

Minutes
Clark County School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees

TELECONFERENCE ONLY

Thursday, September 24, 2020

5:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Lola Brooks, President
Linda P. Cavazos, Vice President
Danielle Ford, Clerk
Irene Cepeda, Member
Chris Garvey, Member
Deanna L. Wright, Member
Linda E. Young, Member

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

Adoption of the Agenda

Adopt agenda, except note reference material provided for Item 5.03.

Motion: Cavazos Second: Cepeda Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Wright was not present for the vote.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

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

Item 3.04

An education group wrote supporting the proposed expenditure on WIDA testing. They said English Language Learner (ELL) enrollment has decreased by 10,511 students or 15 percent and asked Trustees to examine if a drop in identified ELL students is related to a prior decision to place responsibility for identification and WIDA testing with schools and away from the ELL department.

Item 5.03

Several comments were received stating distance learning is not working. Many writers expressed that they want the schools to reopen, stating the following concerns:

Classes are too long and suggested they be shorter and recorded so parents can work with their children.

They would like to have their classes recorded but not all parents in the classroom gave permission making it difficult to help their child out.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (continued)

Parents are having trouble keeping their Pre-K students in front of a computer for six hours a day with very few breaks in between.

A person said it is hard for working parents to help their young children and hoped there will be options for working families.

Children are having trouble with the Campus portal, Infinite Campus, Canvas, assignments, and being marked absent.

Children feel overwhelmed, frustrated, and depressed and would like to return to school.

Another said their 3rd-grader has to log in six separate times a day and needs to have multiple windows open to follow along in class.

Families and kids are being put through stress, and working parents are begin pulled and stretched to unimaginable lengths.

A parent is concerned there are only four live sessions that never exceed 30 minutes and much of that time there are technical and other issues. They are also concerned there is no writing being taught.

A school changed the format in that the student meets with a grade-level teacher who prepares the subject lesson instead of their classroom teacher, stating there is very little live instruction and the class consists of up to 80 students and says there is no way a teacher can interact with all of the students.

High school students feel overwhelmed with having to do so much homework on their own.

Because of Information Technology (IT) issues, a parent said their child's test was late resulting in a lower grade.

Concern there are no labs in biotechnology and anatomy.

Concern with children having to switch between multiple websites to do their work.

It is difficult for young children who cannot read, have no experience on a keyboard, or unable to follow a teacher's instructions.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (continued)

A student feels they are not getting a good education in that there is no actual teaching and only assignments.

Students miss in-person instruction as well as their friends and teachers.

Needs are not being met for special education students.

There are concerns with the 4 x 4 classes for middle school students

Comments were received asking to continue with distance learning, stating the following reasons:

Their children are learning and feel safe.

Students and staff cannot return to schools until everyone is safe.

There are concerns with students who have underlying health issues.

Concerns there may not be enough staff and resources once everyone returns.

While a parent likes distance learning for their kindergartner, they would like to see the teacher more than one hour per day.

Others asked for a choice to attend school or continue on-line, such as:

Having Pre-K to third grade go to school in person or gradually return, such as having half-days in person or going two days in person.

Some asked for reduced schedules for elementary students.

Some wrote suggesting the following:

They would like a plan to reopen schools, asking for timelines and criteria to allow students back in the classroom.

A writer referenced slide 7 in today's presentation and said they are concerned with registration gaps and would like Trustees to examine this. They also asked Trustees to request an update from the City of Las Vegas with regards to their outreach to homeless youth.

Comments were received asking that rural schools be considered separately from their urban counterparts.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (continued)

A writer said Section 7 of Governor Sisolak's Emergency Directive 028 allows for schools to reopen school athletic fields and facilities for student training and asked why CCSD would go against the state directive.

A person asked that the Board take action on current health and safety data, review trends and procedures at the larger open school districts, large employers, large children's events, and groups working with children that have been operating effectively this year.

One suggested having an opt-in to return to school or having a delayed school year.

Many writers thanked the Board, District, and teachers for working so hard and keeping students and staff safe and for doing their best to reach out and engage students in distance learning.

Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda

Approval of consent agenda, as submitted, as recommended.

Motion to approve the consent agenda, pulling Item 3.01.

Motion: Ford Second: Young

Trustee Young asked that Item 3.02 be pulled for separate discussion.

Trustee Ford agreed to the friendly amendment.

Vote on Trustee Ford's motion was unanimous.

With regard to Item 3.02, Trustee Young said while she appreciates the School Improvement Grant and the National Institute of School Leadership, there is still a concern and there needs to be a continued effort regarding the limited number of men of color in leadership roles. She said as the District continues to do work with leadership training and with the School Improvement Grant, they need to look at the demographics of the schools and make sure they are considering equity, diversity, inclusion, and access for the population of students.

Trustee Cepeda agreed Trustee Young's comments. She said she has been pushing the Superintendent to explore some programs that would help build that pool. She said she also supports having the leadership reflect the population.

Superintendent Jara said staff is exploring an organization suggested by Trustee Cepeda to help teacher leaders become administrators to diversify the leadership pool, and that would be in addition to this training program.

Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda (continued)

Trustee Ford shared information she gathered from the Black and Latino Males Task Force session she attended at the Council of the Great City Schools conference regarding what other states had done in their efforts to ensure equitable representation of people of color, including teachers, administrators, and within the curriculum.

Trustee Cavazos said to address this issue, the District needs to have a consistent system in place that is working all the time, not something sporadic. She said as reported to her, the mentoring program has been very effective.

3.02 Professional Services, Title IV, Part A, and Title I, 1003 (a) School Improvement Grant, Nevada Department of Education.

Discussion and possible action on authorization to contract with the National Center on Education and the Economy Center on System Leadership for the purchase of the National Institute of School Leadership programming, a high-quality, job-embedded professional learning and coaching services to serve schools approved by the Nevada Department of Education, to include schools in the School Improvement Collaborative for Grades Kindergarten-8, submitted in the amount of \$2,984,124.00, to be paid from the Title IV, Part A, and Title I, 1003(a) School Improvement Grant, Fund 0280, Functional Area 10002213, effective September 25, 2020, through September 30, 2021, with no impact to the general fund, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Karla Loria] (Ref. 3.02)

3.03 Clark County School District Plan for Test Administration and Test Security 2020-2021.

Discussion and possible action on adoption of the Clark County School District Plan for Test Administration and Test Security 2020-2021 and approval to submit the adopted plan to the Nevada Department of Education, as required by Nevada Revised Statutes 390.275, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Kelly O'Rourke] (Ref. 3.03)

Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda (continued)

3.04 Student Assessment Instructional Materials: WIDA ACCESS for ELLs.

Discussion and possible action on approval to contract with the WIDA Consortium and purchase the ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency Assessment for an approximate total cost of \$1,540,650.00, effective October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, to be paid from Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement Division, Fund 0100, Cost Center 1010020055 is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Kelly O'Rourke] (Ref. 3.04)

3.05 2020B Building Bond Resolution.

Discussion and possible action on adoption of the 2020B Building Bond Resolution, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation (Limited Tax) Building Bonds, Series 2020B, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$200,000,000.00, for the Improvement Project; and authorization for the superintendent or the chief financial officer to specify the terms of the bonds, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jason Goudie] (Ref. 3.05)

Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda (continued)

3.06 2020C Medium-Term Bond Resolution.

Discussion and possible action on adoption of the 2020C Medium-Term Bond Resolution, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation (Limited Tax) Various Purpose Medium-Term Bonds, Series 2020C, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$35,000,000.00, in order to finance all or a portion of the cost of acquiring, improving, and equipping school facilities of the Clark County School District, including transportation; and authorization for the superintendent or the chief financial officer to specify the terms of the bonds, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jason Goudie] (Ref. 3.06)

3.07 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. 3.07)

3.08 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 August 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020, in the official Board minutes as required by Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 354.598005, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Jason Goudie] (Ref. 3.08)

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 Professional Services Agreement: Engagement with HireRight.

Discussion and possible action on authorization for the Clark County School District, Human Resources Division to engage in a Master Service Agreement with HireRight with an estimated annual cost of \$15,980.00 for I-9 and E-Verify verification services, and \$85,000.00 for data migration services, at a total cost of \$100,980.00, from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, with costs for services to be paid through general and medium term bond funds, respectively, in coordination with the completion of the implementation of the HCM project, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Nadine Jones] (Ref. 3.11)

Approve Adoption of Consent Agenda (continued)

3.12 Purchasing Awards.

Discussion and possible action on approval to purchase goods or services in the estimated total amount of \$11,000,640.00 in compliance with NRS 332, as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mike Casey] (Ref. 3.12)

3.13 Purchase Orders.

Discussion and possible action on ratification of the purchase orders in the total amount of \$1,791,960.31 as listed, is recommended. **(For Possible Action)** [Contact Person: Mike Casey] (Ref. 3.13)

3.14 Architectural Design Services: Classroom Addition at Oran K. Gragson Elementary School.

Discussion and possible action on approval to select the architectural firm of Ethos Three Architecture, to provide architectural design services to prepare plans, specification and other construction documents for a design, bid, and build method of construction in support of the classroom addition at Oran K. Gragson Elementary School in the amount of \$494,700.00, to be paid from the 2015 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3150000000, Project C0014610; 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. 3.14)

2020 Summer Application Cycle for Proposed Charter Schools

Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the proposed State Public Charter School Authority sponsored public charter schools for the 2020 Summer Application Cycle.

Dan Tafoya, Director, Office of Charter Schools, College, Career, Equity and School Choice Unit, and Rick Baldwin, Director, Demographics, Zoning, and GIS, Facilities Services Unit, presented the 2020 Summer Application Cycle for Proposed Charter Schools, as shown in Reference 5.01.

No action was taken on this item.

Approve Notice of Intent to Adopt, Repeal, or Amend Clark County School District Regulation 7111

Approval of the Notice of Intent to Adopt, Repeal, or Amend Clark County School District Regulation 7111, District Attendance Zoning, prior to submission to the Board of School Trustees for approval on October 22, 2020, as recommended in Reference 5.02.

Jeff Wagner, Chief of Facilities, Facilities Services Unit, presented revisions to CCSD Regulation 7111, as shown in Reference 5.02.

Motion to approve Item 5.02.

Motion: Wright Second: Young Vote: Unanimous

COVID-19 and the Clark County School District's Response

Update on COVID-19 and the Clark County School District's response.

Superintendent Jara stated that this is an update to the Board, that it does not include any recommendations to the Board to open schools in any compacity at this time.

Dr. Fermin Leguen, Acting District Health Officer, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), began the presentation on COVID-19 and the District's response, as outlined in Reference 5.03.

Recess: 6:02 p.m.

Reconvene: 6:42 p.m.

COVID-19 and the Clark County School District's Response (continued)

Dr. Leguen continued the presentation.

Trustees discussed concerns and asked questions related to how the COVID-19 positivity rate is compiled; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) positivity rate for schools; whether frequent testing of teachers would help to determine if the environment is safe for students and staff; students in charter or private schools testing positive; positivity rates broken down by zip codes; projections for COVID-19 and continuing the need for protective measures and trends in other states and countries; what would constitute a safe environment for schools to reopen; how the virus affects young people and mortality rates; possible reinfection in children; rapid or point-of-care testing; and the capability for the SNHD to conduct contact tracing if schools were to reopen.

Dr. Monica Cortez, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Student Services Division, Academic Unit; Mike Casey, Chief Operating Officer, Operational Services Unit; Dr. Karla Loria, Chief Academic Officer, Academic Unit; Rebecca Meyer, Director of Assessment, Assessment, Accountability, Research and School Improvement; Dr. Mike Barton, Chief College, Career, Equity and School Choice Officer, College, Career, Equity and School Choice Unit; Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Deputy Superintendent; Ignacio Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent, English Language Learner Division, Academic Unit; and Dr. Dustin Mancl, Region Superintendent, Region 1, continued the presentation.

Trustees discussed concerns and asked questions related to current and available GoGuardian features; the dip in Canvas logins or activity; engagement versus enrollment; the increases in wellness data; safeguards in place to address user safety concerns related to accessing the device's camera in GoGuardian; ensuring there is not a failure of the Grade Pass Back feature in Infinite Campus during quarter grades and options in the event it does occur; the number of hours children are spending online; teachers having to post in Curriculum Engine as well as in Canvas; issues with Canvas programming and work being lost; time required of teachers to complete extra training videos; concerns regarding digital timesheets; changing of classroom formats after count day; technology and connectivity issues during instruction time and monitoring the frequency of issues; frustration with the requirements of the MAP Growth assessment during these challenging times; the lack of information addressing mental health issues.

COVID-19 and the Clark County School District's Response (continued)

Discussion continued and comments were made around the lack of information regarding challenges educators are facing, challenges parents are facing, economic challenges, connectivity for every community, unenrollment, the number of teachers wanting to return to school; the lack of forward-thinking to reopen schools; addressing absenteeism; what teacher evaluations will look like; sustainability of CCSD's current structure of online learning; a feedback loop or system in place to track, address, and resolve the challenges with distance learning; usage data for GoGuardian Beacon; concern regarding the validity of MAP testing data; providing data to community partners, allowing them to focus wellness checks in the most needed areas; assessments and a reduction in the number of ELL students identified and providing services to those students; food distribution for students; and Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 504 Plan revisions for distance learning.

Trustee Cepeda requested that engagement numbers broken down by ethnicity and Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) be included in a future update.

Trustee Ford requested that the presentation include homeschool data, unenrollment data, what is being done for District C, mental health, support for employees, and what is being done to learn about families, and which teachers want to return to the classroom.

Trustee Brooks requested that the metrics being used to determine when schools reopen safely, shared by Dr. Leguen, be provided in writing in the next presentation in two weeks and that the information also be posted on the District website. She requested that the next presentation also include information related to different options for learning models, which should also provide considerations for students who might need extra support, such as younger students or students with special education needs.

Trustee Cavazos requested information related to the Task Force Initiative for Educator's Safety and Screening (T.I.E.S.) and how that would be coordinated.

Superintendent Jara asked if that could be included as looking at the safety and health of staff in the presentation information Trustee Brooks asked for regarding a reopening plan and how T.I.E.S. would be included in that.

Trustee Cavazos said she would ask for a separate presentation on T.I.E.S.

Approve Employment Agreement - Chief Negotiator and Assistant General Counsel

Approval of an employment agreement for Fikisha Miller, a confidential employee, assigned as Chief Negotiator and Assistant General Counsel.

Eleissa Lavelle, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Introduced Fikisha Miller, Chief Negotiator and Assistant General Counsel, and briefly discussed Ms. Miller's background.

Approve Employment Agreement – Chief Negotiator and Assistant General Counsel

(continued)

Motion to approve Item 5.04.

Motion: Young Second: Cavazos Vote: Unanimous

Superintendent Communication

None.

Trustee Requests for Agenda Items or Information

Trustee Young stated that during Item 4.01 at the September 10, 2020, Board meeting, she was only allowed to have one presenter, while the Superintendent was able to have several presenters on Item 5.03 during tonight's meeting. She said this needs to be balanced, and she requested an agenda item for discussion on this matter.

Trustee Young said she has not received any response for issues she previously brought forward and asked that staff respond to Trustees' requests or inquiries. She asked that staff follow up with her on her previous requests that she made on September 8 and September 10, 2020.

Trustee Wright requested an agenda item to include a very detailed presentation outlining the District's comprehensive plan to address mental health for staff and students and to provide support. She said this could be a part of the COVID-19 update. She asked that the date by which the Board must vote to move into another learning model that is not fully distance learning be concrete and in writing.

Trustee Wright requested a crosswalk of the required video trainings for staff with who is mandating the training.

Trustee Cepeda requested information regarding access to the suicide prevention measures in GoGuardian Beacon, which she said could be a part of the mental health presentation. She requested that engagement versus enrollment numbers broken down by ethnicity and FRL be included in the distance learning update. She requested longitudinal data related to ELL and WIDA testing over a period of time.

Trustee Cavazos requested an agenda item as soon as possible for information on student suicide data beginning from August 2019.

Trustee Garvey requested an agenda item to discuss CCSD Policy 6161 with staff recommendations for clear language to define "an effective school library" and recommendations to put policy and action into place to align that with the 2024 focus on literacy and student achievement.

Trustee Ford requested that the Resolution for Title IX Amendments item be brought back on October 8 or October 22, 2020.

Trustee Requests for Agenda Items or Information (continued)

Superintendent Jara said it would be brought back at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Ford requested information related to the budgeting programming, specifically referencing the memorandum that was sent to Trustees on September 22, 2020, and what is being done to resolve issues principals are experiencing.

Trustee Ford requested an agenda item to openly discuss the future of education. She said she could work with staff to craft the item. She asked that it be added to Smartsheet.

Trustee Cepeda suggested holding a meeting to have a conversation about this topic and include educators, support professionals, community members, and parents.

Trustee Ford said she would be happy to work with another Trustee and lead that discussion in a virtual forum possibly in mid-November.

Trustee Cepeda suggested the Board hold an emergency meeting to receive and discuss information related to the mental health information requested by Trustees.

Trustee Brooks suggested having that as a standalone item at a regular meeting.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

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

A person asked why empty school buses are being driven around neighborhoods.

A writer said they were happy and encouraged to see that EthicsPoint has been rolled out. The said a better description of its purpose of guaranteeing anonymity of an employee who makes a report and what is meant by mandatory reporting requirements and certain types of misconduct is needed.

Information was provided in regards to the process of how Clark County Education Association (CCEA) holds the School Organizational Team (SOT) election.

A teacher feels that MAP Growth testing is redundant and unnecessary, stating there are summative assessments for content areas and diagnostic assessments on three other platforms that track growth.

Adjourn: 10:46 p.m.

Motion: Wright Second: Young Vote: Unanimous