

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 5, 2016

8:03 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Linda E. Young, President
Chris Garvey, Vice President
Patrice Tew, Clerk
Kevin L. Child, Member
Erin Cranor, Member
Carolyn Edwards, Member
Deanna L. Wright, Member

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Mike Barton, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Instruction Unit; Blake Cumbers, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Division; Tammy Malich, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services Division; Kristine Minnich, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Nathan Trenholm, Director I, Accountability and Research, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Jeff Wagner, Director IV, Construction Management, Business and Finance Unit; Kellie Ballard, Director, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Kenneth Retzl, Coordinator III, Research, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Nicole Lehman-Donadio, Principal, Bob Miller Middle School; Stephanie Wong, Principal, Red Rock Elementary School; Norma Herrera, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; and Jeanetta Hawthorne, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda, except note additional reference material provided for Item 4.03 and move Item 4.02 to follow Item 3.01 as 3.01a.

Motion: Garvey Second: Child Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Charles Staton said he discovered that a football coach at Canyon Springs High School had a criminal background, and he addressed the issue and ultimately withdrew his son from Canyon Springs HS but then found out that his son signed a two-year contract without his or his wife's knowledge.

APPROVE ASSEMBLY BILL 394

Approval by the Board of School Trustees on issues related to the plan to reorganize the Clark County School District.

Superintendent Skorkowsky gave an update on the actions that have taken place toward the implementation of the requirements for AB 394.

Ms. Ballard reviewed the CCSD AB 394 website.

Trustee Edwards questioned whether or not the Board should request that the Nevada Department of Education place the regulation on their meeting agenda so the Board could address some of their concerns prior to full implementation. She said one concern is with the required monthly meetings. She said perhaps staff could begin to ask for the things the Board has already indicated as areas of concern in previous meetings.

Superintendent Skorkowsky asked if the Trustees would prefer that the concerns be addressed by a Board member or staff. He offered to make the request for an agenda item at the scheduled meeting with the state superintendent on Friday.

Trustee Young suggested having a discussion and including all Trustees' concerns in a sort of summary as opposed to addressing one Trustee's concerns at a time.

Trustee Edwards said she has spoken with the principals of her schools, and each one has expressed that they want a vote on the team. She said some principals are concerned with the requirement that 50 percent of teachers be union members. She said she has concerns with outside entities being involved in the hiring process of CCSD associate superintendents. She said the required quarterly meetings needs to be addressed because of the number of reports that would have to be given quarterly.

Trustee Cranor said the parents at her parent meeting expressed some interest in understanding the parent role and what it means if you do not have a parent organization. She asked if there would be a specific parent training video or a recommendation of which training videos for should watch. She said her next parent and community meeting would be about the parent role and school organizational teams. She asked where the best place would be for a parent to look for information in those areas.

APPROVE ASSEMBLY BILL 394 (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff is working on a one-page overview for parents to refer to, and they are working on what parent training would need to be. He said they are also working with Nevada PTA so that it aligns to some of their parent training pieces and figuring out the best method for training.

Trustee Garvey said what she understood at her parent meeting is there were very few people who understood AB 394, and she said the community linkage piece is very important and needs to be substantial part of the conversation. She asked if the District was communicating to staff about the website and if there was a way to track how many people are actually using the website.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he believes that data can be tracked. He said everyone is being informed that the website is available.

Trustee Garvey said another area of discussion in the future might be that it is possible that there may be some changes in leadership within the schools. She expressed concern about the burden on employees to get work done without the proper tools; namely, an adequate human resources system.

Superintendent Skorkowsky agreed that staff is having to spend extra time and effort on this initiative.

Trustee Garvey said she believes the Pledge of Achievement should be a primary focus and not neglected.

Trustee Wright said many of the principals of her school have expressed concern to her regarding changes in roles and responsibilities and how different programs or services would be funded. She agreed that they Board needs to address those issues raised by Trustee Edwards. She said she believes it is important the Board and Superintendent are communicating directly with stakeholders and letting them know about the website and training videos.

Trustee Young said principals are very concerned that they will not have a vote, and they are very concerned about what their responsibilities may be and what they may be accountable for. She said the principals in her area have also expressed concern that there may be some difficulty in getting a parent on the team that would be able to be there to help make decisions on a consistent basis. She suggested that Trustees take their position statement and provide it to people. She said another concern is that many people were unaware of the changes and in her area some are considering this a hostile takeover.

APPROVE ASSEMBLY BILL 394 (continued)

Trustee Tew said parents in her district are very concerned as well, and she asked that there be a message for parents on ParentLink directing them to the website for information. She said many parents are interested and would like to make themselves available to other schools as part of the parent groups. She said some of the concerns expressed by principals in her schools include the requirement of union membership, the majority of principals wanting a vote, and accessibility of the mandatory monthly meetings for all parents.

Trustee Child expressed concern about taking money and time away from the classroom and putting added pressure on staff. He wondered how the Board would work with the Area Superintendents. He suggested requesting the funding for the human resources system during the upcoming special legislative session.

Trustee Edwards said the majority of her principals have said that this is work they were already doing in some capacity, and they are not too concerned. She said she does have some principals who say it would be a challenge to have parents that come in consistently, but she said there is a clause in the bill which addresses that issue. She said she believes this could be guided toward something positive for students, and she said their focus needs to be on student achievement. She commended the Superintendent for the job he is doing.

SCHOOL REVIEW PROCESS

Presentation and discussion on the school review process for the Turnaround Zone and the Achievement School District.

Dr. Barton and Dr. Geihs presented an overview of the school review process for 2016-2017 as shown in Reference 4.02.

Trustee Cranor requested that it be noted during the presentation any known safeguards in place against a charter company identifying a school they want and requesting that the Nevada Department of Education find some underperformance reason based on old data of a subgroup, for example, to give it to them.

Dr. Geihs said the District's strategy would be part of the presentation, and he believes that would answer Trustee Cranor's question.

Trustees expressed concerns with potential issues that could arise due to the regulatory language for charter organizations' requirements and processes.

Trustee Cranor asked how the District is fact-checking statements or information given about the Achievement School District (ASD) regulation clearly for families.

Dr. Barton said the District does fact-check the information and will continue to do so.

SCHOOL REVIEW PROCESS (continued)

Trustee Cranor expressed concern with the possibility of not being able to identify and find students who have dropped out to reach out to them and encourage them to return.

Superintendent said as each school is identified the District would take a snapshot of the current attendance roster. He said the school staff may have to be asked to garner information from the student about whether they were returning to CCSD and whether they had been enrolled in another school.

Trustee Young asked how she can help her community if any of the schools in her district are identified to become part of ASD and what steps they could take to fight the decision.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said there is no appeal process at this time, but he encouraged anyone who is interested in doing so to attend the Nevada Department of Education meetings in November and December to voice their concerns and engage in the process. He said in terms of legal action, there would have to be harm that is proved.

Trustee Young asked the Superintendent to provide that in writing so the Trustees could give the information to the parents and community members.

Trustee Wright said it was bothersome to her that ASD was using old data as part of the criteria for identifying the underachieving schools.

Dr. Geihs responded that multiple sets of data could be looked at, and it could go back as far as five to seven years. He said staff is building cases through the review processes that show schools are progressing.

Trustee Wright asked who is responsible for maintaining the school facility once it is a charter school with a new principal and employees.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the operation of the school is turned over to the charter organization, and CCSD is to continue to support the infrastructure.

Trustee Garvey asked about the incorrect Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) data and whether the State Board used that information to make its determination and whether the file was rectified so the correct information is now available.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the District is working toward cleaning up and making corrections and have provided calculations of the school results to the state, and those calculations would also go into the Nevada Report Card.

Trustee Tew asked what funding is promised to charter schools.

SCHOOL REVIEW PROCESS (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky said there is per pupil funding. He stated that over \$10 million was given to the harbor master for recruiting but said he does not believe that money can be used to supplement the per pupil amount.

Trustee Young asked what the role and responsibility of the Trustees is in relation to AB 448.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said once it is done, the Trustees have no role, it goes to a charter governing board.

Trustee Young asked if there was any research or evidence from other states proving that this model is successful or unsuccessful.

Dr. Geihs stated that the Tennessee ASD did have some concerning audit findings which the District provided to the state. He said there was a Vanderbilt study performed on the Tennessee ASD which found that their district's I Zone in Shelby County outperforms the Tennessee ASD. He stated that there is currently a bipartisan effort to abolish the Tennessee ASD.

Dr. Geihs said there have been similar audit findings of the Louisiana ASD. He said one study done in Louisiana that was concluded in 2010 is concerning because it showed that the students in the Recovery School District (RSD) were twice as likely to be suspended than their traditional public school counterparts and four times more likely to be suspended than their national public school counterparts. He said there has now been bipartisan legislation in Louisiana to abolish the RSD, and that will take place in 2018.

Trustee Young suggested that the Board should develop a statement of their concerns regarding AB 448.

Trustee Child asked if it would be a good idea to bring the Turnaround Zone into central office.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the Turnaround schools are their own precinct, but the Turnaround Zone could be brought into central office and provided as a central service.

APPROVE COMMUNITY LINKAGE MEETINGS

Approval on how the Board of School Trustees would structure and schedule Community Linkage Meetings as a full Board and as individual Trustees, as recommended.

Trustee Garvey said as the Board transitions to their new meeting structure with presentations and recognitions being shared in other formats, she would suggest that the Board consider holding several community linkage meetings related to the changes happening in the District. She asked the other Trustees for their thoughts on that and working with the Superintendent's Office for support.

APPROVE COMMUNITY LINKAGE MEETINGS (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky asked the Board to also consider the frequency of the meetings, the locations of the meetings, what time of day they would occur, whether all Trustees are to attend, and what topics should be included.

Trustee Edwards suggesting having the community linkage meetings at Valley and Bonanza High Schools as they have in the past and discussing AB 394 and providing information and answering the publics' questions.

Trustee Wright suggested including topics such as property taxes and how money collected for education is not always used for education. She suggested holding meetings in the four quadrants of the valley, with two to three Trustees at each meeting.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff has discussed having a presentation given by Jeremy Agüero, principal analyst with Applied Analysis, and he suggested holding that meeting in January.

Trustee Garvey agreed with Trustee Wright's suggestion of the location of meetings and with Superintendent Skorkowsky's suggestion of a January meeting for the fiscal piece.

Trustee Young suggested providing the information at the Trustees' parent and community meetings, as well getting the information out to all of the churches and school parent groups.

Trustee Tew agreed with the suggestions of the different locations and the different venues such as a community center. She asked if the audio recording could be posted on the website in a place that is more easily seen for those who cannot attend. She suggested a topic that touches on what the District has done in terms of climate and culture in the schools.

Trustee Edwards said she did not feel the need to host an individual Trustee meeting. She said she feels that the community linkage meetings are valuable, but perhaps the format could be changed so the Board and community could have an open dialogue. She suggested considering targeting specific groups as has been done in the past.

Trustee Young suggested that the Board officers discuss this at their Officers' Meeting and come back with a recommendation for the full Board.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 11, 2016, as recommended in Reference 3.03.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Edwards Second: Cranor Vote: Unanimous

BOARD MEMBER LEAVES

Trustee Cranor left the Board meeting at 11:06 a.m.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE GOALS OF THE PLEDGE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Presentation and discussion regarding data and progress toward Goal 4, related to increasing the percentage of parents feeling welcome at school and informed of their child's progress, and Goal 5, related to increasing the percentage of students who feel safe and happy at school.

Ms. Minnich, Mr. Trenholm, Mr. Retzl, Dr. Barton, and Dr. Malich presented information regarding data and progress toward Goal 4, related to increasing the percentage of parents feeling welcome at school and informed of their child's progress, and Goal 5, related to increasing the percentage of students who feel safe and happy at school as shown in Reference 4.01.

Ms. Lehman-Donadio and Ms. Wong shared what is taking place at Bob Miller Middle School and Red Rock Elementary School toward those goals.

Trustee Garvey asked for some feedback once staff reviews the data on whether there were any problems with any parents being able to access the survey and give their opinion.

SCHOOL CALENDARS

Discussion regarding the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 school calendars and potential conflicts with the Advanced Placement (AP) testing dates and the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) calendar.

Superintendent Skorkowsky presented proposed changes to the school calendars to address potential conflicts with the Advanced Placement (AP) testing dates and the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) calendar. He said this needs to be completed by the November 10 Board meeting.

Trustee Edwards noted that the date listed for final exams for the 2019-2020 school year is incorrect but would be corrected. She said she would not be inclined to extend winter break but would consider one of the other two options presented.

Trustee Tew said she would like to have parents weigh in. She asked for a statement she could present to parents that would direct them to the website for information.

Trustee Young said she would be in favor of any of the options but might prefer extending the Presidents' Day holiday.

Mr. Long said staff would be coming back with some recommendations impacting school administrators and when they report to school.

Trustee Wright said she would be in favor of any of the options but recommended that the calendars for each school year be consistent.

SCHOOL CALENDARS (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky said this would be brought back at the October 27, 2016, Board meeting.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS

Presentation and discussion regarding construction change orders that occur during the Clark County School District’s Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Cumbers and Mr. Wagner provided a presentation on change orders.

There was some discussion on how change orders might be minimized.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Garvey said an agenda item on SBAC scores would be coming forward in November, and she was hoping to be able to include a simplified explanation of how those scores are analyzed, how Nevada compares to other states, and other data points and how the SBAC data relates to that. She requested information with relation to what policies may need to be in place to secure the purchase card process and procedures for use in the schools as AB 394 moves forward. She asked that a joint meeting with the Board and the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) be scheduled. She asked for any information related to any requests that may come forward from the milk vendor, as well as any concerns with the product. She also asked that if there was a desire of the Board issue an Request for Proposal (RFP) at the end of that contract, there be enough time given to do so.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ADJOURN: 12:27 p.m.

Motion: Edwards Second: Tew Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Cranor was not present for the vote.

We, the President and Clerk respectively of the Board of School Trustees of the Clark County School District, hereby certify that a quorum was present on this date and that those in quorum accepted the above minutes.

Patrice Tew, Clerk

APPROVED: December 7, 2016

Linda E. Young, President