

Minutes  
Clark County School District  
Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees  
Edward A. Greer Education Center, Board Room  
2832 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89121

Thursday, February 10, 2022

5:00 p.m.

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Roll Call: Members Present  
Irene Cepeda, President  
Evelyn Garcia Morales, Vice President  
Lola Brooks, Clerk  
Linda P. Cavazos, Member  
Danielle Ford, Member  
Lisa Guzmán, Member  
Katie Williams, Member

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

**Flag Salute**

Trustee Guzmán led the Pledge of Allegiance with the flag salute led by the Basic Academy of International Studies ROTC.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

*Adopt agenda, except note reference material provided for Items 4.01, 4.02, 4.03, and 5.01.*

*Motion: Ford Second: Brooks Vote: Unanimous*

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

David Gonzales spoke about the number of violent incidents on campus and said it needs to be addressed. He suggested students responsible need to be disciplined and sent to a juvenile detention center or a behavioral school.

Benjamin Gonzales said he wants better and safer schools. He said he wants to learn and to reach his dream job and life goals and one violent incident can prevent a child from reaching their goals.

Spencer Gomez spoke about violence and chaos on Doral Academy's campus and said he would like his school to be safer. He said he was glad the mask mandate had been lifted and he was curious to see a decision on the vaccines.

John Clary disagreed with the lifting of the mask mandate in schools. He said he feels the decision is misguided, and he expressed disappointment that the decisions being made that impact him and his peers do not seem to reflect scientific knowledge.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (continued)

Desiree Rodriguez said there was chaos and discord when the lifting of the mask mandate was announced. She talked about the lack of transparency around data related to the use of pepper spray in schools and the funding for police materials, as well as other District documents. She said she supports police free schools.

Gianna Archuleta spoke about the need for accessibility to mental health resources and support for students. She said schools need more psychologists and social workers, not police officers. She said in terms of the mask mandate, she wants to continue attending school in person and wants to feel safe.

Lauren Gomez (phonetic) talked about violence on her campus and said teachers do not help. She said threats made by students should be taken seriously. She said people should be able to choose whether to wear a mask and no one should be bullied or harassed for their choice.

Autumn Tampa spoke about how the decision to lift the ask mandate is not based on accurate numbers. She said she does not feel safe being in a school setting without a mask because sick students are being sent to school.

Vicki Kreidel talked about the teacher retention crisis. She said the time to act is now and suggested the District reach out to educators to help retain quality teachers. She shared the changes teachers have said would keep them in CCSD.

Erin Gomez listed several claims against the Board and said the vaccine mandate will be gone and the Trustees will step down because they have broken the law. She said she is not against people wearing masks, but she is against the Board forcing her and her children to wear masks.

Richard Meyers expressed concerns that students at his son's elementary school are still not allowed to play on the playground at any time except for lunchtime one day per week and that basketballs were taken away. He said this has become a socioeconomic issue.

Diana Battista said schools are understaffed and classrooms are overcrowded. She suggested that the District get all badged volunteers who were removed from campuses because of COVID-19 back into the schools.

Walter Jones III questioned how involved the Trustees are in their schools and in the community. He said staff is underpaid and the District needs to find a solution. He mentioned violence on school campuses and said it needs to be addressed.

Yesenia Gonzales spoke about violence on school campuses and asked what the District is going to do to hold the people responsible accountable. She shared an incident in which her son was attacked and injured. She said restorative justice is not effective.

### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (continued)

Lewis Hackney stated there is a lot of violence happening at Robert Taylor Elementary School. He said students have been traumatized by a violent incident they witnessed just last week. He said there are no real consequences for the students who commit the acts of violence.

### **Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda**

Approval of consent agenda, as submitted, as recommended.

#### Public Hearing

Anna Binder spoke on Items 3.02, 3.03, 3.06, 3.17, and 3.18. She expressed appreciation for the grant to support educators and she thanked the District for prioritizing Afghan refugee students. She congratulated the new hires. She expressed her condolences to the Johnson family and wished them well. She stated the agenda shows that the District is hiring more law firms to help it fight parents and said they would not have to do that if they prioritized special education.

Diana Battista spoke on Item 3.17 and expressed sorrow to the victims and their families for what they have been put through and thanked them for their bravery in coming forward. Regarding Item 3.18, she noted the number of law firms and attorneys CCSD has on retainer or as employees. She said she finds the hiring of attorney Maree Sneed to be a conflict of interest. She stated there is corruption in central office and systemic coverup of child abuse of students with autism. She asked the Board to vote no on Item 3.18.

Jamie Tadrzynski spoke on Items 3.05 and 3.06. She noted the number of vacancies for next year and said that does not account for the number of people who are going to leave the District at the end of the school year. She expressed concern with how the District is going to open schools next year with being so understaffed. She said educators are not getting the support that they need. She talked about how she is personally mistreated and attacked and said the District does nothing and stays silent.

Alexis Salt spoke on Items 3.05 and 3.06. She said she has been giving the warning on social media that the District is not going to have enough teachers to open schools next year. She said issues include a lack of respect, terrible health insurance, and no autonomy in their own classroom. She said teachers are being sought after by other school districts, and teachers are telling other teachers to stay away from CCSD.

*Motion to approve the consent agenda.*

*Motion: Williams    Second: Brooks    Vote: Unanimous*

### **3.01 Approval of the Minutes.**

Discussion and possible action on the approval of the minutes from the special meeting of December 1, 2021, and the regular meeting of December 9, 2021, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** (Ref. 3.01)

**Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda** (continued)

**3.02 Professional Services: University of Nevada, Las Vegas Project PUEBLO, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, United States Department of Education.**

Discussion and possible action on authorization to implement the United States Department of Education, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund utilizing the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for educators to pursue a one-year master's degree program with embedded graduate certification in English Language Acquisition and Development, effective February 11, 2022, through September 30, 2024, for an approximate cost of \$4,300,000.00, to be paid from the ESSER III Fund, Fund 0280, Grant 6619021, with no impact to the general fund, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Dustin Mancl] (Ref. 3.02)

**3.03 Grant Application: Afghan Refugee School Impact Grant, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, Subgrant Award.**

Discussion and possible action on authorization to implement the Afghan Refugee School Impact Grant, funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement through Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, to provide academic and enrichment services for eligible elementary and secondary Afghan refugee students, in the amount of \$46,214.00, from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, to be paid from the Afghan Refugee School Impact Grant, Fund 0280, Grant 6722022, with no impact to the general fund, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Dustin Mancl] (Ref. 3.03)

**3.04 Warrants.**

Discussion and possible action on ratification of the warrants as listed in the Bills Payable Transmittal and the Board Memorandum to be presented at the Board meeting, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jason Goudie] (Ref. 3.04)

**3.05 Unified Personnel Employment.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to employ unified personnel, as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Nadine Jones] (Ref. 3.05)

**3.06 Licensed Personnel Employment.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to employ licensed personnel, as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Nadine Jones] (Ref. 3.06)

**3.07 Purchase Orders.**

Discussion and possible action on ratification of the purchase orders in the total amount of \$1,480,660.28 as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mike Casey] (Ref. 3.07)

**Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda** (continued)

**3.08 Purchasing Awards.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to purchase goods or services in the estimated total amount of \$14,647,031.75 in compliance with NRS 332, as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mike Casey] (Ref. 3.08)

**3.09 Interlocal Contract: Southern Nevada Geographic Information System.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to enter into an Interlocal Contract between Clark County and the Clark County School District to provide data and services from the County Geographic Information System, from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2026. Interlocal Contract, to be paid in the amount of \$15,700.00 with annual increases not to exceed five percent, to be paid from Cost Center 1031501636, Fund 3150000000, and for the President and Clerk of the Board of School Trustees, Clark County School District, and the Superintendent of Schools, Clark County School District, to sign the Interlocal Contract is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mark Campbell] (Ref. 3.09)

**3.10 Interlocal Agreement Between the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Clark County School District at Chaparral High School.**

Discussion and possible action on approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Clark County School District for the relocation of the Gear Up program at Chaparral High School from the school building to a modular building on site, and for the President and Clerk of the Board of School Trustees, Clark County School District, and the Superintendent of Schools, Clark County School District, to sign the Interlocal Contract is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mark Campbell] (Ref. 3.10)

**3.11 Grant of Easement to Southwest Gas Corporation at William E. Ferron Elementary School.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to allow Southwest Gas Corporation a grant of easements at William E. Ferron Elementary School, to install and maintain a natural gas pipeline or pipelines and appurtenances; in conjunction with the construction activities, across, over, under and through the property, and for Mark Campbell, Interim Chief of Facilities, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee to sign the granting document, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mark Campbell] (Ref. 3.11)

**3.12 Grant of Easement to Southwest Gas Corporation at Gene Ward Elementary School.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to allow Southwest Gas Corporation a grant of easement at Gene Ward Elementary School, to install and maintain a natural gas pipeline or pipelines and appurtenances; in conjunction with the construction activities, across, over, under and through the property, and for Mark Campbell, Interim Chief of Facilities, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee to sign the granting document, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mark Campbell] (Ref. 3.12)

**Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda** (continued)

**3.13 Grant of Easement to Southwest Gas Corporation at Southeast Career and Technical Academy.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to allow Southwest Gas Corporation a grant of easement at Southeast Career and Technical Academy, to install and maintain a natural gas pipeline or pipelines and appurtenances; in conjunction with the construction activities, across, over, under and through the property, and for Mark Campbell, Interim Chief of Facilities, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee to sign the granting document, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mark Campbell] (Ref. 3.13)

**3.14 Engineering Services Agreement: Geotechnical Services High School Addition and Fields – Phase III Replacement at Sandy Valley High School.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to enter into an engineering services agreement with Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical and Environmental Sciences Consultants in support of the High School Addition and Fields – Phase III Replacement at Sandy Valley High School in the amount of \$144,685.00, to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000 Project C0014875; and for Mark Campbell, Interim Chief of Facilities, to act as the Board of School Trustees' interim designee for all project documents, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mark Campbell] (Ref. 3.14)

**3.15 Engineering Services Agreement: Geotechnical Services Replacement School at Ruby S. Thomas Elementary School.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to enter into an engineering services agreement with Kleinfelder, Inc., in support of the replacement school at Ruby S. Thomas Elementary School in the amount of \$273,990.50, to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000, Project C0001635; and for Mark Campbell, Interim Chief of Facilities, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mark Campbell] (Ref. 3.15)

**3.16 Change Orders.**

Discussion and possible action on ratification of change orders for a net increase of \$327,831.63 to the construction contract for Ernest A. Becker Middle School (\$263,092.63) (Rafael Construction, Inc., – 2015 Capital Improvement Program); Eldorado High School (\$64,739.00) (General Acrylics, Inc., – 2015 Capital Improvement Program), is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mark Campbell] (Ref. 3.16)

## **Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda (continued)**

### **3.17 Approval of Settlement.**

Discussion and possible action on settlement of United States District Court Case No. 2:20-cv-01823-JCM-VCF, *April Johnson, an individual, Dujun Johnson, an individual, as guardians of MJ; and JJ, minors v. Banco, CCSD, et al.* in the total amount of \$9,000,000.00, and for the Superintendent of Schools, Clark County School District, and the President and Clerk, Clark County School District Board of Trustees, to sign the settlement agreement, and to authorize Luke Puschnig, General Counsel, to execute the appropriate settlement agreement, is recommended. (CONFIDENTIAL) **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Luke Puschnig] (Ref. 3.17)

### **3.18 Special Counsel Rate of Compensation.**

Discussion and possible action on approval of the rate of compensation of Education Lawyer, LLC, Hooks Meng & Clement and/or Lynne & Associates, to be retained by the District as special counsel at a rate up to \$180.00 and \$300.00 per hour, respectively, and as required by NRS 41.0344, and to authorize Luke Puschnig, General Counsel, to act as the Board of School Trustees designee to sign the necessary documents pertaining thereto is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Luke Puschnig] (Ref. 3.18)

### **Focus: 2024 Strategic Plan Update – Chronic Absenteeism**

Presentation and discussion on Focus: 2024 Indicators and Results pertaining to SS-4(B): Chronic absenteeism.

Dr. Mike Barton, Chief College, Career, Equity, and School Choice Officer, College, Career, Equity, and School Choice Unit; Dr. John Anzalone, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services Division, College, Career, Equity, and School Choice Unit; and Greg Manzi, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement Division, Academic Unit, provided an update on Chronic Absenteeism, as shown in Reference 4.01.

#### Public Hearing

Diana Battista said it would have been reasonable to ask an attendee to simply lower her voice. Regarding Item 4.01, she said the data is deceiving and recommended that the Board request supporting documents and an audit.

Autumn Tampa said chronic absenteeism has been an issue in the District for many years. She said she knows that students have had to stay home to care for younger siblings, and she said she believes there are societal issues and hopes this can be brought to legislators.

Anna Binder said she serves as a truancy diversion judge and was disappointed when she found out from her administrator that the District did not contact them to get data that they have been collecting regarding why students are not attending school. She said CCSD is not collecting data related to verification of the absences. She suggested having the truancy program in all schools and implementing asynchronous learning.

**Focus: 2024 Strategic Plan Update – Chronic Absenteeism (continued)**

Discussion was held regarding tracking the data tied to the reasons given for the absences; tracking absenteeism by region; the Truancy Prevention Outreach Program (TPOP); getting parents involved; number of absences due to behavioral and disciplinary reasons; how students are deemed tardy and whether that might contribute to the number of absences; the percentage of absences due to COVID-19; whether offering an option for distance learning at every school would have had an impact and if other districts offered distance learning at every school; the schools' accountability as part of the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF); how the number of students who were unaccounted for during school closures were factored into this data; engaging with other local governments to seek out the support families need; recognizing that the highest needs student populations were most negatively impacted by the school closures and recognizing that health and safety remain a priority at this time; attendance reporting and how the lack of a teacher interfaces with these numbers; how CCSD compares to the rest of the state; and how many CCSD students were lost to other school options, such as homeschool, charter schools, and private schools.

Trustee Williams asked that the comparison data to other school districts be submitted as reference material.

Trustee Ford said she might bring up the topic of absences due to behavioral and disciplinary reasons at the February 24, 2022, meeting as they look at violence in schools.

Trustee Williams requested the data for each Trustee district be provided.

Superintendent Jara said it could be read here and also provided for reference material.

Dr. Barton read the absentee data for each Trustee district as follows: District A, 31.4 percent; District B, 33.9 percent; District C, 41.3 percent; District D, 43.5 percent; District E, 32.2 percent; District F, 35 percent; and District G, 38.2 percent.

Trustee Ford said she would like to see the data related to how many CCSD students were lost to other school options at some point.

**Focus: 2024 Strategic Plan Update – Middle School Algebra and Geometry Enrollment**

Presentation and discussion on Focus: 2024 Indicators and Results pertaining to SS-3(B): Advanced coursework, diversity and achievement.

Dr. Barton provided an update on middle school algebra and geometry enrollment, as shown in Reference 4.02.



## **Focus: 2024 Strategic Plan Update – Middle School Algebra and Geometry Enrollment**

(continued)

Public Hearing

Diana Battista spoke positively about the program and commended the District for offering it to students. She said some students have typically not been offered this program, including special education students, and she said her son has the skills to be able to participate in such a program. She said the educational loss to some students, including special education students, needs to be addressed.

Anna Binder said students are not able to find help or math tutoring that they need. She asked how fifth-grade students are being set up for success in middle school when they are not proficient in math or reading.

John Carlo agreed that the special education program is important. He stated people who are deaf do not have the same access to learning because there are so few qualified teachers, and he suggested hiring more special education teachers. He asked for the total number of students per ethnic group and the ratio of each of those students.

Discussion was held regarding the connection between algebra I and college success; supports for students in these rigorous courses; helping families to understand the purpose of the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) growth assessments and the data; summer acceleration; considerations for course enrollment; breakdown by Trustee district for enrollment in these courses; teacher vacancies in middle school; and the availability for geometry versus algebra classes.

Trustee Ford asked why this presentation did not include data from comparable school districts.

Trustee Cepeda stated that this reporting template was only recently adopted, so moving forward some of the presentations will not follow the new template.

Superintendent Jara stated it was a matter of timing and offered that the school district comparisons could be included in the next update to the Board. He said all the data from other school districts was not readily accessible for this presentation.

Trustee Ford said she wants to be mindful that the reporting is done properly and that everyone is in agreement on what to expect from these presentations.

## **Focus: 2024 Strategic Plan Update – Graduation Rates**

Presentation and discussion on Focus: 2024 Indicators and Results pertaining to SS-1(E): Graduation rate and SS-2(D): Gaps in graduation rate.

Mr. Manzi presented the four-year graduation rates for the class of 2021, as shown in Reference 4.03.

**Focus: 2024 Strategic Plan Update – Graduation Rates** (continued)

Discussion was held regarding including the adult education graduation rates; other alternative programs included in the calculation of the District rate; calculations for students who complete their diploma within five years; options and supports for students who are not credit sufficient; considering the District's transiency rate and calculating the number of students who may have moved and graduated from another district; the District complying with graduation requirements set by the state; and considering thinking about graduation equaling proficiency and looking at graduation as only part of the picture.

Trustee Guzmán asked about the data missing from other school districts on page 8 of 13 of the presentation.

Mr. Manzi stated that at the time this presentation was being prepared, those calculations had not yet been reported publicly for the class of 2021 for those districts.

Trustee Ford said she thinks the number of students who have left the District and have been cleared from the cohort should be accounted for when comparing CCSD to other school districts.

Trustee Garcia Morales cautioned everyone to think about graduation equaling proficiency and said she would like to see this information be more dynamic.

**Teachers Health Trust Update**

Presentation and discussion regarding the state of the Teachers Health Trust as required per section 12(i)(vi) of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Clark County School District and the Clark County Education Association Regarding the Negotiated Agreement for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Years.

Tom Zumtobel, Chief Executive Officer, Teachers Health Trust; Rory Wright, Director of Healthcare Delivery, Teachers Health Trust; and Janet Jan, Interim Chief Financial Officer, Teachers Health Trust, presented an update of the progress made at Teachers Health Trust (THT), as shown in Reference 5.01.

Trustees asked questions related to "Ongoing Concern" as identified in the audit; the number of available healthcare providers; how educators are able to save money through the pharmaceutical programs; the process used for determining responsibility or for verification of claims related to collections; efforts to keep educators from going into collections due to nonpayment by THT; THT's administrative expenses and savings; resolution of the "excess benefit obligations over net assets available for benefits" as listed under "Ongoing Concern;" the collections process, outreach efforts, and mechanism for educators who are facing collections or threats from providers; lab costs and the billing process; and options for educators who might need financial assistance to pay for medications.

### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Terri Shuman expressed concern regarding the health and safety of staff and students with the mask mandate being lifted on school campuses. She asked what the District's response would be if people start to become sick.

Stephanie Kinsley said parents should have the right to determine what happens and what is taught in their children's school. She asked that the Board serve the community as they were elected to do.

### **Board Member Leaves**

Trustee Cavazos left the Board meeting at 8:55 p.m.

### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (continued)**

Lorena Cardenas said she has been contacted by concerned parents regarding violence on school campuses and students recording and posting videos of these fights on social media. She said students being able to walk around campus with their phones and do this is a problem.

Robert Diaz said he has not heard anyone talk about how things are going to change. He said the ranking of this school district is pathetic. He expressed concern for his children. He said school is not just about academics but about being prepared for life and having compassion for another person.

Lydia Ruiz spoke about why she is opposed to the District's grading policy, restorative justice policies, and COVID-19 protocols.

John Carlo said sex education should not be passed on to the Board. He said he believes in marriage and said the District should be teaching students to start families. He shared information about Confederate soldier Hulk Lawyer.

David Gomez thanked Trustee Cepeda for doing the right thing. He said many people want to talk about Christianity but do not know anything about it or anything about God. He said he comes to the meetings to advocate for his and other people's children.

### **Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, February 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

Trustee Cepeda noted the upcoming Board meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

**Adjourn:** 9:08 p.m.

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