

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

ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

5:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present

Dr. Linda E. Young, President
Deanna L. Wright, Vice President
John Cole, Clerk
Lorraine Alderman, Member
Erin E. Cranor, Member
Carolyn Edwards, Member
Chris Garvey, Member

Dwight D. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel;
Pedro Martinez, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction Unit; Jeffrey Weiler, Chief Financial Officer,
Operations Support Unit; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; and Lisa Chrapcynski,
Administrative Secretary II, Board Office.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Edwards was connected at 5:01 p.m.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Cole Second: Wright Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC HEARING, 2012-2013 TENTATIVE BUDGET

This is the time and the place that was advertised for the public hearing on the tentative budget per NRS 354.596, and interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the 2012-2013 Tentative Budget of the Clark County School District.

Trustee Cole read the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING, 2012-2013 TENTATIVE BUDGET (continued)

Public Hearing

Fifth-grade students of Sandy Searles Miller Elementary School gave examples of what their classroom environment would be like with increased class sizes.

Ruben Murillo, speaking on behalf of teachers the Clark County Education Association (CCEA), said that they opposed any elimination of positions or reduction in force (RIF), and they object to public negotiations. He encouraged the District and the Board to stand up with teachers and fight for adequate funding for education.

The meeting became disruptive. Trustee Young recessed the meeting.

RECESS: 5:13 p.m.

RECONVENE: 5:17 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING, 2012-2013 TENTATIVE BUDGET (continued)

Trustee Young asked that the attendees remain respectful of each other and of the Board so that their concerns and input could be heard.

Public Hearing

Adam Berger spoke in opposition to increasing class sizes.

Debra Cooley stated that the District's limited resources should be spent in the classroom instead of on new programs and consultants.

Autumn Tampa opposed the budget as it is currently written, and she asked the Board and District to find another way of reconciling the budget. She said that a loss of positions would negatively impact our economy.

Stephen Augspurger spoke about the decision made by the Clark County Association of School Administrators and Professional-technical Employees (CCASAPE) to make salary concessions, thereby avoiding a RIF for administrators. He said the same decision had been made by the Education Support Employees Association (ESEA) and the Police Officer's Association of CCSD. He said that unfortunately, CCEA did not make that same choice, and the budget reflects the consequences of that choice. He said that CCASAPE believes that the District is headed in the right direction and encourages the Board to continue moving in that direction.

ADOPT 2012-2013 FINAL BUDGET

Adoption of the 2012-2013 Final Budget and authorization for members of the Board of School Trustees to file as required by NRS 354.598, as recommended in Reference 2.02.

ADOPT 2012-2013 FINAL BUDGET (continued)

Public Hearing

Ryan Dwyer expressed concern that there is a decreasing interest in on-campus library professionals. He said that research shows the value of having an adequately stocked library and a licensed professional to manage it. He spoke about the important job that librarians do and their contribution to their school's academic program.

Richard Tellier asked if teacher layoffs meet the goals of the Board of educating students. He questioned whether the duties and responsibilities of the staff and administration in the Performance Zones and Areas overlapped. He equated the salary and benefit packages of CCSD administrative and senior staff employees with that of a high school math department and a high school teaching staff. He said the Board will be approving the budget as it is presented no matter what was said here, and this public hearing is only taking place because the law requires it.

Jeff Geihs expressed that CCASAP recognizes and supports the concept of holding educators responsible for student outcomes. He said CCASAP decided that those administrators with unsatisfactory ratings for two consecutive years and then those with other disciplinary issues would be dismissed first in a RIF process as opposed to dismissing individuals based solely on seniority, and Nevada Legislature agreed. He said many teachers also agree. He stated that CCASAP supports the District in following that same process.

Autumn Tampa stated that the evaluation tools used to rate teacher or support staff employee performance are not always accurate. She said there is a due process for progressive discipline that should be used as an improvement tool.

Superintendent Jones agreed that the legislature should be addressed in asking for adequate funding for education. He said that a decision made by an arbitrator has resulted in some very difficult decisions having to be made tonight, and that the budget being presented is difficult but necessary in the District's efforts to balance the budget.

Mr. Weiler presented the 2012-2013 final budget which included the following topics: Timeline; Budget Shortfall (General Operating Fund); Property Tax Revenues; Salaries, Benefits, and Staffing; Relief for Overcrowding Schools; Final Budget Summary; and Fund Balance.

Trustee Alderman asked if any support staff positions were being cut according to this budget.

Superintendent Jones responded that the budget being presented is for classified staff; however, there are some support staff positions being funded under the Education Jobs money that may still be eliminated with the end of that funding.

Trustee Alderman asked if 90 percent of the budget was designated for employee salary and benefits.

ADOPT 2012-2013 FINAL BUDGET (continued)

Superintendent Jones said that was correct that salary and benefits make up approximately 90 percent of the budget.

Trustee Alderman commented on how eliminating consultant positions, for example, then would not be enough to fill the deficit that is shown in the budget.

Superintendent Jones stated that staff has tried to move more program support and other items over to Title funding which cannot be used for salaries, and that would include some of the consultants. He said he would like to bring information back to the Board showing the effort that has been made to move the federal funds out of the central office and into other buildings.

Trustee Alderman commented that although this is the final budget, there will be budget adjustments made in the future.

Mr. Weiler said that staff would be bringing an amended final budget to the Board in November or December.

Trustee Alderman said that it is important to remember that money that some teachers may have had this year through their preps being sold will probably not be there next year. She asked the Superintendent to comment on principals selling preps in anticipation of the budget problems.

Superintendent Jones stated that campuses were asked to prepare for a possible RIF so he believes some principals did prep buybacks rather than fill full-time positions in preparation for what is happening now.

Trustee Alderman commented on the ending fund balance, stating that the 1 percent ending fund balance is at \$19.4 million, and it should be much more significant.

Superintendent Jones agreed that for an organization of this size with the potential for disaster, having an ending fund balance this low is a dangerous practice.

Trustee Cole asked Mr. Weiler to verify that the District's total operating budget has declined year over year, including outside funds, by \$187 million.

Mr. Weiler said that was correct.

Trustee Cole added that another interesting factor to consider is that CCSD's compensation percentage is higher than most school districts. He stated that across the nation compensation percentages are at approximately 80 percent. He said that further restricts CCSD's ability to be flexible with how funds are spent.

ADOPT 2012-2013 FINAL BUDGET (continued)

Superintendent Jones agreed and said the District's options are further restricted because of budget cuts taking place over the past three or four years.

Trustee Cole commented that dollars outside of general fund dollars are typically designated for specific programs and cannot be used for compensation.

Mr. Weiler explained that those dollars include federal grants, which are designated for specific purposes; the capital resources, which can only be used for capital programs and projects; and debt service funds, which can only be used to pay the debt service on bonds, for example.

Trustee Wright asked Mr. Weiler how much it costs the District to meet one month of payroll only.

Mr. Weiler answered \$125 million.

Trustee Cranor thanked Superintendent Jones and staff for their efforts and work on behalf of students.

Motion to approve the final budget.

Motion: Cranor Second: Cole

TELECONFERENCE CALL DISCONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Edwards was disconnected at 6:34 p.m.

TELECONFERENCE CALL RECONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Edwards was reconnected at 6:35 p.m.

ADOPT 2012-2013 FINAL BUDGET (continued)

Trustee Edwards commented that this is a very difficult time, and increasing class sizes is not something the Board or the District wanted to do. She said she will be fighting for a better budget for every school district in Nevada suffering under the current budget situation.

Vote on Trustee Cranor's motion was unanimous.

TELECONFERENCE CALL DISCONNECTED

Teleconference call with Trustee Edwards was disconnected at 6:38 p.m.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Dan Avellino announced that he was leaving the teaching profession because of how he feels teachers are mistreated.

Sam King commented on the need for adequate and equitable education, the need for education reform with long-term educators remaining in the District, and the need for education to be adequately funded in a new way.

ADJOURN: 6:44 p.m.

*Motion: Wright Second: Alderman Vote: Unanimous
Trustee Edwards was not present for the vote.*

Meeting minutes transcribed by Stephanie Gatlin.