

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

Friday, October 6, 2017

9:36 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Deanna L. Wright, President
Linda E. Young, Vice President
Carolyn Edwards, Clerk
Lola Brooks, Member
Linda P. Cavazos, Member
Kevin L. Child, Member
Chris Garvey, 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; Kim Wooden, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Deputy Superintendent; Tammy Malich, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services Division; Elizabeth Carrero, Executive Manager/Director II, Office of the Superintendent; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Norma Herrera, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office.

TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Garvey was connected at 9:36 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked that everyone observe 30 seconds of silence as a show of solidarity following the tragedy that took place on October 1.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda, except note additional reference material provided for Item 3.02.

Motion: Edwards Second: Brooks Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVE ITEM FOR RECONSIDERATION

Approval on a motion to reconsider the following agenda item from the September 14, 2017, Clark County School District Regular Board Meeting, Item 5.07, BUDGET PLAN RECOMMENDATION. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on approval of a plan to address the forecasted budget shortfall for fiscal year 2018; and to authorize the Superintendent to initiate a reduction in force, as necessary, per NRS 288.150(3)(b), as recommended.

Public Hearing

Autumn Tampa said many support staff employees have reached out to her and have expressed their willingness to give up two working days or more to save the jobs of fellow employees. She expressed her hope that the Board vote to reconsider this item and then to only cut open, unfilled positions.

Alberta Montera spoke on behalf of Burk High School students. She said they implore the Board to keep the school open until the end of the school year in May 2018. She said the students are emotionally affected by the possibility of losing their school, and they are not motivated to continue their education at another high school.

Devolia Wilson said her daughter is a student at Burk High School. She asked that the Board reconsider the closing of Burk High School or consider keeping it open at least until the end of the school year. She said her daughter is 18 years old and had been struggling as a student since moving to Las Vegas three years ago until she found Burk where she is happy and excelling.

Anthony Ramirez, a student at Burk High School, talked about how Burk has helped him get on track and progress toward graduation. He said if Burk closed it would be very difficult for him and other students like him to return to a comprehensive high school setting and succeed there.

Takayoshi Muramatsu, a teacher at Burk High School, said most of the students there are credit deficient, and Burk High School is their second or third chance to finish high school. He said he displays "future Burk High School diplomas" signed by the students in his classroom as a visual reminder of their goals.

Terri Shuman asked the Board to reconsider line item 28, Reference 3.02-D, Reduction of Classified Testing Assistant. She said the schools, not the offices, that the testers work at are their homes, and she said the testers perform more duties than testing.

Alexander Cuevas said he does not believe he would have graduated from high school if it had not been for the staff at Burk High School. He talked about the reasons why students are able to be successful at Burk High School, including small class sizes and how the teachers take the time to help all of the students whether or not they are in their class.

APPROVE ITEM FOR RECONSIDERATION (continued)

Andrew Calhoun asked that the Board reconsider the budget cuts before them. He read an email he sent to the Trustees expressing his concern regarding the employee groups' reactions to the requested furlough days and with the current state and climate of the District.

Samantha Perez shared her positive experience as a former student and graduate of Burk High School. She said her sister graduated from Burk, and her brother currently attends Burk. She asked that the Board reconsider their decision to close Burk.

Steve Brown said he cannot believe the Board is considering laying off low-paid employees in understaffed departments and instead protect the jobs of administrators. He said the District is spending \$17 million per year on consultants, some of whom are retired District administrators.

Brianna Nava talked about the support and help and sense of belonging she found at Burk High School.

David Gomez said people are fighting for their education. He said each child matters; and each diploma that they earn matters. He said Burk High School is home for many students and the last chance for many students.

Nickou Missaghi said he came to Burk High School from Palo Verde High School with half the required credits. He said he graduated on time, although he was not expected to. He said he felt like the teachers at Palo Verde High School did not care and did not try, but the teachers at Burk show students that they care. He said without the staff at Burk, he would not have earned his diploma.

Richard Beltran shared the difficulties he had as a freshman attending Western High School and at home. He said his mother and his counselor recommended that he attend Burk High School, and he said after attending Burk for a while, he could see the difference in the type of school it was and in how much the teachers cared about the students. He said because of Burk he graduated on time. He asked the Board to consider keeping Burk open indefinitely.

Serena Koerner expressed appreciation for the support staff seniority list being posted but said there are some issues with the list. She said there are positions not listed on the job opportunities list. She suggested that extracurricular activities, such as sports, can be cut instead of cutting jobs.

Nathan Arce, a fulltime student at Burk High School, said he was devastated to hear that Burk could be closing. He said before Burk, he struggled with drugs and suicide. He talked about the support he receives at Burk and said he would be the first to graduate in his family. He shared also that as a transgender student, other high schools did not give him the safety and security that he needed and that he found at Burk.

APPROVE ITEM FOR RECONSIDERATION (continued)

There was discussion regarding concerns over what other cuts would be made if Burk remained open, the cost of funding this school compared to other schools, and whether the individualized plans for the students leaving Burk sufficiently address their needs.

Trustee Garvey questioned whether or not Trustee Brooks should be voting on this item given that she is employed by an alternative high school whose representatives visited the Burk campus and spoke to students about attending their school.

Trustee Brooks disclosed that she is employed by an alternative high school, and the principal was invited to Burk to provide literature about their school. She said in her position at the school, she does not directly interact with students, nor is she involved in marketing or enrolling students.

Ms. Miller said given that disclosure and Trustee Brooks' particular job duties at the school, it would be appropriate for Trustee Brooks to vote on this item.

Motion to reconsider the following agenda item from the September 14, 2017, Clark County School District Regular Board Meeting: Item 5.07, BUDGET PLAN RECOMMENDATION.

Motion: Young Second: Child

Trustee Edwards said she cannot support reconsideration of the entire agenda Item 5.07. She said this motion needs to be specific to the Burk High School item.

Trustee Wright explained they cannot separate the items because it was originally approved as a whole.

Ms. Miller stated that the Board could narrow the scope of any reconsideration in agenda Item 3.02. She said the Board could also decide to waive their rule of procedure of reconsideration of this item as originally posted.

Trustee Young said she would prefer to keep the item as was originally posted on September 14, 2107.

Trustee Brooks said she would not be in support of reconsideration of the item in its entirety either.

Trustee Young said reconsideration of the item as originally posted would be a cleaner process than separating the various categories in the item.

After further clarification from Ms. Miller, Trustee Young agreed to amend her motion for reconsideration to include only the closure of Burk High School.

Trustee Child agreed to that amendment.

APPROVE ITEM FOR RECONSIDERATION (continued)

Trustee Edwards asked that the items to be reconsidered be identified.

Superintendent Skorkowsky identified Reference 3.02-D, line 1, as the item to be reconsidered.

Vote on Trustee Young's motion was unanimous.

RECESS: 12:13 p.m.

RECONVENE: 12:28 p.m.

APPROVE BUDGET PLAN RECOMMENDATION

Approval of a plan to address the forecasted budget shortfall for fiscal year 2018; and to authorize the Superintendent to initiate a reduction in force, as necessary, per NRS 288.150(3)(b), as recommended in Reference 3.02.

Motion to reverse the decision to close Burk High School and to allow the school to remain open.

Motion: Young Second: Child

Trustee Edwards said she cannot support the motion unless it specifies that the school would be closing at the end of the school year.

Trustee Young amended her motion to reverse the decision to close Burk High School, Reference 3.02-D, line 1, and allow the school to remain open until the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

Trustee Child agreed to that amendment.

Superintendent Skorkowsky asked that the maker of the motion specify that the school would remain open until August 2018.

Trustee Young agreed to that friendly amendment suggested by Superintendent Skorkowsky.

Trustee Child agreed to that friendly amendment.

Public Hearing

Autumn Tampa expressed disappointment that the Board did not reconsider the entire item so they could then reconsider some of the cuts that affected support staff. She said she is also disappointed in the administrators' union and the teachers' union.

Stephen Augspurger said he responded to the District's request for furlough days, outlining the Clark County Association of School Administrators and Professional-technical Employees' (CCASAPE's) concerns for the District's handling and development of the budget and stating his concerns about furlough days not being an appropriate mechanism. He said he extended an invitation for Trustees and Superintendent Skorkowsky and Jason Goudie, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Department, Operational Services Unit, to attend the union's recent negotiations session to discuss the District's Budget.

APPROVE BUDGET PLAN RECOMMENDATION (continued)

Mr. Augspurger said Mr. Goudie did attend, but the Trustees and the Superintendent did not. He said he was hoping that that discussion would lead toward a resolution to the budget issue. He offered, for the Board's consideration, the options of one, increasing the ending fund balance incrementally instead of going from .25 percent to 1.75 percent; and two, looking at other programs away from schools to cut instead of cutting programs from another school to make up for keeping Burk open.

Steve Brown questioned why the Board did not discuss cutting funds from the \$17 million consultant budget or why the Board is not discussing administrators' salaries.

Kathryn Lockhart said the Maintenance Department is being deemed ineffective, and she spoke in defense of the Department. She said the Transportation Department is requesting 360 underutilized Maintenance Department vehicles to sell. She stated that the Maintenance Department's 380 employees service over 350 District sites with the use of only 500 vehicles.

Guillermo Vazquez said the Education Support Employees Association (ESEA) asked that some questions be answered before they accepted any ideas like furlough days, but the information they requested has not been provided. He said ESEA also submitted proposals for addressing the budget shortfall for the Board's consideration.

Serena Koerner said she would be "looking into some things" regarding the decisions the Board makes, and she would return.

Terri Shuman expressed disappointment that the Board did not vote to reconsider the entire item and stop the surplus process and save support staff jobs.

Andrew Calhoun said he suggested that all employees take two furlough days as a one-time solution as a way for employees to help themselves. He said the furlough days would address the budget shortfall and would give CCSD a chance to figure out what happened and develop better practices moving forward.

Trustee Wright stated that the intent of this item was always to address Burk, and she apologized to those who thought otherwise.

Trustee Young empathized with employees.

Vote on Trustee Young's motion was unanimous.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Steve Brown asked why the Board does not discuss higher paid administrators but are laying off lower paid employees.

BOARD MEMBER LEAVES

Trustee Child left the dais at 1:00 p.m.

TELECONFERENCE CALL DISCONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Garvey was disconnected at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (continued)

Nathan Arce thanked the Board for their vote to keep Burk open.

ADJOURN: 1:05 p.m.

*Motion: Edwards Second: Brooks Vote: Unanimous
Trustee Child and Trustee Garvey were not present for the vote.*