

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

Thursday, March 14, 2013

9:00 a.m.

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

Dwight D. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary Ann Peterson, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Pat Skorkowsky, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction Unit; Jeff Weiler, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division; Staci Vesneski, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Division; Kim Wooden, Chief Student Services Officer, Student Support Services Division; Amanda Fulkerson, Chief Communications Officer, Communications Office, Office of the Superintendent; Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant to the Board, Board Office; Elizabeth Carrero, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent; Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

**TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED**

Teleconference call with Trustee Young was connected at 9:00 a.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Trustee Garvey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda.*

*Motion: Wright    Second: Cranor    Vote: Unanimous*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Marzette Lewis expressed appreciation for the work and efforts of Superintendent Jones. She suggested that the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) and the Attendance Zone Advisory Commission (AZAC) should be disbanded since funding is an issue.

Deborah Jackson said the Prime 6 Schools were never made home schools, and doing such could help ease the overcrowding by allowing those children to attend school in their own community.

## **APPROVE APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**

Approval on the appointment and compensation of an interim superintendent.

Trustee Edwards stated that under EL-7: Emergency Superintendent Succession, Deputy Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky is named to immediately become acting superintendent at the time of the current superintendent's departure.

Trustee Cranor said the input that she has received from constituents has been in favor of the Board appointing Mr. Skorkowsky as interim superintendent, and she expressed support of that as well.

Trustee Garvey shared that she has also received overwhelming support of Mr. Skorkowsky being appointed interim superintendent.

Trustee Wright said she has also received feedback from her constituents, and she is in favor of appointing an interim superintendent.

Trustee Alderman stated she has received input from community members naming Mike Barton, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services Division, Instruction Unit, and Jhone Ebert, Chief Technology Officer, Technology and Information Systems Services Division, as well as Mr. Skorkowsky as possible interim superintendents. She said community members Brian Cram and Jim Rogers were also mentioned.

Trustee Tew shared that Ms. Ebert and Mr. Skorkowsky were mentioned to her as possible interim superintendents by her constituents.

Trustee Young shared that the comments from her constituents have been that the Board take its time to make decisions during this process; that the interim not be eligible to apply to be the next superintendent; that the focus should be on the students; and that the public be able to have input in every step of the process.

Trustee Edwards said the comments that she has received have been that the Board should hire an interim superintendent immediately and from within the District; namely, Mr. Skorkowsky or Ms. Ebert.

## **APPROVE APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**

(continued)

Trustee Young said Eva Simmons has also been mentioned by her constituents as a person of interest.

### **Public Hearing**

Stephen Augspurger said the role of an interim superintendent is important, and he has received input that the interim should come from within the District. He spoke about issues specific to the District that the interim superintendent would need to address.

Kristin McMillan talked about the importance of providing the best quality of education to CCSD students. She said the work that Superintendent Jones has started must continue. On behalf of the Metro Chamber of Commerce, she offered support for Mr. Skorkowsky being appointed as interim superintendent.

Brenda McKinney spoke in favor of Mr. Skorkowsky, Dr. Barton, and Andre Denson, Associate Superintendent, Prime 6, Student Support Services Division, and she asked the Board to consider local talent in this search.

Hannah Brown expressed disappointment with Superintendent Jones' departure from the District. She agreed that the interim superintendent should be ineligible to apply for the position of superintendent. She said she would like the Board to take its time during this process.

Marzette Lewis expressed support of the Board appointing Mr. Skorkowsky as interim superintendent, and she expressed support of the Board conducting a national search for the next superintendent. She suggested Brian Cram should be considered for the position.

Deborah Jackson spoke in favor of appointing Mr. Skorkowsky as interim superintendent so he could continue the work he has been doing with Superintendent Jones. She said she believes the interim superintendent should be allowed to apply for the position of superintendent.

David Gomez said he believes Mr. Skorkowsky would be the best candidate for superintendent as he has worked with Superintendent Jones up to this time.

Ruben Murillo said it would be unfair to prevent the interim superintendent from applying for superintendent. He asked the Board to consider the pay cuts the teachers have been given while considering any additional compensation for an interim superintendent.

Lamar Briley said Ken Turner, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, should no longer be needed since Superintendent Jones is leaving the District. He disagreed with conducting a national search, and he recommended considering Jim Rogers and Trustee Young for superintendent.

## **APPROVE APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**

(continued)

Yvette Williams congratulated Dr. Turner for his work with Superintendent Jones. She expressed concern that the interim superintendent not hinder the work that has begun in moving the District forward.

Georganne Ray said she would like to see an interim that would ensure that the parents are involved in their children's education. She said the person in that role needs to be able to work with the unions, the legislature, and the parents.

Trustee Edwards said she believes the Board needs to appoint an interim superintendent today based on the input the Board has received this morning.

Trustee Alderman commented that the interim should be allowed to apply for the position of superintendent.

Trustee Wright agreed that the interim superintendent should not be precluded from applying for superintendent. She commented that the Board has the option of applying a 10 percent responsibility pay or going into a contract.

Ms. Peterson clarified that there would need to be a contract for the 10 percent responsibility pay as well.

Trustee Wright commented that she believes the best interim superintendent would be someone who has been working with the Superintendent and has been involved in the day-to-day operations of the District.

Trustee Garvey agreed that the interim superintendent should not be precluded from applying for the position of superintendent. She agreed that an interim should be someone who is very familiar with the work that has been going on. She asked about the person that would move into the position that the interim superintendent leaves open.

Ms. Peterson said the superintendent would determine who would fill the position that the interim leaves open.

Mr. McDade agreed that the superintendent would make that decision, and he explained that the salary could be determined through the normal regulations in place, and any responsibility pay for that person is optional.

Trustee Cranor suggested making a motion and naming an interim superintendent, having a discussion about the search, and then having a discussion about the compensation later. She suggested having some information regarding the current contract and how much money would be available at the regular meeting today.

## **APPROVE APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**

(continued)

Trustee Edwards agreed with Trustee Cranor's suggestion and said the monthly savings would be helpful to know as well. She wondered if the Board would consider narrowing down the names brought forward, contacting those named, and asking them to make a statement to the Board regarding their abilities to serve as interim superintendent.

Trustee Tew agreed with Trustee Edwards' suggestion.

Trustee Young commented that the person working as interim superintendent with all the responsibilities of the superintendent should be compensated as such. She said she would like to see a wide diversity of candidates coming forward. She said she was open to Brian Cram and Jim Rogers being considered.

Trustee Cranor said she would like to hear the perspective of those who have been cultivated as leaders in the District under Superintendent Jones in terms of education reform.

Trustee Edwards agreed that whoever serves as interim superintendent should be able to apply for superintendent.

Trustee Alderman questioned whether the Board was considering internal and external candidates and if so, how the external candidates would be given the opportunity to speak to the Board. She said she was in support of internal candidates only at this time.

Trustee Wright also expressed support of internal candidates at this time. She said she would specifically like to hear from Mr. Skorkowsky and Ms. Ebert.

Trustee Tew asked about Dr. Denson's and Dr. Barton's ability to address the Board since they are not present at this time.

Trustee Cranor also expressed support of internal candidates to continue the momentum and the work that is being done.

*Motion to consider only internal candidates for interim superintendent.*

*Motion: Alderman      Second: Wright*

*Trustee Alderman amended her motion to include that the interim be allowed to apply for the position of superintendent.*

*Trustee Wright agreed with that amendment.*

*Trustee Cranor said she would like to have those ideas considered separately.*

**APPROVE APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**  
(continued)

*Trustee Alderman said she would like to keep the motion as is.*

*Trustee Wright agreed with Trustee Alderman.*

*Vote on Trustee Alderman's motion: Yeses – 6 (Edwards, Alderman, Wright, Cranor, Garvey, Tew); No – 1 (Young)  
The motion passed.*

Trustee Cranor nominated Mr. Skorkowsky and Ms. Ebert for interim superintendent.

Trustee Alderman nominated Dr. Barton.

Trustee Garvey nominated Dr. Denson.

Trustee Edwards suggested speaking to Dr. Denson and Dr. Barton and asking them if they are interested if so, having them come and make a statement to the Board.

**RECESS:** 10:43 a.m.

**RECONVENE:** 11:13 a.m.

**APPROVE APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**  
(continued)

Trustee Edwards said Dr. Denson was interested and coming to make a statement to the Board, and Dr. Barton declined with great appreciation for the consideration.

**RECESS:** 11:18 a.m.

**RECONVENE:** 11:21 a.m.

**APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Approval regarding all aspects of the search and selection of a new Superintendent of Schools for the Clark County School District.

**Public Hearing**

Lindy Schumacher expressed support of a national search for the next superintendent.

Sam Schumacher talked about her day as a CCSD student, and she said she has seen improvement in herself and in her classroom during Superintendent Jones' leadership.

Punam Mathur spoke about the progress in education that needs to continue to be made. She encouraged a national search for superintendent.

**APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)**

Lamar Briley expressed support of a local search first before looking outside of the community.

**APPROVE APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT (continued)**

Trustee Edwards explained the selection process for the appointment of the interim superintendent.

Dr. Denson talked about his experience serving as teacher, administrator, and principal in many different Clark County communities. He talked about the necessity for the interim superintendent to have the ability to continue with the vision of Superintendent Jones; to be familiar with the Board's vision; to have the ability to perform in the legislative session; to continue with instructional leadership; to provide communication and support to the Board; and to have the ability to be collaborative, to form partnerships, and to remain engaged.

Ms. Ebert noted that the District should expect great dialogue and engagement with community members that is focused on all students. She shared relevant aspects of her background, experience, skillset, and accomplishments as an employee for the District. She talked about the impact of adult school staff intervention and involvement and about moving forward with the programs and initiatives started by Superintendent Jones.

Mr. Skorkowsky spoke about the opportunity he has had to work so closely with Superintendent Jones; the need to keep moving forward with the reform efforts that have begun; support for administrators and teachers to ensure success for the students; involvement of budget development as well as operations; continuing the work of SEOAC, Title IX work, anti-bullying efforts; his experience as a teacher and a principal; making parent engagement a priority and making legislation a priority in ensuring adequate funding for education.

**RECESS:** 11:58 a.m.

**RECONVENE:** 12:06 p.m.

**APPROVE APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT (continued)**

The Trustees thanked the candidates for their commitment to the students of Clark County and expressed appreciation for the work that they do.

*Motion to nominate Mr. Skorkowsky as interim superintendent with the ability to apply for superintendent.*

*Motion: Alderman      Second: Young      Vote: unanimous*

### **APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)**

Stephen Augspurger spoke about the need for transparency, openness, and public input during the superintendent search process. He said the expectations for the person in the role of superintendent ought to be extraordinarily high.

Kristin McMillan said the partnership between the District and the business community is very important. She said education is the key component to economic development. She urged the Board to conduct a national search, and she asked that the business community be allowed to play a role in the search process.

Ruben Murillo said he was in favor of a national search but recognizes that there are skilled people right here in Nevada. He said the union is looking forward to working with Interim Superintendent Skorkowsky and being involved in the search process.

Marzette Lewis expressed support of the work of Superintendent Jones and said the Board should take time and consider the qualified people that work in the District to serve as superintendent.

Deborah Jackson said the Board needs to reach out to the community, and the Board needs to establish and look for specific criteria in hiring the new superintendent.

Ellen Keating said she does not believe the Board needs to look very far to find the right superintendent for CCSD. She spoke in support of Interim Superintendent Skorkowsky.

Jose Solorio spoke about the magnitude of the responsibility of the Board for choosing the next Superintendent. He expressed concern for the problems the CCSD faces. He recommended that a search committee should be established for this superintendent search process.

David Gomez said the interim superintendent should be held accountable to do those things he talked about doing in this role. He said there should be parent and community involvement all the time, not just on occasion.

Georgeann Ray said she supports a national search but recognizes there are some individuals in the CCSD that should be considered as well.

Yvette Williams commented that she would like to see a superintendent with a long-term investment and relationship in the community. She said literacy is an important issue along with putting systems in place to ensure equality for all students across the District.

Sandy Miller asked that Mr. Skorkowsky be given the opportunity to fully demonstrate his abilities in this role as interim superintendent.

**RECESS:** 1:10 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 1:46 p.m.



### **APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)**

Trustee Edwards said the Board has the ability to appoint a superintendent now, and they have the ability to conduct a search -- local, national, or international. She shared that she has received offers from individuals to raise the money to help pay for the cost of a search.

Trustee Cranor asked about District resources that would be available as opposed to using outside sources.

Trustee Alderman commented on the need to continue the reform started by Superintendent Jones. She said that she does not feel the need to rush this process because there is currently a plan in place for the District for next year and the current staff is prepared to move forward and maintain the course at this time. She said the next superintendent needs to be clear on what the Board's vision and expectations are.

Trustee Wright said that she supports a national search which would include local candidates; that the search should be conducted by a firm; that comparable districts need to be researched in considering compensation; and that the candidate needs to be willing and able to continue on the path that the District is now on. She said the Board ought to hold several public meetings. She agreed that the process should not be rushed.

Trustee Cranor requested information on dollars remaining in the current superintendent contract for this fiscal year and a month by month look at cost savings in the next fiscal year; cost savings on the assumption that all non-school positions were on a hiring freeze until next fiscal year; the dollar amount of any utility cost savings projected to be realized for the remainder of the fiscal year; cost savings for professional services that have been budgeted but have not been spent yet and are not tied to a contract. She inquired also about the possibility of asking outside sources currently funding consultant services to repurpose those monies.

Trustee Alderman shared the six common denominators named by the Council of the Great City Schools which makes Long Beach School District one of the best in the world: early learning; personalization and pathways for success; teacher selectivity, quality, and growth; focus on learning; education link to economic development; and cultural expectation of value.

Trustee Young said she was disappointed in the previous superintendent search, and she said the Board needs to take its time with this process. She recommended that Mr. Skorkowsky perform as interim superintendent for one year. She said the Board needs to be willing to start over from the beginning if this search does not result in the right candidate.

Trustee Cranor suggested beginning the search now but leaving the end time open and remaining flexible, retaining the option of possibly having to conduct more than one search.

**APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (continued)**

Trustee Edwards said with regard to a timeline, she is only concerned with who may be lost if the search is too short or if the search is too long. She said she believes the Board has to hire someone to conduct the search. She said what needs to be decided today are the community meetings, the search firm, the type of search, a possible Request for Proposal (RFP), and a timeline.

Mr. McDade offered that some things to consider when looking at how the Board might conduct a superintendent search are interactions with different laws, such as the Public Records Act (PRA) and the Open Meeting Law (OML).

Ms. Peterson added that the Board should also consider that if they choose to use staff to conduct the search, the cost of staff time may rise significantly.

There was continued discussion regarding confidentiality issues and concerns associated with applications being made public at the beginning of the process and how that might affect the applicants and the search.

The Board decided to adjourn this meeting and continue the discussion at the 4:00 p.m. regular meeting.

**BOARD MEMBER LEAVES**

Trustee Cranor left the Board meeting at 3:00 p.m.

**AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**ADJOURN:** 3:04 p.m.

*Motion: Tew    Second: Alderman    Vote: Unanimous*  
*Trustee Cranor was not present for the vote.*