

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, April 10, 2014

4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Erin E. Cranor, President
Linda E. Young, Vice President
Patrice Tew, Clerk
Stavan Corbett, Member
Carolyn Edwards, Member
Chris Garvey, Member
Deanna L. Wright, Member

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

FLAG SALUTE

Chaparral High School Junior ROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Imam Mustafa Yunus Richards of Islamic Information Center performed the invocation.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda, except note additional reference material for Items 5.07 and 7.01, note revised confidential reference material for Item 5.05, move Item 7.04 to follow Item 9.01 as 9.01a, and move Item 7.03 to precede Item 7.02.

Motion: Young Second: Edwards Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Wright and Trustee Garvey were not present for the vote.

STUDENT REPORTS

Julian Sanchez, student body president at Chaparral High School; Sophie Arrowsmith, student body president at Green Valley High School; and Emilee Bowen, student body president at Las Vegas High School, all represented by Erin Cranor, District G Trustee, gave brief overviews of present and future activities, plans, and goals for their respective schools.

PRESENTATION OF NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

Recognition of Nevada Arts Council for grants awarded to Clark County School District teachers, arts programs, and schools. Judy Myers, Assistant Director, School-Community Partnership Program, Clark County School District.

PRESENTATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Presentation of fund-raising efforts by Clark County School District Police Department for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Steve Cabrales, Nevada State Director, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Nevada.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Superintendent Skorkowsky shared recent activities and accomplishments of CCSD students, teachers, and schools throughout the District.

RECESS: 4:41 p.m.

RECONVENE: 5:20 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Donald Burns spoke in favor of a salary increase for guest teachers.

Lou Filardo offered the book *Hostile Fire: The Life and Death of Lt. Sharon A. Lane* written by Philip Bigler to CCSD employees. He stated that Mr. Bigler also wrote a book addressing problems in the American education system and possible solutions.

Gene Collins spoke about personnel issues concerning Dr. Andre Denson.

Tracey Fannin stated that she has been the victim of bullying and harassment. She spoke about instances in which she has had to report some students for inappropriate behavior.

Jason Lamberth said he recently found that during an investigation at Thurman White Middle School shortly following his daughter's death, no information regarding the online bullying submission involving his daughter had been provided to the investigating officer. He said school administrators and staff that are responsible for upholding those policies, regulations, and laws in place to protect children need to be held accountable.

Daniel Lincoln stated that a CCSD police officer has reported that CCSD administrators purposely failed to report incidents of bullying and violence. He said since his niece's death, the District has not made any changes to its bullying policies, and no one has been held accountable.

Charlene Peeters and Victoria Peeters spoke against the closing of Ombudsman Educational Services. They spoke about the benefits of the Ombudsman program.

Debbie Burish expressed concern regarding school safety, vapor pens, bullying, suicide, abuse, and "slap ass Fridays." She asked that these issues be addressed.

Wendy Novick said she is concerned with the bullying issue, air conditioning in her child's school, and no hot lunches for her children. She said she is disappointed in the District because she has tried to have these issue resolved with no response.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of Consent Agenda.

Public Hearing

Stephen Augspurger said he has not seen any data associated with the expenditures tied to the ongoing contract with Erik Keiser as shown in Item 5.09. He said the approval of this contract should be reevaluated.

Motion to approve the consent agenda, noting the revised and additional reference material.

Motion: Edwards Second: Tew

Trustee Cranor agreed that the District should develop some data for all its contracts which has begun.

Trustee Young suggested conducting a type of evaluation of the contracts from individuals who have participated in the particular service provided under the contract.

Vote on Trustee Edwards' motion was unanimous.

Trustees Wright and Garvey were not present for the vote.

- 5.01 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL. Discussion and possible action on authorization to submit and implement the Safe Routes to School Program funded by the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada under the Federal Highway Transportation Bill, with an anticipated project period of October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, to be paid from Fund 0280, in the approximate amount of \$210,000.00, with District in-kind matching funds of approximately \$14,083.77, for an approximate total project amount of \$224,083.77, is recommended [Contact Person: Joyce Haldeman] (Ref. 5.01)
- 5.02 NEVADA TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM. Discussion and possible action on authorization to submit and implement the Nevada Transportation Alternatives Program funded by the Nevada Department of Transportation under the Federal Highway Transportation Bill, with an anticipated project period of October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, to be paid from Fund 0280, in the approximate amount of \$96,170.00, with District in-kind matching funds of approximately \$10,139.00, for an approximate total project amount of \$106,309.00, is recommended. [Contact Person: Joyce Haldeman] (Ref. 5.02)
- 5.03 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) [Contact Person: Dr. Mike Barton] (Ref. 5.03)
- 5.04 LICENSED PERSONNEL DISMISSAL RECOMMENDATION. Discussion and resolution to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for dismissal, is recommended. (CONFIDENTIAL) [Contact Person: Staci Vesneske] (Ref. 5.04)

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 5.05 NONRENEWAL OF PROBATIONARY LICENSED CONTRACTS. Discussion and possible action on approval to notify probationary licensed employees of nonrenewal of contracts, is recommended. (CONFIDENTIAL) [Contact Person: Staci Vesneske] (Ref. 5.05)
- 5.06 PURCHASE ORDERS. Discussion and possible action on ratification of the purchase orders in the total amount of \$877,920.24, as listed, is recommended.
[Contact Person: Jim McIntosh] (Ref. 5.06)
- 5.07 PURCHASING AWARDS. Discussion and possible action on approval to purchase goods or services in the estimated total amount of \$3,588,700.00, in compliance with NRS 332, as listed, is recommended. [Contact Person: Jim McIntosh] (Ref. 5.07)
- 5.08 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. [Contact Person: Jim McIntosh] (Ref. 5.08)
- 5.09 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – ERIK W. KIESER. Discussion and possible action on authorization to continue to contract with Erik W. Kieser for communication training for various operational departments throughout the District and the Board of School Trustees; expenditures for this supplier for the Board of School Trustees in the amount of \$2,353.31, the Office of the Superintendent in the amount of \$11,479.00, the Business and Finance Division in the amount of \$36,725.00, for a total amount of \$50,557.31 have already been completed; to include proposed additional purchases of an approximate cost of \$30,000.00, for an approximate total cost of \$80,557.31, effective April 11, 2014, through June 30, 2014, to be paid from Unit 0070, FY14, Internal Order 500750, Fund 1700000000, and other general fund accounts as identified, is recommended.
[Contact Person: Jim McIntosh] (Ref. 5.09)
- 5.10 CONTRACT AWARD: LOCAL AREA NETWORK SYSTEM REPLACEMENT, DOROTHY EISENBERG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Discussion and possible action on approval of an award of contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the replacement of the local area networking system at Dorothy Eisenberg Elementary School, to be paid from the 1998 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3080000000, Project C0012282, and for Jim McIntosh, Chief Financial Officer, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, is recommended.
[Contact Person: Jim McIntosh] (Ref. 5.10)

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 5.11 **CONTRACT AWARD: LOCAL AREA NETWORK SYSTEM REPLACEMENT, CHARLOTTE HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** Discussion and possible action on approval of an award of contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the replacement of the local area networking system at Charlotte Hill Elementary School, to be paid from the 1998 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3080000000, Project C0012285, and for Jim McIntosh, Chief Financial Officer, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, is recommended. [Contact Person: Jim McIntosh] (Ref. 5.11)
- 5.12 **CHANGE ORDERS.** Discussion and possible action on ratification of total change orders for a net increase of \$172,609.88 plus 41 days to the construction contract for the HVAC Modernization at Robert E. Lake Elementary School (CORE Construction Company), HVAC School Modernization at Rose Warren Elementary School (Addison, Inc.), and Office Demolition and Expansion and Relocation of Portables at Food Service Cold Storage Warehouse (Roche Constructors, Inc.), is recommended. [Contact Person: Jim McIntosh] (Ref. 5.12)

APPROVAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Approval to include budgetary priorities along with strategic plan for English Language Acquisition and Literacy Development for all students.

BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES

Trustee Wright arrived at the Board meeting at 5:53 p.m.

TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Garvey was connected at 5:53 p.m.

APPROVAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

(continued)

Public Hearing

Yvette Williams presented information and documentation in support of this agenda item. She spoke about the ongoing efforts to gain access to equitable education for all students. She asked that the Board adopt the recommendation before them and adopt the term "English Language Acquisition" (ELA) as CCSD's literacy policy.

Magdalena Martinez spoke in favor of Item 6.01 and urged the Board to focus on the four priorities that are outlined, which are the achievement gap as it relates to long-term English Language Learner (ELL) students, parental involvement, professional development, and continued support and wraparound services for Zoom Schools.

Sylvia Lazos spoke about the importance of increasing the student achievement of ELL students through making those efforts the focus of future plans in increasing the performance of the District.

APPROVAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

(continued)

Hergit Llenas spoke in support of approval of this item and in support of what was stated by the previous speakers.

Gil Lopez spoke in support of this item. He said in terms of issues concerning education, ELL plays a signification role.

Victoria Carreon provided a paper written by the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, which she says contains research that supports the item before the Board.

Linda Beesley spoke about the National Education Association's (NEA's) training for closing the achievement gap for ELL students, as well as addressing culture and equity, with support offered to CCSD teachers through the Clark County Education Association (CCEA) and CCEA's implementation of these courses.

Marzette Lewis questioned why so much money is being spent on learning English for Hispanics and none being spent on those who speak English to learn Spanish.

Trustee Corbett said this is an opportunity to begin to look at this issue and ensure there is equal opportunity surrounding literacy, ELL students, and impoverished students. He said a lot of this work and language comes as a result of the work of the English Language Review Committee.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said the District has been working very closely with the members of the Latino Leadership Council's education committee, members of the Clark County Black Caucus and listening to concerns of the community that language matters are not restricted to second language issues. He said the District is in the process of working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an outside entity to help develop a long-term plan for the English Language Acquisition program, which will include involving the community members that have been involved to date, as well as internal staff members.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff is also working on the strategic plan, which includes the priorities listed in the backup material, and professional development will also be included in this plan to support schools in these priorities and to support the long-term learners who have not yet achieved language acquisition skills. He said there has also been discussions regarding revamping the District's entire parent engagement focus, which involves placing individuals who speak other languages in positions where they are working directly with parents, teachers, and administrators. He said the final piece is to look at the value of current and future programs to determine the return on investment.

Trustee Young said she is pleased with the steps that are being taken. She said she would like to include more support for summer programs in the future.

APPROVAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

(continued)

Trustee Edwards said the state would have to provide funding for the District to be able to accomplish all that needs to be done. She said she believes the Council of the Great City Schools also has some resources that could be useful. She applauded that work that is beginning. She expressed concern about what is being done to support students who come to the District with literacy needs in the 10th grade.

Trustee Corbett suggested that it would be helpful to define ELL or ESL. He said once that is established, they can begin to move forward in a more strategic manner.

Trustee Tew said there are students who are not proficient in their own language, making English language acquisition even more difficult. She said academic literacy of their first language needs to be addressed. She asked if there was professional development that would address this issue.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said they are not focusing on the bilingual aspect but on the English language. He said some bilingual programs do exist at the elementary school level.

Trustee Garvey expressed appreciation for the work that is being done in this area.

Motion that "agenda Item 6.01 regarding discussion and possible action to include budgetary priorities with regard to a strategic plan for English Language Acquisition and Literacy Development for all students be part of the dialogue moving forward and providing the direction for the Superintendent."

Motion: Corbett

Trustee Cranor asked if part of the motion would be to adopt the language in the backup material as guidance.

Trustee Corbett agreed.

Trustee Tew seconded the motion.

Trustee Cranor agreed with what has been shared here, and she expressed appreciation.

Vote on Trustee Corbett's motion was unanimous.

APPROVE NOTICE OF INTENT – CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULATION 3432

Approval of the Notice of Intent to Adopt, Repeal, or Amend Clark County School District Regulation 3432, District Claim Resolution, prior to submission to the Board of School Trustees for approval on May 8, 2014, as recommended in Reference 7.01.

Superintendent Skorkowsky explained that this Notice of Intent is to bring Regulation 3432 up to date in response to legislative action which made changes to NRS 386.365.

Trustee Edwards said the statute allows the Board to increase the limits of the amount of resolutions that are allowed and the limits that are required for the Board to act on but does not require them to do so. She said she has some concern about raising all of these limits to the levels that are being suggested. She asked if the Board would be notified of the other claims that are paid out.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff does currently provide notification to the Board.

Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, offered that the claims that he settles come before the Board for approval. He clarified that the state does raise the limit, and what is at question here is whether the Board would allow staff to settle the claims without Board action.

Trustee Edwards suggested that the Board receive an annual report of the total claims.

Motion to accept.

Motion: Edwards Second: Young Vote: Unanimous

APPROVE WAIVER OF UNASSIGNED ENDING FUND BALANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014–2015

Approval of a waiver of the 2 percent ending fund balance required by Regulation 3110 for the 2014-2015 budget, as recommended in Reference 7.03.

Motion to approve a waiver of the 2 percent ending fund balance as required by Regulation 3110 for the 2014-2015 budget, recognizing that the District is in a four-year plan to raise the ending fund balance back to 2 percent, so this waiver will not be required at the end of the four-year plan.

Motion: Edwards Second: Young Vote: Unanimous

APPROVE 2014-2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Approval to Development and adoption of the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget, and authorization for members of the Board of School Trustees to file as required by NRS 354.596; and to authorize the Superintendent to initiate a reduction in force because of a lack of money or lack of work, per NRS 288.150(3)(b), as recommended in Reference 7.02.

APPROVE 2014-2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET (continued)

Public Hearing

Rudy Flores spoke about the return on investment the District receives from Ombudsman Educational Services.

Michele Jones spoke on behalf of the students of Ombudsman Educational Services and expressed their concerns regarding the possible closing of the Ombudsman Center, and she provided written letters from the students.

Therese DiVerde read letters from the students of Ombudsman Educational Services opposing the possible discontinuation of the program.

Mary Nelson spoke about why she chose to work with the students of Ombudsman Educational Services and how this program is helping so many children and young adults.

Yvette Williams said she was unaware of the Ombudsman program, and she asked that the Board not make a decision tonight, if possible, and reconsider and give the community the opportunity to learn about the program.

Gina Greisen asked if the Board members have visited the Ombudsman Center or have spoken with any of the students in this program. She suggested that the Board should do that before they make a decision.

Erika Greisen said it would be a mistake to discontinue the Ombudsman program. She said she had a friend that was able to graduate only because of this program.

Petra Wilson said she was not aware of the Ombudsman program. She said her concern is students being enrolled in a virtual high school program. She said she would not recommend a virtual high school program for a student who needs monitoring.

April Cramer talked about the issues the students in the Ombudsman program face, and she asked the Board to reconsider their decision. She said these students deserve this opportunity.

Superintendent Skorkowsky explained that changes have been made to CCSD's Virtual High School and Academy of Individualized Study (AIS) so that it is now a blended learning program that includes face-to-face learning and is now called The Nevada Learning Academy at CCSD. He said calls are being made to every student at home to talk with them and their families about the transition back into the different environments the District has to offer.

Trustee Young asked if The Nevada Learning Academy at CCSD program compares to the services offered at Ombudsman Learning Academy.

APPROVE 2014-2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET (continued)

Superintendent Skorkowsky said new structures are being put in place to support these students and meet their needs.

Trustee Edwards offered that in working on the Board's Strategic Imperatives, the Superintendent is specifically looking at the value of the programs the District is investing in and the return on that investment.

Motion to accept the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget.

Motion: Edwards Second: Corbett

Trustee Cranor said that in her opinion, AIS was not adequate for the needs of certain students two years ago, and she expressed gratitude for the Ombudsman program and the opportunity it gave students.

Trustee Young asked if in the future a program like Ombudsman was needed, would there be an RFP process.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said that would be an opportunity in the future, if needed.

Trustee Tew also thanked Ombudsman Educational Services.

Vote on Trustee Edwards' motion was unanimous.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

None.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Cranor requested that the Board's May work session include a discussion about the alignment of the plan specific to the budget to be announced during the State of the District Address.

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Wright shared that the Public Education Foundation Teacher Exchange was recognized by Mutual of America and received the Award Winning Community Partnership award.

Trustee Edwards reminded everyone that on April 15 Vegas PBS would be airing "The Address," a documentary by Ken Burns about a school in Vermont where students are encouraged to deliver the Gettysburg Address in a public setting.

Trustee Garvey reported on the Policy Governance® training she attended with Trustee Young and how it was interesting to listen to other attendees and see how there is a different application of this governing model for elected boards.

BOARD REPORTS (continued)

Trustee Young reported on the program My Brother's Keeper being led by Nevada Partners. She said they are looking to roll that program out sometime in mid-May. She reported on the Council of the Great City Schools and its mission and some of its priorities. She also reported on the recent National Association of School Boards (NSBA) conference.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Stephen Augspurger said he would like to acknowledge the difficulty of the Board's work. He said the Board and the District need to reinforce their beliefs that the schools and the students are the most important through the decisions they make.

Tracy Fannin said she was a 2nd-grade teacher and is now a K-12 teacher in a reading program. She said she likes the program, and she is trying to help students using this program. She said the District needs to look to change and not discourage it. She said she needed to be transferred to a position more suited to her strengths.

Erika Greisen shared her experience with bullying, and said the Board at that time did nothing to help her. She said she has witnessed other students being bullied, and something needs to change.

Marzette Lewis said society is in the same position today as it was 50 years ago when the Civil Rights Act was signed. She said until people start speaking up and speaking out, nothing will change.

Gene Collins spoke about what he feels is the wrongful demotion of Dr. Andre Denson, and he hoped that the Superintendent would investigate this matter. He said he is opposed to the omission of any provision in the Zoom Schools program that speaks to English-speaking students learning Spanish. He asked how out-of-district consultants are compensated.

Lou Filardo said the book *Hostile Fire: The Life and Death of Lt. Sharon A. Lane* should be included in the CCSD curriculum. He shared an excerpt from the book.

Gina Greisen said her experience with CCSD has never really been a good experience. She said the bullying situation needs to be addressed. She asked if all Board members have completed the required training on bullying and cyber-bullying.

Joe Neal said his observation is that the Board is not efficient in the area of developing policy.

Terri Shuman said support and services for ELL students that come into the District in higher grades need to change.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (continued)

Roy Lee expressed concern with the situation involving Dr. Andre Denson. He said Dr. Denson is a good person who helped Mr. Lee and his wife through a difficult time. He said he would appreciate it if the Superintendent would look into the matter concerning Dr. Denson.

Petra Wilson expressed concerns related to the Title VII budget for the Indian Education Opportunities Program.

Diana Croci also spoke about issues of transparency surrounding the Title VII budget the Indian Education Opportunities Program.

EMPLOYEE LABOR RELATIONS AND CLOSED SESSION

Approval of closed session pursuant to NRS 288.

Motion: Edwards Second: Wright Vote: Unanimous

RECESS: 7:25 p.m.

RECONVENE: 9:21 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS LEAVE

Trustee Garvey and Trustee Wright left the Board meeting at 9:21 p.m.

ADJOURN: 9:21 p.m.

Motion: Edwards Second: Tew Vote: Unanimous

Trustees Garvey and Wright were not present for the vote.