

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

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH AND WORK SESSION

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

8:07 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Deanna L. Wright, President
Carolyn Edwards, Vice President
Lola Brooks, Clerk
Linda P. Cavazos, Member
Kevin L. Child, Member
Chris Garvey, Member
Linda E. Young, Member

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Ancillary Support; Elizabeth Carrero, Executive Manager/Director II, Office of the Superintendent; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Jeanetta Edmond, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Edwards Second: Brooks Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jose Solorio said CCSD schools are funded based on average teacher salaries, but much less money is being spent in the schools with the highest needs and that needs to be addressed. He said schools need to be funded fairly, and there needs to be transparency of actual dollars spent.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION

Approval on the selection of a finalist from among the following candidates: Mike Barton, Ed.D.; Donald T. Haddad, Ed.D.; Shonda Huery Hardman, Ed.D.; Jesus F. Jara, Ed.D.; Jesse Welsh, D.Ed.; and Eva White, Ed.D.; to fill the position of Superintendent of Schools of the Clark County School District; and to direct legal counsel to enter into negotiations for an employment contract with selected finalist; or, alternatively, direct staff on next steps in the superintendent search.

Trustee Wright made a statement disputing rumors of favoritism on her behalf toward superintendent candidates Dr. Eva White and Dr. Mike Barton.

Public Hearing

Commissioner Susan Brager spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Brenda McKinney spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Tracy Wilking spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Kathryn Buffington-Lacey spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Heather Engle spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Brodie Christian spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Peter Guzman spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Cheryl Pullen spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Dr. S.S. Rogers spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Bill Hanlon spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Kevin Batista spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Lindsey Dalley spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Steve Ross and Kelli Ross spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Sylvia Lazos suggested that Trustee Wright spend some time referring to the rubric and explaining why she is choosing the candidate she is choosing. She commented that change is what is needed in the District now. She said she is saddened that many members of the community have decided not to give the outside candidates an opportunity.

Jillyn Pendleton spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION (continued)

Public Hearing

Tom Barrow expressed concern with the potential selection of Dr. Barton for superintendent. He said this stems from an unwritten tardy policy that allowed some students to avoid the punishment of the written policy, and this led him to the Academic Unit and to Dr. Barton. He said his experience and interaction with the office leads him to question Dr. Barton's leadership ability.

Tracy Dunn spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Glenn Christenson thanked the Board for conducting a national search. He talked about the advantages of hiring an external candidate and of hiring an internal candidate. He said he hopes the Board chooses a real leader who is credible, unafraid to make the difficult decisions, and who is able to communicate a vision for enhanced education.

Roxanne McCoy spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Stephen Augspurger spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Yvette Williams spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Jose Solorio said he is not surprised to see the level of support for Dr. Barton, but it would be very difficult for any employee to speak candidly in opposition to Dr. Barton. He said student achievement is paramount. He spoke in support of Dr. Jesus Jara.

Jana Pleggenkuhle asked the Board to remember that this is not a popularity contest. She spoke in support of Dr. White.

Sandy Miller said she continues to believe an internal candidate would be best. She spoke in support of Dr. White.

Brent Husson encouraged the Board to consider changing the superintendent search process. He spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Julie Vigil asked the Board to consider the basic needs of the students. She talked about HOPE for Nevada's creation of their rubric to help find the best qualified candidate of the six before the Board. She spoke in support of Dr. White and Dr. Jara.

Deborah Gruner thanked the Board for their work during this process. She suggested that the Board talk to all of the candidates to learn from them regardless of who they choose for the position. She said she was in favor of Dr. Welsh and Dr. Barton.

Caryne Shea spoke in support of Dr. White, and she said Dr. Jara would be an excellent superintendent as well.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION (continued)

Public Hearing

Annette Dawson Owens said the Board should consider the student and choose a candidate that can help move education forward.

Jay Andre spoke in support of Dr. Welsh.

David Gomez spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

Robert L. Green spoke in support of Dr. Barton.

RECESS: 9:27 a.m.

RECONVENE: 9:39 a.m.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION (continued)

Trustee Edwards stated that this was not a popularity contest. She said her decisions would be based on who she felt would be the best candidate to advance the District and to change the culture and the climate in the District for the better.

Trustee Garvey acknowledged that every candidate had some great attributes. She said there were some areas that were not discussed during the interview that the Board should consider. She said community buy-in is very important. She said originally her top candidates were Dr. Barton, Dr. White, and Dr. Donald Haddad, and after looking further into those candidates, she believes Dr. Barton to be the best candidate.

Motion to hire Dr. Barton as CCSD superintendent.

Motion: Garvey Second: Young

Trustee Young said she would be supporting Dr. Barton because of the contributions and the efforts he has made and the success he has had in the District and in the Black community. She said she believes Dr. Barton would meet all of the points that she supported.

Trustee Brooks said in terms of community buy-in, this process has been very biased in that individuals are far less likely to openly express negative things about people who may become their boss. She said the manner in which many of Dr. Barton's supporters have advocated for him speaks to the negative loyalty his leadership inspires, which she disapproves of. She disagreed with Dr. Barton's answers surrounding decentralization. She said for those reasons, Dr. Barton is not her selection for superintendent. She said her selection would be Dr. Haddad because of his experience, longevity in his position, his success in contract negotiations, and his ability to move legislation.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION (continued)

Trustee Edwards said although she thinks highly of Dr. Barton, she would not be supporting him for the position of superintendent. She said she believes the changes that need to be made in the District could only be made by an outside candidate. She said she had been contacted by individuals who felt coerced to make statements they do not actually believe, and that type of culture in the District must change.

Trustee Cavazos agreed that the superintendent search process should be reconsidered in the future. She said this process was difficult and made more so by changing it while in the process. She said she feels the District needs a game changer. She said Dr. Barton has been nothing but helpful to her, but there are employees who are not in attendance who expressed serious concerns about being pressured to her and were fearful of retaliation. She said she feels the District needs to go in a different direction.

Trustee Wright said she too had been contacted by individuals who felt pressured to choose sides. She said that culture is a disease in the District, and it needs to stop. She acknowledged Dr. Barton's attributes but said he may not have the experience to do what needs to be done in the District. She pointed out that Dr. Barton has not been involved in contract negotiations, which is a critical area.

Trustee Child said the candidates cannot be blamed for the tactics of their supporters, but each candidate's merits and qualifications should be considered. He said his top three candidates were Dr. Barton, Dr. Jara, and Dr. Haddad. He said the focus needs to be on the students.

There was further discussion regarding the Trustees' thoughts about what the students and the District and the community needs and what they believe are important skillsets, experience, or knowledge in a superintendent.

CALL FOR THE QUESTION

Motion: Edwards Second: Garvey Vote: Unanimous

Vote on Trustee Garvey's motion: Noes – 4 (Brooks, Cavazos, Edwards, Wright); Yeses – 3 (Child, Garvey, Young)

The motion failed.

RECESS: 10:54 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:05 a.m.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION (continued)

The Trustees discussed the remaining candidates.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION (continued)

Trustee Young stated that if other recommendations are made, she would first like to visit the candidate's hometown and talk to community members. She said she would not vote for any other candidate at this time.

Trustee Garvey and Trustee Child agreed with Trustee Young's comments.

Trustee Edwards said she feels that waiting would be a mistake, and she said the Board needs to make a decision today.

Trustee Cavazos disagreed with waiting to make a decision.

There was further discussion regarding whether or not to move forward on a decision to choose the next superintendent.

BOARD MEMBER LEAVES

Trustee Garvey left the Board meeting at 12:15 p.m.

TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Garvey was connected at 12:16 p.m.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION (continued)

Motion to appoint Dr. Jara as CCSD superintendent.

Motion: Edwards Second: Cavazos Vote: Yeses – 4 (Brooks, Cavazos, Child, Edwards);

Noes – 2 (Garvey, Wright); Abstain – 1 (Young)

The motion passed.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Presentation and discussion on school safety training, procedures, and programs.

This item was pulled from the agenda and will appear on the May 10, 2018, Board meeting agenda.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Cavazos requested an agenda item for Teach For America (TFA) for reconsideration at the May 10, 2018, Board meeting.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ADJOURN: 12:22 p.m.

Motion: Brooks Second: Edwards Vote: Unanimous