Reference 2.01. She requested that the Board reevaluate the cadence of their meetings, especially around the summer months and the holiday months.

Trustee Zamora pointed out that the time for work sessions is still showing 9:00 a.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. on the calendar.

Trustee Garcia Morales said the work sessions should be 4:00 p.m. and the document could be updated.

*Motion to accept Item 2.01, noting that work sessions would continue to be held at 4:00 p.m.  
Motion: Brooks Second: Guzmán Vote: Unanimous*

### **Approve Audit Advisory Committee Appointment**

Approval to appoint four members to the Audit Advisory Committee for a term of two-years, beginning September 6, 2023, through June 30, 2025, as recommended in Reference 2.02.

Trustee Garcia Morales briefly explained the role of the Audit Advisory Committee.

Trustee Cavazos asked Trustee Garcia Morales to give an explanation of the application process, which she did.

Trustee Guzmán stated that she originally appointed Anna Binder to the Committee and disclosed that she asked Ms. Binder to reapply to sit on the Committee. She asked if other Trustees recommended or asked anyone to apply. She said she also looked into the applicants online.

Trustee Cavazos said she also asked Ms. Binder to reapply to sit on the Committee and looked into the applicants as well. She said there may be an issue with one of the applicants.

### **Public Hearing**

Anna Binder expressed how much she enjoys the work the Committee does. She said she is committed and willing to serve her community.

Ms. Malich advised the Board to vote on each candidate in whatever order a Trustee makes a motion to appoint rather than going down the list of applicants in order.

*Motion to reappoint Anna Binder to the Audit Advisory Committee.  
Motion: Guzmán Second: Cavazos Vote: Yeses – 4 (Bustamante Adams, Cavazos, Guzmán, Zamora); Noes – 3 (Brooks, Garcia Morales, Williams)  
The motion passed.*

Trustee Brooks asked if there is any conflict with the applicant who works for the City of Las Vegas.

### **Approve Audit Advisory Committee Appointment (continued)**

Ms. Malich said there is no disqualifying factor but a conflict could potentially arise.

*Motion to appoint Elizabeth Hammer to the Audit Advisory Committee.*

*Motion: Brooks Second: Guzmán Vote: Unanimous*

*Motion to appoint Joseph Throneberry to the Audit Advisory Committee.*

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

*Motion to appoint Maegan Hilton to the Audit Advisory Committee.*

*Motion: Cavazos Second: Guzmán*

Trustee Brooks said she did not see anything on this application relevant to finance and she believed there were qualifying factors in place.

Trustee Cavazos stated that she found through an internet search that Ms. Hilton does have some experience in business finance and auditing. She said she would prefer not to discuss any specifics regarding the remaining candidate. She said she feels Ms. Hilton would be an excellent addition to the Committee.

Trustee Garcia Morales read the parameters in the Audit Advisory Committee bylaws pertaining to member qualifications. She said these qualifying factors were on the application for applicants to check off.

### **Call for the Question**

Trustee Garcia Morales called for the question.

### **Approve Audit Advisory Committee Appointment (continued)**

*Vote on Trustee Cavazos' motion: Yeses – 4 (Bustamante Adams, Cavazos, Guzmán, Zamora);*

*Noes – 3 (Brooks, Garcia Morales, Williams)*

*The motion passed.*

### **Approve Professional Learning for the Council of the Great City Schools**

Approval regarding the approval of the Council of the Great City Schools Professional Services Agreement Assisting with Member District Governance for a two-year term in the amount of \$60,000. In addition, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to appropriate funding from the general fund to the Board Office budget for the professional learning.

Trustee Garcia Morales gave an overview of what has taken place up to this point, including discussions about training for the Board, their goals, values and priorities as well as discussions with regard to the agreement, including costs and the timeline.

Trustee Guzmán asked if the Board had received bids from other organizations for the training.

### **Approve Professional Learning for the Council of the Great City Schools (continued)**

Trustee Brooks recalled the trainings the Board spent approximately \$80,000.00 for in the past on each of the other consultants they engaged that were significantly less involved.

Trustee Guzmán pointed out that the expenses cap in this agreement is \$150,000.00 per year. She asked Mr. Mackey if he expected that they would reach \$150,000.00 in expenses.

Mr. Mackey explained that the agreement states that if the Board completes the training and implements what they have determined, the expenses would cap at \$60,000.00 for two years. He said if the Board decides at some point they will not continue to move forward and terminates the contract, they would be charged only for the time used. He said the \$150,000.00 cap is referring to the daily rate of time used.

Trustee Guzmán asked if the terms of the agreement meant that the District would have to hold \$150,000.00 in the case that the Board does not meet the timeline.

Ms. Malich said that would be a question for the District's finance staff but said yes, the District would need to hold that maximum amount or be able to move funds into the Board budget if necessary.

Trustee Zamora asked Trustee Brooks and Trustee Cavazos if they could share some insight from the previous trainings the Board engaged in.

Trustee Brooks commented on why she feels what they are talking about here is more than a training and how it differs from what the Board has done in the past. She said this training is more structured, methodical, and focused and includes community engagement.

Trustee Cavazos agreed that this is a completely different structure than with past trainings and that the Trustees all want to achieve specific goals but said sometimes the methodology does not accommodate all learning styles.

### **Public Hearing**

Anna Binder asked what impact this agreement could have on appointed Board members.

*Motion to approve Item 2.03, acknowledging Trustees' concerns regarding costs, capping the expenses at \$150,000.00, and declaring her commitment to ensure that the Board stays on track and does not exceed the cost of the term plus travel expenses.*

*Motion: Garcia Morales Second: Brooks Vote: Yeses – 5 (Brooks, Bustamante Adams, Garcia Morales, Guzmán, Williams); Noes – 2 (Cavazos, Zamora)*

*The motion passed.*

### **Board Member Leaves**

Trustee Bustamante Adams left the Board meeting at 5:00 p.m.

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

Michelle Tuscany shared information related to data showing the positive impact of allowing students to choose their preferred name or nickname to be addressed by in the classroom. She spoke about the mistreatment of transgender youth and its negative effects and asked why they are not being supported.

Barbara Castro asked if the new schools being built would be energy efficient through the use of solar energy. She said she feels solar could bring significant savings to the schools and said that savings could go back into the classroom and provide funding for teachers.

Anna Binder read a statement from a press release issued by the Not in Our State MFL Coalition in response to the newly formed Clark County chapter of Moms for Liberty. It was noted in the statement that Moms for Liberty has been designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, and it stressed that this is a serious issue that must be addressed.

Margie Minnalez said she is addressing the Board again because her daughter is suffering from depression because she is not being allowed to drop an elective class that is not a requirement for graduation. She asked that her daughter be allowed to drop this class and said it would not have an adverse effect on anyone but would only have a positive impact on her daughter.

Sean Minnalez said his daughter does not feel that anyone wants to listen to her side and cannot believe that her life is being so negatively impacted by this situation and that no one is willing to help. He said they are frustrated because the principal refuses to show them evidence for the position she is taking and Dr. Rayford refused to explain what is in the course catalog justifying her decision.

Matthew Tramp asked if appointed school board members would be allowed to appoint members to Board committees. He wondered how having the appointed members on the Board might affect how the committee conducts its work.

### **Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, September 14, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**

Trustee Garcia Morales stated the next Board meeting would be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**Adjourn:** 5:17 p.m.

*Motion: Guzmán    Second: Brooks    Vote: Unanimous  
Trustee Bustamante Adams was not present for the vote.*