

MINUTES  
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
EDWARD A. GREER EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM  
2832 E. FLAMINGO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89121

Thursday, February 23, 2017

5:00 p.m.

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

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

**FLAG SALUTE**

John F. Miller School student Tristan Abs (phonetic) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Imam Mustafa Yunus Richards of Masjid As'Sabur, performed the invocation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Edwards announced that the Nevada State winner for Doodle 4 Google was Angela Zhang, a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student at West Career and Technical Academy.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda, except note reference material provided for Item 3.01 and note revised reference material provided for Item 3.14 and Item 3.15.*

*Motion: Young Second: Edwards Vote: Unanimous*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Alexander Kostan stated that the Clark County School District dress code is inherently sexist and violates Title IX.

Elena Rodriguez asked about information being provided to District staff regarding procedures concerning CCSD students' immigration status to help address the climate.

Peter Christoff spoke about safety concerns for students traveling to and from school.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** (continued)

Casey Juliano shared that Nate Mack Elementary School started a robotics team for the first time. She let students speak about their experience.

Chacen Rasavong and Ella Drakulich shared their experience preparing for and competing in the Nevada State Robotics Championship.

Matthew Christian, Barbara and Hank Greenspun Junior High School Robotics Team coach, stood with Fahim Kamal and Juliana Gibson as they shared what they did in competing in the robotics competition, how they helped students at Nate Mack Elementary School, and the awards they earned in the competition.

Terri Shuman raised concerns regarding testing, specifically, the speaking portion of the WIDA test.

Adriana Perry expressed concerns regarding special education issues, her son being bullied, and law violations. She said she has reached out to Trustee Young, as well as District staff, trying to get help for her son.

**APPROVE ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of consent agenda, as submitted, as recommended.

*Motion to approve the consent agenda, pulling Items 3.05, 3.10, and 3.15 for separate discussion.*

*Motion: Cranor Second: Garvey Vote: Unanimous*

- 3.01 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. Discussion and possible action on the approval of the minutes of the special meetings of December 19, 2016, January 3, 2017, and January 4, 2017, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** (Reference material will be provided.) (Ref. 3.01)
- 3.02 LICENSED PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT. Discussion and possible action on approval to employ licensed personnel, as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)**  
[Contact Persons: Michael Gentry and Andre Long] (Ref. 3.02)  
**Strategic Imperative(s):** Academic Excellence  
**Focus Area(s):** Proficiency; Academic Growth; Achievement Gaps; Disproportionality
- 3.03 STUDENT EXPULSIONS. Discussion and possible action on approval of student expulsions according to NRS 392.467 (Board Policy 5114 and Regulations 5114 and 5141.1), as listed, is recommended. (CONFIDENTIAL) **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Billie Rayford] (Ref. 3.03)  
**Strategic Imperative(s):** School Support  
**Focus Area(s):** Disproportionality

**APPROVE ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA** (continued)

3.04 PURCHASE ORDERS. Discussion and possible action on ratification of the purchase orders in the total amount of \$662,524.87, as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)**

[Contact Person: Rick Neal] (Ref. 3.04)

**Strategic Imperative(s):** Clarity and Focus

**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

3.06 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: Dillon Kay] (Ref. 3.06)

**Strategic Imperative(s):** Clarity and Focus

**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

3.07 APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT. Discussion and possible action on settlement of the matter of Bradley Roberts vs. Clark County School District, et al., for a settlement amount of \$80,000.00, to be paid to Plaintiff, and for attorney's fees and costs to be determined in arbitration, and to authorize Carlos McDade, General Counsel, to execute the appropriate settlement agreements, is recommended. **(CONFIDENTIAL) (For Possible Action)**

[Contact Person: Carlos McDade] (Ref. 3.07)

**Strategic Imperative(s):** Clarity and Focus

**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

3.08 GRANT APPLICATION: SALARY INCENTIVES FOR LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL, STATE OF NEVADA. Discussion and possible action on authorization to submit and implement the state-funded program for Salary Incentives for eligible 2015-2016 licensed personnel to be paid from FY17, Fund 0279, in the approximate amount of \$818,247.13, with no impact to the general fund, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)**

[Contact Persons: Michael Gentry and Andre Long] (Ref. 3.08)

**Strategic Imperative(s):** School Support

**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

3.09 RECAP OF BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS. Discussion and possible action on authorization to include the Recap of Budget Appropriation Transfers between governmental functions of all funds for the period beginning January 1, 2017, through January 31, 2017, in the official Board minutes as required by NRS 354.598005, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)**

[Contact Person: Eva White] (Ref. 3.09)

**Strategic Imperative(s):** Clarity and Focus

**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

**APPROVE ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA (continued)**

3.11 ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT, GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES, UNNAMED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FARM ROAD AND NORTH JENSEN STREET. Discussion and possible action on approval to enter into an engineering services agreement with Construction Testing Services, LLC, in support of the unnamed elementary school near Farm Road and North Jensen Street in the amount of \$338,210.00, to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000, Project C0001613; and for Blake Cumbers, Associate Superintendent, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)**  
[Contact Person: Blake Cumbers] (Ref. 3.11)

**Strategic Imperative(s):** Clarity and Focus

**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

3.12 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES, REPLACE HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM COMPONENTS, AND REPLACE THE ROOF SYSTEMS, PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL. Discussion and possible action on approval to select the architectural firm of Gary Guy Wilson Architects, to provide architectural design services to prepare plans, specifications, and other construction documents for a design, bid, and build method of construction for the replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system components and roof systems on the main, theater, and gymnasium buildings at Palo Verde High School in the amount of \$715,000.00, to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000, Project C0013431; and for Blake Cumbers, Associate Superintendent, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)**  
[Contact Person: Blake Cumbers] (Ref. 3.12)

**Strategic Imperative(s):** Clarity and Focus

**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

3.13 CONTRACT AWARD: CLASSROOM BUILDING ADDITION, PAUL E. CULLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Discussion and possible action on approval of an award of contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for a new 2-story 18-classroom building addition at Paul E. Culley Elementary School, to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000, Project C0013214; and for Blake Cumbers, Associate Superintendent, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)**  
[Contact Person: Blake Cumbers] (Ref. 3.13)

**Strategic Imperative(s):** Clarity and Focus

**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

**APPROVE ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA (continued)**

3.14 **CONTRACT AWARD: UNNAMED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FARM ROAD AND NORTH JENSEN STREET.** Discussion and possible action on approval of an award of contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the construction of a new unnamed elementary school to be located near Farm Road and North Jensen Street, to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000, Project C0001613; and for Blake Cumbers, Associate Superintendent, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, may be recommended. **(For Possible Action)**  
[Contact Person: Blake Cumbers] (Ref. 3.14)  
**Strategic Imperative(s):** Clarity and Focus  
**Focus Area(s):** Value/Return on Investment

**APPROVE PURCHASING AWARDS**

Approval to purchase goods or services in the estimated total amount of \$1,135,000.00, in compliance with NRS 332, as listed, as recommended in Reference 3.05.

Trustee Child asked how many vehicles the District would be purchasing.

Rick Neal, Chief Operating Officer, Operational Services Unit, explained that this was a bid award for an overall price, and the District anticipates purchasing five trucks over the timeline of this award.

Trustee Child requested that that type of information be included in the future.

*Motion to accept.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Cranor    Vote: Unanimous*

**APPROVE RENEWAL OF ENGAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDITOR FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017**

Approval to renew the engagement with Eide Bailly, LLP as the independent financial auditing firm for the Clark County School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, to perform the District's financial and federal compliance audits; review the annual reports for Vegas PBS in order to meet certification requirements of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and perform agreed upon procedures to review compliance with the Board of School Trustees' Governance Policies EL-5: Financial Planning/Budgeting, EL-6: Financial Condition and Activities, EL-8: Asset Protection, and EL-9: Compensation and Benefits, to be paid from the following cost centers respectively: Cost Center 1010001060, Fund 1000000000 in the amount of \$155,800.00, and Cost Center 2022010140, Fund 2200000000 in the amount of \$26,400.00, for an approximate total cost of \$182,200.00, as recommended in Reference 3.10.

Trustee Garvey asked about the scope of work and details of services to be provided within this contract.

**APPROVE RENEWAL OF ENGAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDITOR FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017 (continued)**

Eva White, Assistant Superintendent, Strategic Resources and Capital Improvement, Operational Services Unit, stated that the auditors audit areas that are listed in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 354.624 in addition to Vegas PBS and Board requests related to Board policies. She said they do not audit every transaction but instead pull test samples of all of these items.

Trustee Garvey said that as it relates to EL-5: Financial Planning/Budgeting and EL-6: Financial Condition and Activities and as the Board looks at informed oversight, to keep in mind that the audit is not an in depth analysis.

Trustee Edwards noted that part of the year, the Board would be operating under Executive Limitations (ELs), and the remainder of the year they would be operating under Superintendent Evaluation (SE), and that Board policy EL-9: Compensation and Benefits has been eliminated. She said next year when this comes forward, the audit needs to refer to the SEs.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Garvey Second: Cranor*

Trustee Wright noted that the auditors do provide a management letter containing recommendations involving internal controls and other operational matters as part of the audit process. She asked Dr. White to talk about the scope of work for the independent financial auditor.

Dr. White said included in the letter which talks about the scope of work done by the auditing firm is auditing of financial statements of governmental activities, business activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information. She said there are also inquiries of management. She said the letter also discusses what is not included in the audit.

There was further discussion regarding audits, oversight, procedures and best practices.

*Vote on Trustee Garvey's motion was unanimous.*

**APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD: CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, MOLD REMEDIATION AND ROOF REPLACEMENT, CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING**

Approval of an award of contract to the best qualified construction manager at-risk (CMAR) for construction services in support of the mold remediation and roof replacement at the Clark County School District Administrative Building, to be paid from the Governmental Services Tax, Fund 3400000000, Project C0013283; and for Blake Cumbers, Associate Superintendent, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, as recommended in Reference 3.15.

Trustee Garvey asked if there would be an additional cost for the moving piece.

**APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD: CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, MOLD REMEDIATION AND ROOF REPLACEMENT, CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING**  
(continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky said once the project is complete, staff can provide an accounting for the costs.

Blake Cumbers, Associate Superintendent, Facilities Division, explained that there are numerous costs associated with the project in addition to the construction and are estimated to be approximately \$1 million. He said these are not included in the CMAR but are an expense of the project.

Trustee Garvey said items that are not included in the CMAR should not be covered under the amount authorized to spend under the CMAR. She said those items should be coming back as individual purchasing awards to individual vendors for approval.

Mr. Cumbers said he thought the authorized amount of \$4 million was for the total project.

Trustee Edwards said her understanding was that CMAR was only the construction aspect of the project with a cost of \$2,011,279.00, and the total limit of \$4 million includes that and all other aspects of the project.

Trustee Garvey asked when the Board would be getting a breakdown of the costs.

Mr. Cumbers said currently he only has estimates.

Trustee Garvey said she would like some information sent to the Board in terms of a breakdown of costs.

Superintendent Skorkowsky talked about the reasons for moving employees out of and into the building. He said those moves were within the scope of working to ensure the best organization for the District.

*Motion to accept.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Cranor    Vote: Unanimous*

**APPROVE ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA** (continued)

Public Hearing

Nathan Harper, chair of the Ullis Newton Elementary School Organizational Team (SOT), spoke on Item 3.01. He said Newton Elementary School had suffered under poor leadership and charges of embezzlement but has greatly improved under the leadership of Steven Niemeier as acting principal. He said the school community has asked that Mr. Niemeier be selected to be the principal, and he asked why their recommendation was not taken into consideration.

## **APPROVE REORGANIZATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

Superintendent Skorkowsky gave an accounting of District staff time spent on the reorganization of the school district, and he talked about how some of that work is now in direct alignment with staff's daily responsibilities. His update also included the central services survey, training, and municipality updates.

### **Public Hearing**

Autumn Tampa applauded CCSD staff for their efforts but said there are still serious concerns, such as time constraints, added pressures on staff and a large group of employees being excluded.

Nathan Harper asked what the role of the SOTs is in terms of AB 394 if their recommendations are not going to be considered.

Crystal Smedley said her job is to ensure that the public understands the hiring process and why the school community at Newton Elementary School had no voice when it came to selecting a principal and what could be done in the future.

Heather Bryant spoke positively about what Mr. Niemeier brought to the students, staff, and families at Newton Elementary School and said she struggles with understanding why he was replaced.

Leah Rivera expressed support for Mr. Niemeier and said many people are upset that the process did not work in their favor. She presented signatures and letters collected on behalf of Mr. Niemeier.

Cindy Benavidez said as a member of the Newton Elementary School SOT, she is representing the teachers, students, and parents, and she expressed concern with the hiring process in selecting a principal.

Danielle Rae also spoke in support of Mr. Niemeier, and she talked about the change in climate at the school under his leadership.

Superintendent Skorkowsky responded to speakers and said the SOTs are a part of the process, and he asked that people go back and review Section 27 of the regulation. He said he understands the frustration they are feeling.



### **APPROVE COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION COUNCIL**

Approval by the Board of School Trustees on issues related to the Community Implementation Council, including, but not limited to, requests for assistance and recommendations to the Community Implementation Council, as it pertains to the Reorganization of the Clark County School District.

Trustee Cranor reported that she was able to relay the Board's request for the timely submission of backup material for upcoming Community Implementation Council (CIC) meetings. She said the response to that request was about the time constraints the Council is under. She said the next CIC meeting would take place in April.

### **APPROVE FORENSICS ACCOUNTANT**

Approval on engaging a firm to conduct a forensics audit of the District's budget formation and expenditures approval processes.

Trustee Child read a statement requesting that there be a forensic audit of the District's budget approval process. He said the Trustees need to be aware of how taxpayer money is being spent.

#### Public Hearing

Elena Rodriguez spoke in support of Trustee Child's request.

Autumn Tampa said this forensic audit would address the lack of communication and understanding about the money throughout the District and community.

Steven Brown said the Board should consider this because although five Nevada governors have raised taxes, there are still teacher shortages and overcrowded classrooms.

Serena Koerner said the audits that are done on the school banks are not in-depth audits. She agreed that a forensic audit needs to be done.

Trustee Garvey said it would be helpful to have actual definitions of what a forensic audit entails.

Trustee Edwards said things she would need to know concerning this request are how much money this audit would cost, how much District staff time would be required, what the scope of the work would be, and what the goal of this audit would be. She said other concerns are the timing of this in terms of the implementation of AB 394 and in terms of collective bargaining. She suggested that maybe the Board should ask the Superintendent to have staff present the District's budgeting process and transfer request process to the Board.

Trustee Young agreed that this is very important and is a discussion that should be had and said she also had concerns regarding the cost and the timing of this.

**APPROVE FORENSICS ACCOUNTANT** (continued)

Trustee Child said he would be amenable to discussing this further at a work session or a Board retreat in order to gather more information.

Trustee Garvey said they should also hear from the Superintendent whether this would be assigned to the District's Internal Audit Department or from an outside entity such as an added service with the external auditing firm Eide Bailly, LLP.

Trustee Wright asked what the goal of this audit would be. She said forensic audits are conducted in order to investigate fraud. She said if that is not the intended goal here, then the agenda item language is misleading. She said she is uncomfortable with the tone of this agenda item. She said she would be willing to expand the District audit.

Trustee Edwards agreed with continuing the discussion but said she does not believe that this is the right time to conduct this audit. She encouraged people to read the audits done on the school district the past.

**Public Hearing**

David Gomez said there must be transparency. He disagreed that the timing is not right to have this audit done. He said there is some misuse of funds.

Robert Cowles said there is fraud somewhere in the District, and there is waste somewhere in the District, and it just has not been found yet. He said this could also uncover good practices.

Trustee Child asked that he be allowed to take this to the Audit Advisory Committee to get feedback and develop a scope of services and come back and report to the full Board.

Trustee Cranor suggested that the Board should first have a review of their Clarity and Focus Strategic Imperative before entertaining engaging someone to find information that may be already available.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he would have staff collect some information and have it available for a discussion at the April work session. He said staff could also review the budget process with the Board at the work session as requested by Trustee Edwards.

Trustee Edwards suggested that the Audit Advisory Committee should review the MGT Audit and the Gibson Report.

## **APPROVE LEGISLATION**

Approval regarding state and federal legislation which may affect education, including, but not limited to, reports of current legislative issues and events; the development of the District's legislative goals, platform, and courses of action; the establishment of the District's position on proposed legislation; and guidance to District representatives in the legislative process.

Nicole Rourke, Executive Director, Government Affairs, Ancillary Support, gave an update on the 2017 Legislative Session.

## **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION**

None.

## **AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Trustee Edwards requested that the transgender policy discussion come back by the end of March.

Trustee Garvey formally requested agenda items for the April work session regarding the forensic audit and the budget processes.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Edwards announced that the Association of Public Television Stations' annual meeting would include the Northern Public Television Station and Southern Nevada Public Television, Vegas PBS, to discuss legislative issues and funding for Vegas PBS and would be meeting with legislators. She reported that over 18,000 people tuned in to watch the premier of *African-Americans: The Las Vegas Experience* last Monday with repeat broadcasts expected to double that number; that Vegas PBS held its 8<sup>th</sup> CCSD job fair last Tuesday with over 70 people completing applications and many securing employment prerequisites; and that on Wednesday Vegas PBS held its quarterly military veterans and spouses job fair.

## **DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS**

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

David Gomez said 87 percent of English Language Learner (ELL) funds are spent on employee salaries, and 13 percent is spent on children, and he questioned whether that money is being spent effectively.

**ADJOURN:** 8:37 p.m.

*Motion: Child    Second: Edwards    Vote: Unanimous*