

MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
VEGAS PBS, ROOM 122/123
3050 E. FLAMINGO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89121

BOARD RETREAT

Friday, August 9, 2013

8:04 a.m.

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
Linda E. Young, Member

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary Ann Peterson, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Kim Wooden, Deputy Superintendent, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Kirsten Searer, Chief of Staff and External Relations, External Relations Unit; Staci Vesneske, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Unit; Jhone Ebert, Chief Innovation and Productivity Officer, Innovative Teaching and Learning Unit; Andre Denson, Chief Educational Opportunity Officer, Educational Operations Unit; Mike Barton, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Instruction Unit; Joe Caruso, Deputy Chief of Staff and External Relations, External Relations Unit; Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations; Maureen Fox, Director of Management Processes, External Relations Unit; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant to the Board, Board Office; Elizabeth Carrero, Executive Manager, Office of the Superintendent; Ken Turner, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent; Erik Kieser, Consultant ; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

FLAG SALUTE

Trustee Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Alderman Second: Wright Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Young was not present for the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES PRIORITIES, DISTRICT REFORMS, AND GOALS FOR THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HOW THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE

Approval on the Board of School Trustee's priorities, reforms, and goals for the Clark County School District and how the Superintendent of Schools will be evaluated on these.

Trustee Edwards said the focus of this discussion would be on the direction of the District and the priorities the Board thinks are important with the purpose of clarifying for the Board, the Superintendent, and staff what the Board's expectations are for the direction and goals of the District. She said through that discussion, the Board hopes to also clarify what the Superintendent will be evaluated on in those areas.

During the discussion, the Board identified its priorities and goals as follows: morale, achievement gaps, facility issues, increasing enrollment, demographic shifts, large class sizes, blind spots, mission (short-term), capacity building, support Trustee development, strategic Trustee partnership, communication to Trustees, climate, Trustee/Superintendent trust, quality professional development, align resources to priorities, invest in technology, data-based decision-making, strategic imperatives, "hot-button" issues for Trustees, invite evaluation, change the perception of the District as responsive/caring, sensitivity to the perception of inequality, move up in national rankings, remember to think long-term, memorializing Board beliefs, recognizing that people want to be heard and valued, redefine the End reports.

RECESS: 9:36 a.m.

RECONVENE: 9:42 a.m.

APPROVE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES PRIORITIES, DISTRICT REFORMS, AND GOALS FOR THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HOW THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE (continued)

As the discussion continued, the Board identified their hot-button issues as follows: Districtwide recycling; addressing sex education; requiring Advanced Placement (AP) exams; better communication with the parents; literacy/English language development; cultural competency; diversity workforce; top-quality employees at all levels; top-quality professional development; 3 Rs - rigor, relevance, and relationships; giving "lip service;" being kept in the loop; putting up road blocks; quality staff at all levels; technology; safety; support for teachers; resentment between schools; transparency; "Don't mess with my school," i.e. turnaround, changing staff, et cetera; steady relationships with school staff; challenging high achievers to go far; invest in equal opportunities for all students, especially those who need more support; earned innovation with accountability; value what is truly important; do what works versus being vendor driven; issues with community partners; silent majority; respecting the needs of unique communities; desire for small school feel; year-round school; perception that Trustees have no power to help.

APPROVE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES PRIORITIES, DISTRICT REFORMS, AND GOALS FOR THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HOW THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE (continued)

The Board continued to list their hot-button issues as follows: Prime 6 – do not touch it, only help it to get better; West Prep; leadership challenges; over-inclusion of minorities in alternative education, dropout, expulsion, et cetera; facility conditions; loss of quality staff; loss of diverse representation in key level positions; Sandy Valley facility and Goodsprings possibly closing; follow-up communication to Trustees; out migration of teachers from at-risk schools; facility equity; inequity of information to Trustees.

The Board outlined the following strategic imperatives that they want to accomplish in working toward E-1: Vision Statement and E-2: Academic Achievement:

Student achievement; raising rankings

- Literacy
 - At all grades, including early childhood
 - English Language Acquisition
 - Gateway to learning
 - Organizational support from outside
- Parent, student, community, and employee engagement (stakeholders)
 - Parent groups
 - Self-paced learning
- Better equip and support people in the schools
 - Equity issues
 - Addressing students' basic needs
 - Parity
- Fiscal and data transparency and accountability

Trustee Edwards suggested that Trustee Cranor and Trustee Young could work with Cynthia Sell, Director, Strategic Projects, Community and Government Relations, to wordsmith their strategic imperatives document.

RECESS: 10:47 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:03 a.m.

APPROVE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES PRIORITIES, DISTRICT REFORMS, AND GOALS FOR THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HOW THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE (continued)

Public Hearing

Seth Rau with Nevada Succeeds said the organization is very pleased with the direction the Board and District is moving in, placing a focus on parent and family engagement.

BOARD REVIEW OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' GOVERNANCE POLICY E-1: VISION STATEMENT AND E-2: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Discussion and possible action regarding suggestions for future modifications, additions, language changes, and deletions to, E-1: Vision Statement and E-2: Academic Achievement, as requested. By direction of the Board, any changes recommended 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.

There was discussion regarding possibly revising the Board's Vision Statement, "All students graduate prepared to succeed and contribute in a diverse global society," which was accepted by unanimous vote in February. The Board agreed to have a discussion regarding E-2: Academic Achievement before making a decision on the Vision Statement.

With regard to E-2: Academic Achievement, Trustee Cranor suggested changing the policy name to "Student Achievement."

Trustee Wright suggested alphabetizing the list of disciplines outlined in the policy.

Trustee Cranor suggested completely revising E-2 to include the Board's Vision Statement and the strategic imperatives and an appendix developed and proposed by the Superintendent that outlines how progress toward the strategic imperatives is to be measured.

Trustee Edwards said she believed that the policy needs to be broader than the strategic imperatives, but that she would be agreeable to changing the language in the policy.

Trustee Cranor said "E-2: Student Achievement" would become where the Board's beliefs reside about student achievement; and "E-3: Strategic Imperatives" would be where the Board's strategic imperatives reside and would include the appendix.

Trustee Edwards clarified that the policy number would have to be E-2.1 or E-2.2 instead of E-3.

The Board agreed on the following preliminary list of their beliefs:

- Every student can achieve, learn and be successful regardless of their circumstances.
- Every student receives the knowledge and skills to allow them to reach their full potential to succeed.
- Create a District that structures the framework within itself that ensures that all staff activities are strategically aligned to benefit student achievement.
- Our principals and teachers make the critical difference in student achievement.

BOARD REVIEW OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' GOVERNANCE POLICY E-1: VISION STATEMENT AND E-2: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
(continued)

The Trustees continued to development their Board beliefs as follows:

- All parents, guardians, and families are valued as partners in the education of their child. (community, students, employees)
- Each student is entitled to an excellent education that meets his or her individual needs.
- The District will be open, transparent, and accountable to the public.
- We believe in listening to our teachers and translating great ideas into innovation for improving student achievement. We value input from every employee in the District.
- We believe that students have a shared responsibility for their own learning.
- A safe and respectful learning environment is imperative.
- We believe in an excellent program that addresses the education needs of all students in a safe and supportive educational environment.
- We value diversity.

Trustee Edwards said the Board could continue to work on these belief statements and wordsmith the document with Mrs. Sell with the goal of approving this by February to be able to evaluate the Superintendent on in the following year.

Trustee Young suggested "We value equity and diversity."

Trustee Cranor said she wants the statement that the Board values diversity to stand alone, but she wants to also address the issue of equity in the Board's belief statements.

Trustee Young explained that when she is speaking about the diversity of students, that may include students who are visually or hearing impaired or disabled, and she wants there to also be an equity or fairness piece to the opportunities for those students.

Trustee Cranor said she believed the equity and diversity statements would be more powerful if kept separate.

Trustee Edwards suggested that Trustee Cranor and Trustee Young could wordsmith this document with Mrs. Sell, as well.

BOARD REVIEW OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' GOVERNANCE POLICY E-1: VISION STATEMENT AND E-2: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
(continued)

The Board members agreed to leave E-1: Vision Statement as it is currently written and bring it forward as a Notice of Intent.

RECESS: 12:00 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:00 p.m.

APPROVE REVIEW OF THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Approval on the way the Board of School Trustees of the Clark County School District governs and how constituent concerns are addressed.

Trustee Edwards said she does not believe there is a desire to change the Board's policies specifically, but a desire to be able to facilitate the solution of constituent concerns, and to have communication brought to the Trustees regarding the solution of constituent issues and regarding issues or happenings in their districts.

Trustee Edwards said this is the time that the Board reviews its policies, and the policies would be divided among the Board members to review. She said she would like to have the Trustees only bring forward the policies that they determine need to be revised.

There was discussion regarding the availability of the Superintendent and clarification of who the Board members are supposed to contact in certain situations; how the Board's governance model sometimes impedes open communication and sometimes prevents the Board members from making decisions or even providing input on certain decisions; the Trustees' desire to be more informed of decisions being made and issues or happenings in their districts; how effective Policy Governance® has been, using the base of student achievement; and the need to raise the level of respect for Trustees as elected officials and for what they do.

Trustee Edwards suggested adding a half-hour to the Board's October retreat to review any progress that is being made in resolving these issues.

The Trustees began discussing the Board and Superintendent Agreements but decided to bring that discussion back to the October Board retreat.

AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ADJOURN: 2:53 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Second: Young Vote: Unanimous