

Minutes  
Clark County School District  
Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees  
Las Vegas Academy of the Arts High School, Lowden Theater  
875 E. Clark Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Thursday, March 25, 2021

5:04 p.m.

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

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

**Teleconference Call Connected**

Teleconference call with Trustee Ford and Trustee Williams was connected at 5:04 p.m.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

*Adopt agenda, except delete Item 3.03.*

*Motion: Williams Second: Guzmán Vote: Unanimous*

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

In-person public comments:

Lesia Rucker, a Vollara representative, spoke about how Vollara can use technology to remove contaminants in the air and help CCSD reopen schools safely and without the need for face coverings.

Tracy Leonard said CCSD leadership, and specifically Region 2 leadership, ignored her doctors' recommendations and denied her request to continue working remotely. She said she requested a transfer to Las Vegas from Sandy Valley to be closer to emergency care in the instance that she experiences an asthma exacerbation, which could be life-threatening.

Jeremy Bojorques stated that his daughter has a 504 Plan but the school has not done anything to accommodate or to help her. He said he attended a Board meeting a year and the issue was resolved but was reversed one week later. He said his daughter's treatment has been approved and then denied on more than five occasions.

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

Alec Lazarou spoke about the health of students, parents, teachers, and the community, and specifically about the mental health of children ages 11 to 17. He stated, as presented to the Board previously, that he believes a combination of breathing technics, meditation, and Brain Gym® would be beneficial.

Nichole Beer said the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was presented to the Board regarding specialists is not being followed. She named several famous people who have talked about how public education and specialists helped them become who they are. She said she is not going to let the Board let disenfranchised students down.

Jim Frazee said the Clark County Education Association (CCEA) supports its specialists, and he said specialists are feeling frustrated because they are not being allowed to do what they were trained for. He asked that Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, reconsider the deployment of some of the specialists.

Angie Sullivan said specialists have been taking on three or four times their workload for decades and it only became a problem due to the circumstances of the pandemic and now specialists are being asked to monitor students.

Paula Avery shared that her daughter was viciously attacked because of her race by a group of students of color. She said it is important that the District's anti-racists policy include, race, religion, ancestry, and gender identity.

Voice-recorded public comments:

Autumn Tampa said many District employees feel disheartened and disappointed. She said the recent actions of the Board, the Superintendent, and the labor organizations have created a distrustful, hostile, toxic, and exhausting work environment.

Dr. S. S. Rogers said the Historic West Las Vegas community is in need of racial healing and social justice for the students and for their families. He said their education and community issues are being shut down more so now through some of the Trustees and the Superintendent. He said with regard to the legislative session, even with their concerns regarding some Trustees, they still want to maintain the right to elect school Board members.

Dolly Rowan said she is concerned with what is happening to the specialists as schools reopen. She said specialists are being exposed to the entire school and risking their health and safety, and it is CCEA's job to keep all teachers safe. She commended Trustee Cavazos for everything she is doing for mental health and suicide prevention in the community and for CCSD staff and students. She thanked the Trustees for supporting anti-racism and asked that they support Assemblywoman Brittney Miller in her efforts.

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

Erin Dressler expressed frustration that her child will be spending her school day inside the classroom and said she wants her child to be outside and in the larger art, music, and library rooms where more social distancing is possible. She asked that students be allowed to attend the specials classes so specialists can teach them.

Vicki Kreidel spoke about the value of each educator in the District and specifically about what specialists provide to students. She expressed concern with how specialists are being treated. She said they are being put at high risk, being treated as babysitters, and they are not able to teach in their content areas.

Angie Sullivan expressed concern that the MOA for specialists is not being followed. She reminded the Board that union staff put language in the MOA that working conditions need to be fair and safe and that specialists should not have to teach outside of their assignment and be exposed to more people than any other staff.

Kenny Belknap spoke in support of all the specialists voicing their concerns regarding the MOA not being properly implemented. He said there has been a failure of communication and building administrators are being allowed to do whatever they want. He said specialists need to be treated like the professionals they are.

Delia Delgado said she is having difficulty understanding how the elementary specials schedule as drafted by the District creates a manageable workload for the teachers or how it is prioritized for the students. She said she thought CCEA and the District agreed to let teachers and administrators draft a schedule that was best for their teachers and students.

Marie Neisess said specialists and all educators are frustrated by the lack of implementation of the MOA. She said they negotiated flexibility for individual school sites to meet their needs and provide effective instruction in the safest way possible. She said plans agreed to by educators and site administrators have been denied by CCSD.

Jessica Jones expressed concerns regarding elementary specialists. She said specialists and their site administrators have created and submitted plans on the promise from the District that they would be able to implement the approved plans. She said in some cases these plans are being denied multiple times by the Deputy Superintendent.

Brandon Summers stated substitute teachers do not get paid during spring break. He said substitute teachers should be entitled to the same benefits as other educators.

Sarah Comroe said Dr. William H. Bailey Middle School has not received the appropriate funding, and she asked the Board to investigate that issue. She said the Board has still not placed an anti-racist policy on their agenda and asked that the Board please write the policy.

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

Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office, provided a summary of the written comments submitted, as follows:

The Northwest Area Residents Association said that with elementary and secondary schools reopened for in-class learning and evening custodial services in place for routine cleaning and additional Covid disinfection protocol, this provides the usual onsite staff protocol for after-school, non-District, indoor meeting access. They request that the CCSD make a formal announcement at this school Board meeting that the CCSD open schools-open doors policy be reinstated for after-school, indoor facility use for non-District residents and civic organizations with CCSD school masks and social distancing guidelines.

A parent said that as long as there is no spike in Covid cases, high schools should open up full time in the fall for the mental health of the teens. He said in April his son will only be on campus two days a week for four hours and said he feels that the two-day cohort will not be good for many people in the fall.

A person wrote asking the reason why specials are not allowed to be taught when the kids return on April 6, 2021, like they were before. The writer would like schools opened full time for all students, including sports, specials, activities, recess, and lunches. In addition, they asked that people be able to choose to stay home if that is what feels right for them or choose to go to school if that is what feels right for them.

The Las Vegas Association of Black School Educators said that they are committed to putting our kids first. In order for students to feel safe, respected, and connected to their school communities, an anti-racism policy is necessary. As funding sources are made available, they would like to see equity. In addition, they mentioned that they are not in support of principals having to reapply for their jobs after a certain number of years or a hybrid method of selecting Board of School Trustees members. They said they are not in support of the Superintendent's contract.

A writer expressed concern with the elementary specialists being required to supervise and babysit instead of teaching in their content. In addition, he is concerned that a small percentage of students have returned to the building but there are over 95 percent of the teachers in the building risking their families' safety to watch kids on Chromebooks.

An educator wrote about concerns with the specialist teachers in the elementary schools. She said that there are mandates in place for music, library, and art; however, recent actions seem like the mandates are being thrown to the wind. She asked why instructional plans are being denied by the Deputy Superintendent, forcing specialists to watch students, sometimes up to hundreds if you combine in-person and distance education, and not teach.

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

A parent is concerned with CCSD's handling of school reopening plans when it comes to specialists. It was said that principals would have the autonomy to develop plans. He said even though CCSD has struggled with what autonomy is in the reorganization, he was hopeful that they would change their ways when they cited Assembly Bill (AB) 469 as a reason. In addition, he said there are stories that principals' plans for specialists are getting rejected at the elementary level by the Deputy Superintendent.

An elementary teacher asked why specialists are begin treated as if they are not as valuable as a grade level classroom teacher and added that music, humanities, science, art, and physical education are all valuable curriculum that are important to young students as they develop and grow. He said that elementary specialists should be able to teach their curriculum and should not be seen as the breaker for prep periods and be forced to monitor hundreds of students online and in person instead of teaching their curriculum.

**Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda**

Approval of consent agenda, as submitted, as recommended.

In-person public comments:

Diana Battista spoke on Item 3.12, specifically Bid Number 20052ELK, Camera and Audio/Video Equipment, and said CCSD continues to oppose cameras in the classrooms of nonverbal students who are unable to report child abuse. She said these students have the highest rates of abuse in CCSD. She stated although money has been a concern for CCSD, they have \$500,000.00 to equip schools and administrative departments with cameras.

Tracy Leonard said spoke on Item 3.07 and said there are administrators telling teachers to cancel surgeries or treatments that have been on hold because of Covid, which has a financial impact on the employee in planning for these surgeries or treatments. She said the Board is insensitive and lacks leadership for the safety and security of students and employees but will not always have unlimited access to tax dollars to cover up their abuse and neglect.

Anna Binder spoke on Items 3.12, 5.01, 5.02, and 5.05. She said a lot of money is being allocated to speech, language, and wraparound services, and she said special education parents want to request an audit of the Medicaid billing over the past year. She asked if information would be provided on where the \$1.8 million for social and mental health would be distributed. She said the charter schools need to invest in the Title I areas. She said she has found credible discrepancies in Infinite Campus related to the reported daily average enrollment. She said with regard to Item 5.05, she does not support disruption of the District at this time, and she would never support replacing an appointed board of any kind with appointees.

*Motion to adopt the consent agenda.*

*Motion: Guzmán    Second: Brooks    Vote: Unanimous*

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

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

Discussion and possible action on the approval of the minutes from the special meeting of February 3, 2021, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** (Ref. 3.01)

### **3.02 Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Clark County School District and Eye Care 4 Kids for School-Based Vision Services.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to enter into an Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Clark County School District and Eye Care 4 Kids to extend access of availability to School-Based Vision Services to siblings under 18 years of age who reside with students enrolled in Clark County School District and cease to limit immediate family access to after-school hours, effective March 26, 2021, through May 20, 2023, 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 Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement, with no impact to the general fund, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Karla Loría] (Ref. 3.02)

### **3.04 Amended Grant Application: Social Workers in Schools for Continued Funding Nevada Department of Education.**

Discussion and possible action on authorization to accept additional grant funding from the Nevada Department of Education to provide added social work and mental health support services to schools under the Social Workers in Schools for Continued Funding grant, in an amount of \$3,451,747.57, for a total amount of \$17,193,033.37, to be paid from State Projects, Fund 0279, from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021, with no impact to the general fund, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mike Barton] (Ref. 3.04)

### **3.05 Oversight Panel for School Facilities Membership.**

Discussion and possible action on approval of membership to the Oversight Panel for School Facilities, as indicated, for a one-year term expiring December 31, 2021, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jason Goudie] (Ref. 3.05)

### **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: Jason Goudie] (Ref. 3.06)

### **3.07 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 February 1, 2021, through February 28, 2021, in the official Board minutes as required by Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 354.598005, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jason Goudie] (Ref. 3.07)

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

**3.08 Professional Services Agreement – Respiratory Protection Training and Fit Testing Services.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to increase the professional service agreement for respiratory protection training, qualitative fit testing, and professional industrial hygiene and safety services with Best of the West Safety for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00, effective March 26, 2021, through June 30, 2021, to be paid from Fund 7000000000, Cost Center 5070001765, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jason Goudie] (Ref. 3.08)

**3.09 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. 3.09)

**3.10 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. 3.10)

**3.11 Purchase Orders.**

Discussion and possible action on ratification of the purchase orders in the total amount of \$2,151,531.32 as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mike Casey] (Ref. 3.11)

**3.12 Purchasing Awards.**

Discussion and possible action on approval to purchase goods or services in the estimated total amount of \$22,729,417.00 in compliance with NRS 332, as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mike Casey] (Ref. 3.12)

**3.13 Contract Award: School Replacement at Gene Ward Elementary School.**

Discussion and possible action on approval of award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the replacement at Gene Ward Elementary School in the amount of \$28,710,781.00, to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000, Project C0001634; and for Jeff Wagner, Chief of Facilities, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee to sign the granting documents, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jeff Wagner] (Ref. 3.13)

**3.14 Change in Services.**

Discussion and possible action on ratification of total change in services to the architectural/engineering services agreement for a net increase of \$109,646.00 to the agreements for Oran K. Gragson Elementary School (\$109,646.00) to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000, Project C0014610, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jeff Wagner] (Ref. 3.14)

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

**3.15 Vegas PBS Outdoor Nevada Host Commercial Talent Agency/Thunder Road Productions.**

Discussion and possible action on authorization to extend the Contract for Services of an Independent Contractor, Commercial Talent Agency/Thunder Road Productions, to host 20 episodes of the Vegas PBS series Outdoor Nevada as well as reimbursement for travel, lodging, additional promotional appearances, and workman's compensation insurance in accordance with CCSD policies, for an additional amount of \$40,000.00 from March 26, 2021, through June 30, 2021, for an amount not to exceed \$110,000.00, to be paid from grant and donor funds in Unit 0140, FY 2020-2021, Fund 2200000000, with no impact to the general fund, is recommended.

**(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mary F. Mazur] (Ref. 3.15)

**Formative Board Reports and Updates**

None.

**Budget Update**

Presentation and discussion on the current budget forecast related to the most recent actual financial information available.

Jason Goudie, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Unit, presented the budget update for fiscal year 2021, as shown in Reference 5.01.

**Approve 2021 Winter Application Cycle for Proposed Charter Schools**

Approval regarding the proposed State Public Charter School Authority sponsored public charter schools for the 2021 Winter Application Cycle.

Dan Tafoya, Director, Office of Charter Schools, College, Career, Equity and School Choice Unit, presented the 2021 Winter Application Cycle for Proposed Charter Schools, as shown in Reference 5.02.

*Motion to accept staff's recommendation.*

*Motion: Guzmán    Second: Cepeda    Vote: Unanimous*

**Notice of Intent – Clark County School District Regulation 6150, Instructional Materials and Services**

Approval of the Notice of Intent to Adopt, Repeal, or Amend Clark County School District Regulation 6150, Instructional Materials and Services, prior to submission to the Board of School Trustees for approval on Thursday, April 22, 2021, as recommended in Reference 5.03.

In-person public comments:

Susan Slykerman spoke in favor of Item 5.03, stating diversity in school library and English Language Acquisition (ELA) materials as well as true and appropriate depiction of American history is needed in schools and in all school materials.



**Notice of Intent – Clark County School District Regulation 6150, Instructional Materials and Services** (continued)

Nichole Beer said she was in favor of Item 5.03. She said Regulation 6150 is a progressive library policy that recognizes historically disenfranchised groups and talks about what the District stands for in terms of diversity.

Mrs. Krohn provided a summary of the written comment submitted, as follows:

A CCSD librarian is in support of this item, stating that the language is more inclusive in guaranteeing diversity within materials representative of our community. They said it also ensures every student is afforded the same opportunities for equitable materials, and that a trained individual is available to curate, manage, deliver, and guide students throughout the use of materials.

Robert Jones, Coordinator, K-12 Library Services, Literacy and Language Development, Academic Unit, discussed the work that went into the development of the amended draft of Regulation 6150 and the reasons for the amendment.

Trustee Ford asked if there was anything in place to ensure principals would be selecting people from diverse backgrounds to serve on the school's library media center committee as described in Reference 5.03, page 4, number 2.

Mr. Jones said the regulation addresses the importance of the inclusiveness of diversity in each of the different materials as well as in the people that provide those materials. He said the principal and the library committee should be considering those parameters in the selection of materials and in any group that is formed to assist with the selection of materials.

Trustee Ford referred to page 7, section B, and asked if the Board could receive a report three months after implementation of this regulation instead of in one year.

Superintendent Jara said yes, that can be provided.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Cepeda    Second: Brooks    Vote: Unanimous*

**Legislative Updates**

Discussion and update regarding state legislation that could affect education, including, but not limited to, reports of current legislative issues and events; the establishment of the District's position on proposed legislation; and guidance to the superintendent and legislative staff.

Dr. Brad Keating, Director, Government Relations Department, Office of the Superintendent, provided an update on the current legislative session.

### **Adopt Resolution in Opposition of Appointed School Boards**

Adoption of a resolution in opposition to proposed legislation introduced in the 81<sup>st</sup> (2021) Session of the Nevada State Legislature that would seek to change the method by which the Board of School Trustees are chosen, i.e., from an elected method to a hybrid elected and appointed method.

Voice-recorded public comment and written comment:

Dr. S. S. Rogers said the Ministers Alliance of Southern Nevada has been coming to CCSD Board meetings for over 20 years and still receive minimal consideration.

Trustee Cavazos and Trustee Cepeda read the proposed resolution shown in Reference 5.05.

*Motion to approve the resolution in opposition of appointed school boards.*

*Motion: Guzmán Second: Ford Vote: Unanimous*

### **Trustee Discussion Items**

Trustee Cavazos shared that she and Superintendent Jara are looking at holding a type of community forum focused on an anti-racist policy to gather input from the community.

### **Trustee Community Activity Reports**

None.

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

None.

### **Board Self-Assessment Assignment**

None.

### **Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

Trustee Cavazos said the meeting of April 7, 2021, would be a retreat held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and would be streamed live on CCSD.net and on Facebook Live on the CCSD Facebook page.

**Adjourn:** 7:04 p.m.

*Motion: Brooks Second: Cepeda Vote: Unanimous*