

Minutes
Clark County School District
Meeting of the Board of School Trustees
Facilities Services Unit, Building E, Conference Room 606
1180 Military Tribute Place
Henderson, NV 89074

Work Session

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

11:04 a.m.

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

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

Also present were: Nicole Malich, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office; Carmen West, Executive Manager/Director II, Office of the Superintendent; Deb Darby-Dudley, Governance Consultant, Nevada Association of School Boards; and Dr. Debb Oliver, Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards.

Flag Salute

Trustee Garcia Morales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Williams Second: Guzmán Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Approve Community Meetings

Approval on a plan to hold school safety community meetings.

Ms. Dudley asked what the Board's objective is or what Trustees hope to accomplish through community meetings.

Approve Community Meetings (continued)

Trustee Garcia Morales stated this need came about because of safety concerns and the need to share information about protocols, processes, and challenges regarding safety. She said the Board officers discussed the need to have a community meeting that would be informational and would provide a space for feedback. She said they also discussed partnering with groups that are hosting community events to address safety, such as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee for the Board to be able to hear that feedback.

Trustee Cavazos asked for clarification of the safety taskforce or the safety committee and whether that group is being reconvened.

Trustee Brooks stated the work being discussed is completely unrelated to any committees the Superintendent may have under his purview.

Ms. Dudley suggested determining what the Board's goals are for the community meetings and directing the Superintendent and his staff to develop the methodology that would be most effective.

Trustee Ford suggested the Board could establish some parameters for all community meetings for which they could use as a model, such as the community has a place to speak; there is a way for someone to present a solution; and the meetings must be accessible to everyone. She further suggested determining parameters for different types of meetings and considering whether the issue affects a certain Trustee district or all districts. She said perhaps it would only be informational and important that the community knows and understands the information and suggested it would then be staff's responsibility to determine the best way to properly communicate that information to the community and present some solutions to the Board.

Ms. Dudley facilitated discussion around how the Board would like to move forward regarding the community meetings on safety. She shared what some other school districts are doing. She advised that the Board give staff their objectives and have staff present a plan for communication to the Board.

Discussion was held around the level of Board involvement in the planning of the community meetings; Board members attending community organizations' meetings or meeting with individual constituencies and the importance of the Board having a cohesive message and having consistency; and the Board's role and staff's responsibilities and working in a collaborative manner.

Trustee Cavazos stated in terms of planning the community meetings for the specific issue of school violence and safety, the community wants to be able to voice their concerns and give input. She said she wants the Board to speak with one voice and to ensure that the community knows that this is not simply going to be a series of meetings held with nothing being accomplished. She said she wants to achieve this in a collaborative way with staff.

Approve Community Meetings (continued)

Trustee Ford suggested utilizing some sort of spreadsheet or communication file for the Trustees which would contain talking points on predetermined topics that people regularly ask about and current events or issues of concern that the Trustees could pull from when needed. She said it would include a message from the Board president and reflect the Board's directive.

Ms. Dudley said most boards that she works with utilize a governance handbook that contains the board's statement on a given topic typically based around their goals, similarly to what Trustee Ford described. She suggested the Board begin to think about what four topics they would like to have community meetings on this year and how those topics relate to the Board's adopted goals. Regarding the current topic of safety, she recommended that the Board allow staff to develop some talking points, information that will be shared about what is being done to address the issue, how community input will be gathered and come back to the Board with a methodology. She suggested the Board start with something and make changes as they move forward.

Public Hearing

Anna Binder said Superintendent Jara and his team have shown the ability to hold successful community meetings, both online and in person.

Motion to direct the Superintendent to develop and implement a plan for a community event around school safety to be completed by the end of this month and to bring this structure back to the Board for consideration for future use.

Motion: Brooks Second: Cavazos

Trustee Brooks restated her motion as follows: Motion to direct the Superintendent to develop and implement a plan for a community event around school safety to be completed by the end of this month; to work with the Board president to assign attendees from the Board; and to and bring this structure back to the Board to consider for use for future events.

Trustee Ford said she wants to support some sort of motion but is not sure the motion on the table is in line with what Ms. Dudley has recommended. She said she could support a motion if the Board were to give the Superintendent some parameters.

Trustee Ford offered a friendly amendment that the motion be more specific in what is expected from the Board and to allow for some options for the Board before it is implemented.

Trustee Brooks did not accept the friendly amendment.

Trustee Brooks said she feels her motion is in line with what was stated by Ms. Dudley to give the Superintendent some direction. She said there is a timeline issue which would cause this to be pushed back another month.

Approve Community Meetings (continued)

Ms. Dudley recognized that this particular community event is of a time-sensitive or urgent matter, and she suggested that the Board allow staff to put a plan together and see what kind of response they get and then look at the results and decide what changes they want to make for future community meetings.

Trustee Brooks restated her motion as follows: Motion to direct the Superintendent to develop and implement a plan for a community event around school safety with the Board president collaborating to assign Trustees to any of the work to be completed by the end of this month and to bring the structure that is used back to the Board to discuss any changes or whether they want to use it moving forward.

*Vote on Trustee Brooks's motion: Yeses – 6 (Brooks, Cepeda, Ford, Garcia Morales, Guzmán, Williams); No – 1 (Cavazos)
The motion passed.*

Trustee Ford asked Ms. Dudley for input on how the Board could oversee this process and at what point the Board determines whether it is successful or steps in if it is not.

Ms. Dudley said she would make sure every Board member who can attend the event, listen to the information being presented, observe how the attendees are responding, and take notes on the questions being asked. She said they should then have a discussion and assess what took place and what changes might need to be made at the Board's next meeting or a special meeting. She also suggested having a methodology for follow-up in case the decision is made to have a follow-up meeting to address questions or present solutions.

Trustee Ford asked when the Board should have that discussion.

Ms. Dudley suggested it does not need to be the full Board. She said it could be a subcommittee of three members that watch the meeting, assess it and sit down with the Superintendent or communications staff and discuss and analyze it.

Trustee Ford asked if Trustee Cepeda could assure her that that hindsight process would take place and that the information would be provided to the full Board.

Trustee Cepeda acknowledged Trustee Ford's request.

Trustee Cavazos stated that given the discussion around the timeline and what Trustee Ford just requested, the friendly amendment she previously offered could have been woven into the motion, which she said would have resulted in a unanimous vote. She expressed regret that that did not happen.

Approve Board Review of Proposed Board Governance Policy Board Response to Board Reports

Approval on the review of a proposed Board Governance Policy, Board Response to Board Reports, for the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, is requested. By direction of the Board, any recommendations made at this meeting will not be implemented unless adopted by the public policy review process at a regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

Ms. Dudley commented that most boards do not have this as a policy but as an agreed upon protocol instead.

Trustee Ford gave some context for how this policy came about and said this particular section of the package that was presented to the Board on December 2, 2020, was not adopted.

Motion to accept a new policy of Board Response to Board Reports as was given to the Board on December 2, 2020, in Reference 3.02 (D).

Motion: Ford Second: Brooks

Trustee Guzmán referred to Reference 3.02, Section ii, and asked if Board members have three separate opportunities to request that something be pulled from the consent agenda for separate consideration.

Trustee Ford said yes, she believes that is what the policy is stating.

Trustee Brooks offered a friendly amendment to the motion to ensure that the language is in alignment with current policies. She asked if Joe Caruso, Special Assistant to the Superintendent/Liaison to the Board of Trustees, Community Services, could review the policy to make sure it is alignment and determine with Ms. Malich whether there are substantive changes that need to be brought back and noticed again for approval.

Trustee Ford agreed to that friendly amendment.

Vote on Trustee Ford's motion was unanimous.

Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, April 7, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Trustee Garcia Morales stated the next Board meeting would be held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. She noted that the regular meeting of the Board previously scheduled for April 21, 2022, was changed to Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Adjourn: 12:27 p.m.

Motion: Guzmán Second: Brooks Vote: Unanimous