

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CENTER
3950 S. PECOS-MCLEOD ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89121

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

3:15 p.m.

Student Attendance Status (present unless indicated otherwise)

Arbor View HS	Rebecca Franssen (absent w/notice)	Foothill HS	Victoria Crowder
A-Tech	Jacy Jordahl	Las Vegas Acad.....	Kelvin Casiguran
Basic HS	Jeanne Bowers	Legacy HS	Brayden Walters
Bonanza HS	Jason Littleford	Northwest CTA.....	Aviva Lessnick
Canyon Springs HS	Vanessa Flores	Palo Verde HS	Kaylyn Taylor
Cheyenne HS.....	Lada Mead	SECTA.....	Cilla Jose
Cimarron-Memorial HS ...	Chloe Davis	Silverado HS	Vinny Butera
Clark HS	Samantha Lai	Spring Valley HS.....	Aleta Dignard-Fung
Coronado HS	Keely Eshenbaugh	SW CTA.....	Andres Caja, Jr.
Del Sol HS	Alexandria Hoyer	Valley HS.....	Hadley Mitchell
Durango HS	Ashley Krape	Veterans' Tribute CTA	LaShantanise Miller
East CTA	Tyler Baker	West CTA	Jonah Miller

Guests/Visitors

Patrice Tew, Clerk, School Board of Trustees, District E
Stavan Corbett, Member, School Board of Trustees, District D
Carolyn Edwards, Member, School Board of Trustees, District F
Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent
Jessica Fry, Administrative Assistant, Innovative Teaching & Learning Unit
Heaven Anderson, Alternate Member, Bonanza HS
Bill Hoffman, parent
Lidiya Luchkine, parent
Sandy Ginger, Director, Student Activities
Jody Plante, Student Activities Secretary (Transcriber/Recorder)

Sandy Ginger called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adopt Agenda.
Motion: Chloe Davis, Cimarron-Memorial HS
Second: Kaylyn Taylor, Palo Verde HS
Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 6, 2014, meeting were approved.

Motion: Chloe Davis, Cimarron-Memorial HS

Second: Kaylyn Taylor, Palo Verde HS

Vote: Unanimous

INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Ginger introduced the special guests; Trustee Patrice Tew, Trustee Carolyn Edwards, Trustee Stavan Corbett, and Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky.

STUDENT REPORTS

Committee members were asked to share some things from the September School Board meetings. The items they liked/enjoyed hearing about included:

- Adopting the IB program for more schools.
- Atmosphere and system is very professional, like a courtroom.
- Coronado HS's support of their Student Body President.
- Board discussion about moving the 9/25 meeting due to Rosh Hashanah – very thoughtful.
- Superintendent Skorkowsky talking about the House of Blues donating instruments.
- Trustee Wright's knowledge of specific details about Basic HS.
- Trustee Tew attending Palo Verde HS's assembly.
- Trustees debates in general.
- Many public speakers and how the Board listened so intently.
- Number of students involved in activities.
- Parliamentary procedures used by board – like Model UN.
- Partnership program volunteers over 19,000 hours.
- Public comment: idea for a class about practical, everyday skills.
- Record high number of students enrolled in CCSD at over 318,000.
- Ride 4 Reading program
 - How the teacher who started the program was an avid bicyclist and reader and grew his idea to reach other states.
 - Ruby Thomas ES receiving so many books from the Ride 4 Reading Program.
- Students that spoke considered school their “home away from home.”
- The Sex Ed debate (interesting and heated).

OVERCROWDING

There was a discussion about the high number of students in the Clark County School District, especially in elementary schools. Trustee Edwards explained the ways in which additional funds could be gained for building more schools. Superintendent Skorkowsky explained that elementary schools are 18% over capacity.

Trustee Edwards explained that the hope for additional legislative funding would help to build the 23 elementary schools needed to alleviate the overcrowded situation now. At present, the school district has \$4.5 million left from the previous bond which will help finish rebuilding Boulder City HS, add a building at West Prep (K-12) which would replace the portables used for elementary classes, and build additions at Sandy Valley HS to eliminate the 30 portable classrooms which are moldy and build a permanent gym.

There are other conditions in older schools that need to be addressed, she stated, including air conditioning, roof, and electrical problems.

Students commented on the year round option. A majority of the students who spoke about their personal experience with year round when they were in elementary school all thought it was a good option. Some comments:

- As long as siblings are on the same track, it is OK.
- Better to be off 2 weeks at a time rather than whole summer.
- Good for family not having to pay day care all at one time.

Discussions:

- Adding additional magnet middle schools can alleviate the middle school overcrowding.
- Rezoning some students to Blue Diamond (doesn't affect many students, though).
- How sports would be affected if high schools were year round
- Day care and other options for elementary school students in year round.
- Virtual school half day/in school half day (Members stressed that parent involvement would be necessary for elementary virtual school)
- The possibility of converting vacant commercial buildings ~~used for classrooms~~ to schools.

START TIMES

Superintendent Skorkowsky explained that research shows high school students who sleep later have better grades. Trustee Tew read from a website detailing that researchers unanimously report that learning, health and safety are better in teenagers who sleep later in the day. Mrs. Ginger said that research also shows that the "body clock" of teens is "programed" to stay up later and sleep later.

The Superintendent indicated that a legislative bill would be submitted in February requiring high schools to start at 9 AM.

A discussion ensued with most students saying they were not in favor of this practice. Some comments:

- Sports would be too late in the day.
- Students would just stay up even later.
- Some students have jobs after school.
- Older students take care of younger siblings after school.

Students who were in favor:

- Some high school students are not fully awake in class.
- It is too difficult to be awakened so early.
- Kaylyn from Palo Verde HS said when they started at 8 AM, it was perfect.

Question: Why other countries have higher test scores than the United States.

- They go to school 8 ½-9 hours per day and have a longer school year.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said to change all schools to the same start time would cost the district \$20 million in buses.

Andres Caja, Jr. from SW CTA recommended that committee members collect ideas/thoughts at school and revisit this topic next month. Mrs. Ginger concurred and said this topic would be added to November's agenda.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER – FEEDBACK/TOPICS

Trustee Tew opened a discussion about decision-making processes.

She also asked if students would be interested in a presentation about Infinite Campus. Students were in favor.

REVIEW STUDENT CONCERNS

Aleta Dignard-Fung from Spring Valley HS said that the Free and Reduced Lunch program numbers have decreased and it is felt that students won't sign up because they feel embarrassed. She explained that if the percentage goes down too much, it will change the school's Title I status therefore reducing other funding for the school. Aleta asked for feedback and suggestions from the committee. Suggestions included:

- Use online meal form
- Put the form in the 1st day of school packet

LaShantanise Miller from Veterans Tribute Career & Technical Academy asked for input about how to motivate students to learn. Suggestions included:

- Try a motivational class as mentioned at the 9/11/14 school board meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Ginger conducted the election.

- Keeley Eshenbaugh from Coronado HS was elected Chairman.
- Andres Caja, Jr. from Southwest Career & Technical Academy was elected Vice Chairman.

They were asked to stay after the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The Sun Youth Forum was explained to the committee by Mrs. Ginger. Students who are interested in attending should contact the Activity Administrator at their school.
- B. Next meeting is November 6, 2014; regular CCSD dress code applies to this meeting.
- C. Reminder that discussions at these meetings should represent all students and not individual members only.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ADJOURN

Motion: Brayden Walters, Legacy HS

Second: Chloe Davis, Cimarron-Memorial HS

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.