

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

Wednesday, September 5, 2012

8:00 a.m.

Roll Call:	<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Member Absent</u>
	Deanna L. Wright, Vice President	Dr. Linda E. Young, President
	Lorraine Alderman, Clerk	
	Dr. René Cantú, Jr., Member	
	Erin E. Cranor, Member	
	Carolyn Edwards, Member	
	Chris Garvey, Member	
	Dwight D. Jones, Superintendent of Schools	

Also present were: Mary Ann Peterson, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Donna Mendoza Mitchell, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Pat Skorkowsky, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction Unit; Jeff Weiler, Chief Financial Officer, Operations Support Unit; Staci Vesneske, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources division; Kim Wooden, Chief Student Services Officer, Student Support Services Division; Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations; Tom Axtell, General Manager, Vegas PBS; Deb Hegna, Director, Grants Development and Administration Department, Student Support Services Division; , 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, Todd Stansbury, Wiley Rein LLP; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Wright announced that Trustee Young was traveling and would not be attending today's meeting.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

Trustee Alderman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Wright asked for 30 seconds of silence in observance of the anniversary of the death of Josh Stevens and all other CCSD students we have lost, and in observance of the passing of Lucille Rogers.

#### **TRUSTEES ARRIVE**

Trustees Cantú and Cranor arrived at the Board meeting at 8:02 a.m.

## **ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda.*

*Motion: Cranor      Second: Alderman      Vote: Unanimous*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

## **APPROVE RACE TO THE TOP-DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION**

Approval regarding the potential submission of the grant application by the Clark County School District.

Ms. Wooden reviewed the modifications to the Race to the Top – District (RTT-D) grant application.

Ms. Hegna discussed the Personalized Learning Environment.

Superintendent Jones said that it is staff's recommendation that the Board allow staff to move forward and apply for the grant. He said staff would continue to reach out to the teacher's association.

Trustee Edwards asked what was expected in the evaluation of the Superintendent, principals, and teachers.

Ms. Hegna said the guidance speaks specifically to what must be done in each of the evaluation systems. She read from the guidance on each of those evaluations.

Trustee Edwards suggested that the support of the administrator's union should also be sought out since this includes evaluation of the principals.

Superintendent Jones agreed with Trustee Edwards' suggestion to seek out the administrator's union's support.

Trustee Cantú asked how the grant funds would be utilized.

Superintendent Jones said the District plans to focus primarily on the Turnaround schools and then some 1-Star and 2-Star schools.

Trustee Cantú stated that he is in support of this application. He encouraged the District to work with more local partners; namely, the Latin Chamber Foundation, among others.

Trustee Alderman asked Ms. Hegna to speak to the mayor's comment period.

Ms. Hegna said the comment period from the mayor and the Nevada Department of Education is still required, and both are given 10 days to respond to the application.

**APPROVE RACE TO THE TOP-DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION (continued)**

*Motion to allow CCSD to apply for the Race of the Top Grant funds.*

*Motion: Alderman      Second: Cantú*

Trustee Edwards asked if there have been discussions with higher education to align with them as directed in the grant.

Superintendent Jones said there would be further discussions and efforts to align with higher education institutes, such as CSN, NSC, and UNLV.

Trustee Cranor acknowledged Ms. Wooden's recent appointment as a liaison to the P-16 Council, which is designing a state longitudinal data system.

*Vote on Trustee Alderman's motion was unanimous.*

Trustee Wright acknowledged Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop's presence at the meeting.

**APPROVE MONITORING REPORT – EL-3: TREATMENT OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES – 2011-2012**

Approval regarding the monitoring report for Governance Policy EL-3: Treatment of Students and Their Families – 2011-2012.

Superintendent Jones spoke about the survey results with respect to EL-3: Treatment of Students and Their Families. He highlighted key areas of his monitoring report.

Trustee Edwards referred to the first three bullet points on page 3 of 27 concerning the Districtwide survey, and she stated that if the Board accepts this monitoring report, they are also accepting these measures as standards.

Superintendent Jones stated that it was staff's intent to be more transparent and further define the language of the survey response categories.

Trustee Edwards suggested that a clarification should be made with respect to Vegas PBS on page 10 of 27, and the language should read, "...a nonprofit television station that is licensed to the Clark County School District...". She spoke positively about the interpretation on page 11 of 27, under number 4. She stated that the last paragraph under number 8 on page 18 of 27 needed clarification. She commented that the Superintendent's interpretation under Number 9 on page 18 of 27 does not capture the Board's intent of this limitation, which is to ensure that they do not require more information of staff than is necessary for the Board to conduct business.

Regarding the Effective Parent-School Communication – Chain of Command shown on page 21 of 27, Trustee Edwards suggested that some explanation of terms is needed to make navigation easier for parents.

**APPROVE MONITORING REPORT – EL-3: TREATMENT OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES – 2011-2012 (continued)**

Superintendent Jones agreed that improvements are needed with regard to clarifying the terms on the Effective Parent-School Communication – Chain of Command form, perhaps including definitions and telephone numbers.

Trustee Cranor referred to Table 2d and Table 2e on page 5 of 27. She asked what Superintendent Jones feels would contribute to continued improvement in these areas.

Superintendent Jones commented that with relation to Table 2d, Shared Decision Making, efforts moving forward are to continue to reach out to staff and create more opportunities to have more dialogue and for staff to attend events. He said he also makes an effort to make site visits to get direct, face-to-face feedback. He said that in relationship to the Performance Zone accessibility, leveling and alignment meetings are held to continue to dialogue and communicate with parents. With regard to Table 2e, Fair Treatment of Students, he talked about the challenges in the District and efforts to address those issues; namely, the disproportionate number of ethnic students and students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) being suspended, expelled or transferred to alternative schools. He said meetings are held with the Superintendent's Education Advisory Council (SEAC) to discuss how to address this issue.

Trustee Alderman said the Board members would like to receive SEAC meeting information so that they may attend when possible. She stated that she did not see any data to support that what is outlined in the Superintendent's Interpretation on page 13 of 27 in the last sentence regarding school planning committees is being monitored. She commented that the first sentence under "Supporting Data/Information" should be strengthened to show the work that the Equity and Diversity Education Department does. She said the report also does not note the level of success of the assemblies and professional development events listed on page 14 of 27.

Superintendent Jones agreed to provide meeting information to the Board and to look at strengthening that language regarding the Equity and Diversity Education Department. He commented that because of the volume of information available, staff does make some decisions as to what is included in the reports.

Trustee Garvey asked if staff can determine where the survey results come from.

Lisa Pitch, Coordinator, Research Department, Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement, responded that the Districtwide survey is administered to all students in grades 4 through 12, and to every CCSD parent, as well as all staff members. She said the results are disaggregated by Performance Zone and by school.

Trustee Garvey said she would be interested in seeing that information.

**APPROVE MONITORING REPORT – EL-3: TREATMENT OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES – 2011-2012 (continued)**

Superintendent Jones agreed with comments made by Trustee Garvey and said those reports could be provided. He said in the future, he would like to return to utilizing the teacher groups to assist principals and staff in developing plans to resolving issues.

Trustee Cantu expressed concern with the Supporting Data/Information provided for number 6, page 13 of 27, stating that the information provided is limited. He spoke about cultural sensitivity and said the information provided should include IEPs or the level of cleanliness or safety of buildings in the lower socioeconomic areas, for example.

Superintendent Jones agreed with those comments. He spoke to the efforts he intends to move forward with in reaching out to the community and students in this area.

Trustee Edwards wondered if there should be a participation goal for the survey or at least an expectation identified.

Trustee Wright suggested that it would be great to have principals open their schools to parents to come on campus and take the survey. She expressed concern with the survey results from students on Table 2e, Fair Treatment of Students, page 5 of 27, and she said it would be interesting to know what schools these results were coming from. She suggested that the Public Concern Form should be more easily accessible. She said she would also be interested in what area the Public Concern Forms are targeting.

Superintendent Jones commented that staff does work with schools in an effort to improve the treatment of students. He agreed with making the Public Concern Form more accessible to parents.

*Motion to accept EL-3: Treatment of Students and Their Families in compliance, including the correction to the language on page 10 of 27, under "Vegas PBS" from "...operated by..." to "...licensed to..."*

*Motion: Alderman      Second: Cranor*

Superintendent Jones asked for clarification of whether the language change should be made in this document or in next year's monitoring report.

Trustee Edwards said she believes this to be a technical correction, and she asked that the correction be made presently.

*Vote on Trustee Alderman's motion was unanimous.*

## **MONITORING REPORT – EL-4: TREATMENT OF STAFF – 2011-2012**

Discussion and possible action regarding the monitoring report for Governance Policy  
EL-4: Treatment of Staff – 2011-2012.

Superintendent Jones briefly commented on the survey results in connection with EL-4: Treatment of Staff.

Trustee Cranor commented on number 5, Fail to Promote a Positive Work Environment at all Levels, stating that this is a difficult distinction to make for some in this current climate. She asked Superintendent Jones to comment on what the District is doing in this area.

Superintendent Jones talked about the difficulty staff is facing with the many changes being made in the educational system and helping staff to manage those changes and meet the challenges even when those changes are coming down from state or federal mandates.

Trustee Alderman referred to Number 1A on page 2 of 18, and suggested reviewing the annual "Right to Know" publication to ensure that it is not only accessible to employees, but understandable and clear to employees as well.

*Motion to accept Monitoring Report EL-4: Treatment of Staff in compliance.*  
*Motion: Alderman Second: Cranor*

Trustee Edwards thanked staff for their work on this monitoring report and said she believed improvements have been made.

*Vote on Trustee Alderman's motion was unanimous.*

Superintendent Jones thanked Maureen Fox, Director of Management Processes, Office of the Chief of Staff; Kirsten Searer, Chief of Staff; and Ms. Carrero for their contributions in providing these monitoring reports.

## **VEGAS PBS AND FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION LEGAL AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

Presentation and discussion of information regarding an update on the requirements of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) related to Vegas PBS and regulatory issues on Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) compliance, political advertising, election coverage, editorial content, and spectrum policy.

Mr. Axtell gave a brief history of the television station's experience in relationship to legalities and adherence to the FCC requirements.

**VEGAS PBS AND FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION LEGAL AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

Mr. Stansbury gave a review of the requirements of the FCC. He also spoke about the Board of Trustees' role and responsibilities as the license holder of Vegas PBS and the terms of the license.

**AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**ADJOURN:** 11:00 a.m.

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Cranor    Vote: Unanimous*