

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, October 1, 2014

8:02 a.m.

Roll Call:	<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Member Absent</u>
	Erin E. Cranor, President	Stavan Corbett, Member
	Linda E. Young, Vice President	
	Patrice Tew, Clerk	
	Carolyn Edwards, Member	
	Chris Garvey, Member	
	Deanna L. Wright, Member	

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Kim Wooden, Deputy Superintendent, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Jim McIntosh, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division; Jhone Ebert, Chief Innovation and Productivity Officer, Innovative Teaching and Learning Unit, Technology and Information Systems Services Division; Leslie Arnold, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement; Danielle Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Design and Professional Learning Division; Tammy Malich, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services Division; Dan Wray, Executive Director, Technology and Information Systems Services Division; Jamey Hood, Principal, Garrett Junior High School; Ruby Alston, Director II, Facilities and Bond Fund Financial Management, Business and Finance Division; 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; Lisa Biesinger, Director, Student Record Services; Gwen LaFond, Director, Guidance and Counseling Services; Justin White, Coordinator IV, Data Services, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement; Becca Meyer, Coordinator, 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 Cranor stated that Trustee Corbett was out of town and would not be in attendance.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Tew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda, except move Item 4.05 to follow Item 2.01 as 2.01a, note additional reference material provided for Items 4.02, 4.03, 4.04, and 4.05, and note revised reference material for Item 4.01.

*Motion: Young Second: Edwards Vote: Unanimous
Trustees Garvey and Wright were not present for the vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Garvey arrived at the Board meeting at 8:07 a.m.

CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION

Presentation on the instruction of cursive handwriting and the requirements of the Nevada Academic Content Standards.

Ms. Ebert, Dr. Miller, and Ms. Gardner gave a presentation to the Board related to the District's position on cursive handwriting instruction. Their presentation included the following topics: Teaching Cursive Across the Nation; Handwriting Standards – Five Largest School Districts; Teaching Cursive in CCSD; Teaching Cursive in Nevada; Importance of Teaching Cursive Handwriting in the 21st Century; and Survey of CCSD Elementary Principals.

Trustee Garvey asked why only 68 percent of principals responded to the survey.

Dr. Miller said the principals were asked to participate, but not all of them chose to respond.

Trustee Garvey asked if there was any more substantial scientific data or studies to corroborate the information on page 6 of 14.

Dr. Miller said that is the only current data available, and there has not been a formalized study conducted on this topic.

Trustee Tew asked if parents were asked for their input.

Dr. Miller said they were not at this time.

Trustee Tew asked if the number of principals wanting this skill taught is persuasive to the District.

CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky said what is most challenging is finding time in the instructional day. He said although handwriting is important, it is not the most important skill, and we need to determine where its place is in the ranking of skills.

Trustee Young said parents have expressed their concerns to her about students not being able to read or write in cursive. She said there is a historical element here that she believes makes it important for students to possess this skill. She said she also believes it contributes to fine motor skills.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Wright arrived at the Board meeting at 8:22 a.m.

CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION (continued)

Trustee Young said she is a proponent of teaching writing skills, cursive and manuscript. She said she would like to know what communities internationally are doing in this area.

APPROVE 1998 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – REVISION 18

Approval of the 1998 Capital Improvement Program – Revision 18, as recommended in Reference 4.01.

Trustee Cranor said the intent today is to gather information and to have an agenda item on this topic on October 9 to make a decision.

Mr. McIntosh and Ms. Alston presented the Capital Improvement Program – Revision 18 and a 2-Year Contingent Capital Plan Options 1 and 2 to the Board, including Option 2 with Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) Recommended Changes.

Referring to page 8 of 16, Trustee Edwards said she believed the BOC recommended replacing the temporary gym and portable elementary school classrooms.

Mr. McIntosh said Trustee Edwards was correct, that there is an additional \$1 million for Sandy Valley that would pay for replacing the portable with a permanent building. He said that is shown as a line item under the 2-Year Contingent Plan, and BOC's suggestion was to move it from there to Option 2. He said he would revise the options to include that before it comes forward to the Board for approval on October 9.

Trustee Wright commented that Boulder City did not get their complete replacement as promised after phase 1 was completed because they chose to have their campus replaced in phases.

Trustee Young said the community she represents is grateful that West Prep is being considered for improvements, but she remains concerned about the situation at Rex Bell Elementary School, and she does not want that school left behind.

APPROVE 1998 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – REVISION 18 (continued)

Trustee Edwards said Elaine Wynn Elementary School has a problematic parking and drop off/pick up situation, and adding more schools to be able to house more students would increase those problems.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff would look into that situation. He said staff has also had discussions with the City of Las Vegas regarding the use of redevelopment funds. He said as this moves forward, the Board would be seeing more information on how those funds would be utilized.

Trustee Edwards asked why none of the options included building a new school and creating new seats.

Mr. McIntosh said there is a lack of funds and if Revision 18 funds were used to build a new school, there would only be one. He said in discussions about where to build a school, they did not feel it would be a prudent solution, so infrastructure and safety issues became the focus.

Trustee Edwards suggested that at some point there needs to be a conversation regarding another bond question and solutions for the growth in areas where schools are year-round and are over capacity.

Trustee Wright requested more information on West Prep's programs on October 9 so the Board could have an open discussion and make a well informed decision. She also requested that information about the condition of the schools that was provided to BOC be provided to the Board as backup material.

Trustee Cranor requested that staff present the information further separating and defining infrastructure and safety issues and items to help clarify the priorities.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the direction to staff has been to consider the strategic imperatives and the goals, as well as achievement gains as these options are considered.

Public Hearing

Dawn Haviland asked that the students at Sandy Valley be afforded the same opportunities as all other students in CCSD.

Roy Shelton said he has seen student achievement improve with extracurricular activities, and the new gymnasium would further that achievement.

ADOPT AGENDA (continued)

Motion to move Item 4.04 to immediately follow Item 4.01.

Motion: Edwards Second: Wright Vote: Unanimous

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.

The presenters of this item were Ms. Ebert, Ms. Boyle, Ms. Biesinger, Ms. LaFond, Ms. Meyer, Dr. Malich, Ms. Hood, Ms. Arnold, and Mr. White. Their presentation included an update on the progress of the Student Information System, the data visualization project, and implementation of Smarter Balanced Assessments.

BOARD PRESIDENT RELINQUISHES CHAIR

Trustee Cranor relinquished the chair at 9:46 a.m.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING UNIT PRESENTATION (continued)

Ms. Meyer continued the presentation.

Trustee Garvey suggested that perhaps the Superintendent could look at offering a refresher course in the future for Infinite Campus users.

Ms. Boyle said in addition to the supports that are in place, staff has been holding weekly sessions to answer teachers' questions.

Trustee Wright suggesting providing screen shots of the secondary grade book in the backup material and information about how to be able to contact a teacher directly in this system as opposed to ParentLink for the secondary level.

BOARD PRESIDENT RESUMES CHAIR

Trustee Cranor resumed the chair at 9:59 a.m.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING UNIT PRESENTATION (continued)

Dr. Malich continued the presentation.

FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMS: TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

Presentation and discussion regarding technology needs for future building programs.

Ms. Ebert and Mr. Wray presented an update on the District's technology needs. Their presentation included the following topics: Infrastructure, Human Capital Management, Recommended Equipment Life Cycle, and The Future.

Trustee Cranor asked Superintendent Skorkowsky to comment on the community partnerships the District is working on in this area.

FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMS: TECHNOLOGY NEEDS (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the District is partnering with the data storage facility Switch at the state and local level.

BOARD MEMBER LEAVES

Trustee Garvey left the Board meeting at 11:19 a.m.

FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMS: REVENUE UPDATE

Presentation and discussion of revenue updates regarding future building programs.

Mr. McIntosh presented the Capital Fund Revenue Update. His presentation included a brief update on Property Tax, Room Tax, Real Property Transfer Tax, and Capacity for a Future Program.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Edwards requested an agenda item to discuss resolutions for areas where there are year-round schools that are becoming overcrowded.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Sean Whitten commented on the requirements for teaching staff aides that work in special education classrooms that he feels are inferior to the needs of students, and he brought in reports of an aide using aversive interventions. He suggested that the training should be more in-depth and the aides should have prior experience before they are placed in the classroom. He asked about CCSD procedures for when an employee witnesses another employee abusing a student.

Wendy Osborne spoke about the sex education curriculum being discussed. She said she appreciated the explanation given by the District that the District has no intention of teaching sex education to kindergarteners. She commented that parents feel that they are being left out of the discussion and the process. She said sex education is an important issue, but the SEICUS platform is divisive and extreme.

ADJOURN: 11:41 a.m.

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