

MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, 4TH FLOOR EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
5100 W. SAHARA AVE., LAS VEGAS, NV 89146

POLICY REVIEW

Monday, November 27, 2006

8:37 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Ruth L. Johnson, President
Sheila Moulton, Vice President
Susan C. Brager-Wellman, Clerk
Larry P. Mason, Member
Shirley Barber, Member
Mary Beth Scow, Member
Terri Janison, Member

Dr. Walt Rulffes, Superintendent

Also present were: Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Bill Hoffman, General Counsel, Legal Department; Lauren Kohut-Rost, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction Unit; Karlene McCormick-Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent Schools; Maureen Fox, Superintendent's Assistant, Superintendent's Office; Elizabeth Carrero, Administrative Secretary IV; Superintendent's Office; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary II, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED

Teleconference call with Mrs. Brager-Wellman was connected at 8:37 a.m.

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopt agenda except move Item 4 to follow Item 2 as 2A.

Motion: Moulton Second: Janison

Mrs. Barber made the following statement:

"I would like the record to reflect word-for-word that I strongly object to the evaluation section of B/SL-5: Monitoring Superintendent Performance."

*Vote on Mrs. Moulton's motion: Yeses – 6 (Johnson, Moulton, Scow, Brager-Wellman, Mason, Janison);
No – 1 (Barber)*

The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Governance Review of Board Policy B/SL-5: Monitoring Superintendent Performance, Governance Review of Board Policy E-3: Essential Skills, Board Meeting Minutes, Behavior at board meetings – Karen Gray

Mrs. Gray stated that she agreed with Mrs. Barber regarding the need for Indicators in B/SL-5: Monitoring Superintendent Performance. She also stated that she was still requesting minutes that she had not yet received. She said with reference to Item 9, Reference E, the use of the word "practice" indicated a very low standard. She stated that she was disappointed in her behavior at the meeting of November 12, 2006, and frustrated with the board. She said she listened to past meetings and realized that there was no response or show of appreciation from the board for her coming to the meetings and speaking to the board and that the board's conduct during public speaking was undesirable and led to frustration with the board. She also accused the board of avoiding the public and conducting business in secret.

Mrs. Moulton expressed her appreciation for Mrs. Gray's candidness, but disagreed that the board conducts business in secret and out of the public eye. She further stated that she always tries to be courteous of public speakers, and that she respects the opinions of those that come and speak before the board. She also mentioned that she believed Mrs. Gray and herself had a good dialogue during their meeting on June 12, 2006.

Mrs. Janison disagreed with comments made by Mrs. Gray regarding the board's conducting business in secret. She stated that she appreciated Mrs. Gray's reaching out to the board. She agreed that there could be changes in the way the board and the public communicate.

Mrs. Barber agreed that there could be some changes made in the way the board conducts business. She stated that she appreciated the information brought forth by Mrs. Gray.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF INDICATORS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ENDS POLICIES

Approval of the creation of indicators to be used in superintendent evaluations, is 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 board of school trustees' meeting.

Mrs. Janison stated that she had concerns with how the superintendent could go year-to-year without presenting a yearly plan. She stated that she would like to see a plan presented to district staff outlining a plan for the upcoming year. She said if this was not feasible, she would like an explanation.

Mrs. Scow stated that a plan of action would require that the superintendent provide extensive data, and that telling the superintendent what data to provide is not the way the board should govern.

Mrs. Janison said this would hold the school district more accountable.

Mrs. Johnson asked what the board members see as a concern in the list of present Indicators.

Dr. Kohut-Rost stated that the Instruction Unit is creating a document that specifies what they are looking at in terms of what the superintendent is evaluated on; what the region superintendents are evaluated on; and what the principals are evaluated on, tying that in direct alignment to the Ends.

Mrs. Janison asked if the document could be used as a tool in the evaluation of the superintendent.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF INDICATORS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ENDS POLICIES

(continued)

Dr. Kohut-Rost stated she believed it could be used for that purpose. She explained ways in which the district would be targeting goals, mentioning the achievement gap.

Mr. Mason questioned the 3 percent goal by which to close the achievement gap mentioned by Dr. Kohut-Rost.

Dr. McCormick-Lee offered an explanation.

Mr. Mason asked why not 5 percent as opposed to 3 percent.

Dr. McCormick-Lee explained how the 3 percent was reached.

Mrs. Barber asked for an explanation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) gains and federal standards.

Dr. McCormick-Lee explained the targets of AYP and gave some history of how the combination of federal and state standards were developed.

Mrs. Barber asked if the schools are aware of the achievement gap.

Dr. McCormick-Lee stated that in her opinion, they are very aware of the achievement gap.

Mrs. Barber stated that she does not agree with evaluating without Indicators, and she stated that she believes they need to be in policy, which would state who would develop the Indicators and when they would be used and who would approve them. She referred to the Annual Goals meeting minutes.

Mrs. Janison suggested adding language to B/SL-5: Monitoring Superintendent Performance that would address Indicators currently being used.

Dr. Rulfes explained that a list of Indicators along with quantifiers was being developing that should be available in approximately one month.

Mrs. Johnson suggested adding to page 4 of 6, section C, an asterisk that would say, "The Monitoring Report data developed by the superintendent and *previously submitted to the board under the schedule provided above," and adding to the bottom of the page "**Previous year's data can be found in the appendix and includes a list of Indicators."

Mrs. Janison suggested adding "including Indicators or specific goals" to the end of the first sentence in 7A.

Dr. Rulfes suggested bringing the targets back before the board in 30 to 60 days to a work session.

Ms. Miller offered the following language for use in 7A: "Indicating key Indicators the superintendent plans to use in the upcoming school year."

Further discussion was held regarding language in B/SL-5: Monitoring Superintendent Performance that would address the superintendent's plan to use Indicators or specific goals for the upcoming school year.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF INDICATORS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ENDS POLICIES

(continued)

Mrs. Johnson suggested bringing EL-10: Communication and Support to the Board back to the board for review and further discussion of the communication piece discussed today.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY B/SL-5: MONITORING SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE

Approval of the modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to B/SL5: Monitoring Superintendent Performance, is 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 board of school trustees' meeting, as recommended in Reference A.

Discussion was held in conjunction with the previous agenda item.

APPROVE MONITORING REPORTS

Approval of the prioritization of monitoring reports addressing the Board's Ends. 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 board of school trustees' meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY E-1: GLOBAL MISSION

Approval of the modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to E-1: Global Mission, 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 board of school trustees' meeting, as recommended in Reference B.

Motion to add to the end of E-1: Global Mission "...at a justifiable cost."

Motion: Scow Second: Moulton Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Barber was not present for the vote.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY B/SL 5: MONITORING SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE (continued)

*Motion to add to 7C an asterisk that would say, "*Previous year's data can be found in the appendix and includes a list of Indicators," and to bring back EL-10: Communication and Support to the Board, for the board's review in the regular meeting in December 2006.*

Motion: Moulton Second: Scow Vote: Unanimous

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY E-2: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Approval of the modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to E-2: Academic Achievement, is 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 board of school trustees' meeting, as recommended in Reference C.

Motion to strike "standards higher than" from E-2: Academic Achievement.

Motion: Moulton Second: Mason Vote: Yeses – 6 (Johnson, Moulton, Barber, Scow, Brager-Wellman, Janison); No – 1 (Mason)

Vote on Mrs. Moulton's motion passed.

A discussion was held regarding the description of core curriculum classes.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY E-2: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Mrs. Johnson asked that Math and Science also indicate the specific areas as in language arts and social studies.

Dr. Kohut-Rost stated that could be done.

Motion that the paragraph would read, "Students meet state and federal guidelines as well as appropriate benchmarks for academic competency in all areas and all grade levels and pass the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE),"and "A: Integrated throughout the curriculum are personal and workplace skills to include language arts, math, science..."and to add "Lifelong" to F.

Motion: Scow Second: Moulton Vote: Unanimous

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY E-2A: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT-DEFINED

Approval of modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to E-2A: Academic Achievement-Defined, is 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 board of school trustees' meeting, as recommended in Reference D.

No action was taken on this item.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY E-3: ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Approval of modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to E-3: Essential Skills, is 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 board of school trustees' meeting, as recommended in Reference E.

No action was taken on this item.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY E-3A: ESSENTIAL SKILLS-DEFINED

Approval of modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to E-3A: Essential Skills-Defined, is 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 board of school trustees' meeting, as recommended in Reference F.

No action was taken on this item.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY E-4: RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Approval of modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to E-4: Responsible Citizenship, is 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 board of school trustees' meeting, as in Reference G.

No action was taken on this item.

APPROVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY E-4A: RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP-DEFINED

Approval of modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to E-4A: Responsible Citizenship-Defined, is 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 board of school trustees' meeting, as in Reference H.

No action was taken on this item.

APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Approval of modification, additions, and deletions to the way the board meeting minutes are produced, as requested.

Mrs. Johnson explained that with new software coming online in February 2007, the audio portion of the meeting will be able to be captured and placed on the website, which would satisfy the legal requirements for having the minutes available. She stated that in addition to this, staff would still produce written minutes of the board's actions in a form not as extensive as presently produced.

There were concerns discussed regarding both forms of the minutes being made available to the public and also the intent of the discussion being captured in the written minutes.

Mrs. Johnson said that she had been speaking with Kathy Foster about enlisting English teachers to help with the backlog of minutes.

Ms. Miller stated that the law requires that the minutes include the substantive discussion in a meeting.

Mrs. Moulton stated that she would be concerned with different people doing the minutes and having different interpretations of what is substantive and what is not.

Ms. Miller explained that when the trustees approve the minutes, they are agreeing that those minutes have captured the substance of the meeting.

ADJOURN: 11:29 a.m.

Motion: Moulton Second: Barber Vote: Unanimous