

MINUTES  
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
LAS VEGAS PAIUTE TRIBE RESERVATION, MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING  
1316 SACKETT STREET, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106

Monday, November 28, 2016

6:00 p.m.

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

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Billie Rayford, Interim Chief Educational Opportunity Officer, Educational Opportunities Unit; Joe Caruso, Deputy Chief of Staff/Liaison to the Board, Office of the Superintendent; Dave Sheehan, Public Information Specialist, Communications Office; and Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant to the Board, Board Office.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Young welcomed everyone to the meeting, and she introduced the Trustees and the Superintendent.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Trustee Child led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda.*

*Motion: Garvey Second: Child Vote: Unanimous*

*Trustee Cranor was not present for the vote.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mercedes Krause, teacher at Lake Elementary School, expressed concern about "race-based" mascots in some of our schools. She said she was pleased with a few of the books that she has in regards to diversity and inclusion, but she said she is concerned that there is not enough appropriate material for Native and non-Native students. She expressed concern about the talking stick she was provided with.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (continued)**

Petra Wilson, chair of CCSD Indian Education Committee, shared that she attended the Native American meeting in Reno. She stated that she was thankful for the support and dedication of CCSD staff but still had budget concerns. She said she is concerned that the Grants Department no longer attends the CCSD Indian Education Committee meetings. She suggested that there needs to be a quarterly budget meeting. She said the District needs to look at the NEA – Elementary and Secondary Education Act for all students but especially for the Native American students.

LaWanda, parent, said that her daughter attends Indian Springs School. She asked about how the reorganization of the District would affect Snow Mountain and the Las Vegas Paiute reservation.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Board presented a certificate of appreciation to the family of Rex Wilson for his years of support of the improvement of education for the Native American/Alaska Native students in the State of Nevada.

### **COMMUNITY LINKAGE**

Discussion with members of the American Indian/Alaska Native community for the purpose of obtaining input on the education of American Indian/Alaska Native students who attend the Clark County School District.

Trustee Young reviewed minutes from the last three meetings held with the Paiute Community. She said a flowchart would be developed from the minutes to begin tracking activity and progress.

Ms. Rayford introduced Della Frank, Indian Education Opportunities Program (IEOP) Project Facilitator, and Diana Crocci, IEOP Student Success Advocate (SSA), and she acknowledged the work of the parent committee. She also introduced Petra Wilson, Candice Greeman, and Mercedes Krause, and she thanked the Tribal Education Committee for their support.

Ms. Rayford talked about the activities the parent committee has been involved in and how they come back and share information with staff. She talked about the poetry slam professional development activity they participated in with the students. She shared that a Green Valley High School senior was awarded the opportunity to attend the National Native American Youth Initiative with a focus on STEM research at George Washington University; and that a Moapa High School Student attended the White House Tribal Leadership Initiative and is now a Native Youth Ambassador.

Ms. Frank spoke about her duties at the Moapa Education Support Center (MESC). She gave a brief presentation on services and activities offered through the IEOP, student data, and an update on MESC.

**COMMUNITY LINKAGE (continued)**

Ms. Rayford mentioned significant partnerships with Vegas PBS and the Public Education Foundation. She said they are looking to begin a summer internship program for Native youth with Vegas PBS, and the parent committee has been working with the Public Education Foundation and has been able to secure some additional resources for student activities.

Ms. Rayford said that there is still an achievement gap in the areas of math and reading between Native students and their peers. She said in math they are scoring 25 percent proficient overall; and their peers are scoring 30 percent proficient overall. She said in reading they are scoring 40 percent proficient; and their peers are scoring 44 percent proficient.

Trustee Child asked what can be done to determine the problem and then improve proficiency.

Ms. Rayford said that would have to be assessed at the District and school levels to identify the issues.

Ms. Krause said the students need more tutoring and mentoring supports at the schools.

Trustee Child said the budget is a concern.

Ms. Krause mentioned that her children were tutored by college students and suggested exploring that as a possible solution.

**BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES**

Trustee Cranor arrived at the Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**COMMUNITY LINKAGE (continued)**

Ms. Frank said that some schools offer the 21<sup>st</sup> Century afterschool program, and almost all schools offer some sort of tutoring for students that they direct parents to.

Trustee Cranor asked if the District has ever asked the UNLV College of Education to help with this.

Ms. Rayford said she has not approached them.

Trustee Young mentioned a past program that paired high school students with elementary school students for help in reading and math.

Ms. Frank said students have helped other students at the MESC, but it did not last.

Ms. Rayford said the achievement gap is their focus.

## COMMUNITY LINKAGE (continued)

### Public Hearing

Ms. Wilson requested a more in-depth inventory. She said her equipment and furniture is old and was donated. She said that technology needs to be updated and computers at MESCC need to be replaced as they are more than 10 years old. She thanked UNLV for their programs and expressed gratitude for the parent-to-parent committee, the professional development, as well as the conferences. She said she is still concerned with the lack of budget support for Indian Education. She said she would like to see the center be considered a standalone as an academic support/community service center with its own budget, so they can focus specifically on Indian Education. She said they hope to work with the Public Education Foundation and apply for grants.

Ms. Wilson asked if virtual classes could be offered for Native language so students could apply for scholarships. She mentioned that some scholarships require course credit, but it is not offered at CCSD. She offered that achievement gaps could sometimes be due to personal, mental, or emotional issues and is not always cultural. She asked if a social worker could be assigned specifically to Indian Education and have access to those students.

Trustee Garvey asked Ms. Crocci if as an SSA she would introduce those children to the social worker at the school.

Ms. Crocci answered that she has not been in the schools, but she spoke with a parent who was interested in a social worker that had a specific skillset for working with Native students.

Ms. Frank said that they work closely with the one in Moapa, but she was not sure how it works in the schools in town.

Trustee Garvey said that maybe if individuals with that skillset could be identified, they could be connected with the SSAs so they could help the students.

Ms. Krause said she would like to see cultural responsiveness training.

Trustee Garvey asked Superintendent to follow up with the request for a social worker.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said that is not currently allowable under the grant. He said staff could look at how that might be able to be done in the future.

Trustee Garvey suggested that the social workers could talk to one another to help the students.

Superintendent Skorkowsky offered to look at the list of social workers and have them contact each other.

## COMMUNITY LINKAGE (continued)

Trustee Cranor asked if there is a social worker that has the skillset and background to work with Native students, and if the student could work with those social workers if they are at another school.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he is not aware of anything that would prevent that.

Trustee Garvey asked about the budget and why the detailed budgets are no longer being provided?

Ms. Rayford said she would follow up on that.

Ms. Frank expressed concern that MESC work orders she submits are not tended to. She said it seems that no one knows they exist and asked what she needed to do.

Ms. Rayford said she can go to her.

Ms. Frank asked about how to get her services out so people are aware. She talked about the issue of students be flagged when they should not be, and then they are unable to receive services.

Trustee Young suggested training for the school registrars.

## Public Hearing

A member of the public expressed concern with transportation for students and that there is no tutoring for some of the students.

Ms. Rayford announced that as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), there would be a meeting scheduled in February with the tribal leaders, which is a requirement of a tribal consultation. She said this includes the Tribal Council and the Indian Education Committee.

Trustee Young suggested that Ms. Rayford and Ms. Frank work with staff to have a presentation related to AB394 for parents and the community.

Trustee Garvey asked what would have to be done as the District is developing a budget for services that need to be paid for, and Indian Education was not on the list put forward by the AB394 Legislative Committee.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said that it would have to be taken from elsewhere.

Trustee Garvey mentioned that Trustees have forwarded letters of concern with AB394, especially with civil rights. She encouraged the attendees to contact their legislator with their concerns.

**COMMUNITY LINKAGE (continued)**

Trustee Young encouraged the attendees to contact their legislators as well and asked that they submit their comments to the Superintendent's office so they can forward it to the appropriate entities.

**AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Ms. Krause asked about when she would see a Native American History committee as mentioned in past minutes that Trustee Young read earlier.

Ms. Frank said that she was working on it.

**ADJOURN:** 7:58 p.m.

*Motion: Garvey    Second: Tew    Vote: Unanimous*