

MINUTES  
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
EDWARD A. GREER EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM  
2832 E. FLAMINGO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89121

Thursday, September 24, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Roll Call:    Members Present  
Terri Janison, President  
Carolyn Edwards, Vice President  
Sheila R. Moulton, Clerk  
Chris Garvey, Member  
Deanna L. Wright, Member  
Dr. Linda E. Young, Member

Member Absent  
Larry P. Mason, Member

Dr. Walt Rulffes, Superintendent of Schools

**INVOCATION**

Trustee Janison requested 30 seconds of silence.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Centennial High School ROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda, except delete Item 5.12, move Item 7.01 to follow Item 4.02 as Item 4.02a, pull Item 5.01 for discussion, and note revised backup material for Items 5.01 and 5.11.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Young    Vote: Unanimous*

**STUDENT REPORTS**

Riomar David, student body president at East Career and Technical Academy, Sheila Moulton, District G Trustee; Anne Lippitt, student body president at Spring Valley High School, Carolyn Edwards, District F Trustee; and Lourdes Hernandez, student representative at Western High School, Linda Young, District C Trustee, gave brief overviews of present and future activities, plans, and goals for their respective schools.

**PRESENTATION OF KEEPING KIDS FIT**

Presentation and overview of Keeping Kids Fit, a Ready to Learn program. Tom Axtell, General Manager, Vegas PBS; Lee Solonche, Director, Educational Media Services, Vegas PBS; Candace Thompson, Coordinator, Educational Media Services, Vegas PBS.

Mr. Axtell introduced Mr. Solonche, who gave a brief presentation on Vegas PBS programs that focus on childhood obesity and keeping children fit in the community.

Candace Thompson, Administrative Specialist/RTL Coordinator, Vegas PBS, gave a brief overview of workshops and activity guides available to families on keeping children fit.

**PRESENTATION OF KEEPING KIDS FIT (continued)**

The Trustees commended Mr. Axtell and all those involved with promoting the education of families on keeping children fit.

**PRESENTATION OF TEACHER GAMES IN MESQUITE**

Presentation and overview of the Teacher Games in Mesquite. Bernadette Anthony, Representative, Teacher Games in Mesquite, Casablanca Resorts.

Ms. Anthony presented a brief overview of the Teacher Games in Mesquite program.

**RECESS:** 4:48 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 5:09 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AGENDA ITEMS/RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

Trustee Janison read the public speaking guidelines.

**PUBLIC HEARING – INTENT TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION (LIMITED TAX) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BONDS (ADDITIONALLY SECURED BY PLEDGED REVENUES)**

This is the time and the place that was advertised for the Public Hearing on the Intent to Issue General Obligation (Limited Tax) School Improvement Bonds (additionally secured by pledge revenues), and interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the Intent to Issue General Obligation (Limited Tax) School Improvement Bonds (additionally secured by pledged revenues) of the Clark County School District.

Trustee Janison asked if any member of the public wished to speak on this item, to which there was no response.

*Motion to accept.*

*Motion: Moulton    Second: Edwards    Vote: Unanimous*

**APPROVE ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of consent agenda, as submitted, as recommended.

Public Hearings – Contract Award: Off-Site Improvements, Northwest Career and Technical Academy; Contract Award: Fire Hydrant Installation, Walter V. Long Elementary School; Change in Services, Architectural/Engineering Services Agreement; Change Orders – Marzette Lewis

Ms. Lewis expressed concern with Item 5.11 in that homes and streets should be built before new schools are built. She urged that the Trustees read information available before voting on agenda items.

Regarding Item 5.01, Trustee Young expressed concern that this was a program that addressed in-school students as opposed to dropout students. She expressed concern for dropouts and the lack of a program to draw dropouts back to school or an alternative to get their diploma.

Dr. Lauren Kohut-Rost, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction Unit, explained that this program was not a dropout recovery program, but this program has assisted credit deficient students in catching up to where they need to be.

**APPROVE ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA (continued)**

*Approval of consent agenda, 5.01 through 5.14, except deleting Item 5.12, as follows:*

*Motion: Edwards Second: Moulton Vote: Unanimous*

**APPROVE SOFTWARE, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT – ADVANCED ACADEMICS**

Approval to contract with Advanced Academics, to provide online credit recovery services at eight high schools, to include license fees and initial onsite training for 80 teachers, with ongoing support throughout the school year, at the rate of \$1,500.00 per day, for an approximate total cost of \$617,500.00, effective September 25, 2009, through June 30, 2010, to be paid from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, FY10, Unit 0137, Account G/L 5650000000, Fund 280, with no impact to the general fund, as recommended in Reference 5.01.

**APPROVE STUDENT EXPULSIONS**

Approval of student expulsions according to NRS 392.467 (Board Policy 5114 and Regulations 5114 and 5141.1), as listed, as recommended in Reference 5.02.

**APPROVE LICENSED PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT**

Approval to employ licensed personnel, as recommended in Reference 5.03.

**APPROVE UNIFIED PERSONNEL LEAVE OF ABSENCE EXTENSION**

Approval to grant a leave of absence extension to a unified employee (Regulation 4351), as recommended in Reference 5.04.

**APPROVE LICENSED PERSONNEL LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Approval to grant leaves of absence to licensed personnel (Regulations 4351, 4355 and Articles 16-5, 16-7, and 16-9 of the Negotiated Agreement between the Clark County School District and the Clark County Education Association), as recommended in Reference 5.05.

**RATIFY PURCHASE ORDERS**

Ratification of the purchase orders in the total amount of \$1,999,294.14, as listed, as recommended in Reference 5.06.

**APPROVE PURCHASING AWARDS**

Approval to purchase goods or services in the estimated total amount of \$1,601,230.00, in compliance with NRS 332, as listed, as recommended in Reference 5.07.

**RATIFY WARRANTS**

Ratification of the warrants as listed in the Bills Payable Transmittal and the Board Memorandum #29-08-09 in the total amount of \$60,305,572.36, as recommended in Reference 5.08.

**APPROVE AMENDMENT TO GROUND LEASE FOR THE GOODSPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Approval to enter into an amendment to renew the ground lease between Patricia Lee Reeder and James Carmack Reeder and the Clark County School District, regarding Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 202-26-601-006, for leach field access for the benefit of Goodsprings Elementary School, for a one-year period beginning on October 1, 2009, and expiring on September 30, 2010, with the option to terminate with a 60 calendar day written notice, for a cost of \$1,500.00, to be paid from Fund 3300000000, Cost Center 1033001650; and for Jeff Weiler, Chief Financial Officer, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee to sign the lease agreement, as recommended in Reference 5.09.

**APPROVE DEDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT FOR PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND UTILITY PURPOSES FOR CLARK COUNTY AT 4170 AND 4190 MCLEOD DRIVE**

Approval to grant Clark County two easements necessary to facilitate the construction of sidewalks, street lights, utilities, traffic control devices, and appurtenances located on the western portion of 4170 and 4190 McLeod Drive, and for Jeff Weiler, Chief Financial Officer, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee to sign the granting document, as recommended in Reference 5.10.

**APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD: OFF-SITE IMPROVEMENTS, NORTHWEST CAREER AND TECHNICAL ACADEMY**

Approval of an award of contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for off-site improvements to construct an access road leading from the northwest corner of the site to Grand Montecito to provide access for school busses and a future park in support of the Northwest Career and Technical Academy, to be paid from the 1998 Capital Improvement Program, Fund 3080000000, Project C0012093, and for J. P. Gerner, Facilities Division, to act as the Board of School Trustees' designee for all project documents, as recommended in Reference 5.11.

**RATIFY CHANGE IN SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Ratification of total change in services to the architectural/engineering services agreement for a net increase of \$96,276.75 for Evelyn Stuckey Elementary School (Domingo Cambeiro Professional Corporation), Ruby Duncan Elementary School (SH Architecture), Mark L. Fine Elementary School (JMA Architects, Inc.), Charlotte and Jerry Keller Elementary School (Dynamic Commissioning Solutions, Inc.), Sunrise Mountain High School (Environmental Testing and Balancing of Nevada, Inc.), and J. E. Manch Elementary School Replacement (SSA Architecture, Small Studio Associates, LLC), as recommended in Reference 5.13.

**RATIFY CHANGE ORDERS**

Ratification of total change orders for a net increase of \$1,566,093.31 to the construction contracts to construct Vegas PBS, Distance Education Center, and Two-Story Prefabricated Office Buildings for the Facility Located at 4220 McLeod Drive (Martin-Harris Construction), and Construct Sunrise Mountain High School (Core Construction Services of Nevada, Inc.), as recommended in Reference 5.14.

**APPROVE ITEMS 6.01 THROUGH 6.03**

Approval of Items 6.01, 6.02, and 6.03, respectively, as follows:

Trustee Edwards suggested that Items 6.01, 6.02, and 6.03 be taken together.

Public Hearings – Public Hearing Pilot Program, Board Review of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees' Policy Governance GP-11, Board Review of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees' Appendix, Public Speaking Guidelines – Marzette Lewis, Anyika Kamal

Ms. Lewis noted there was no backup material for Item 6.01. She questioned what the pilot program for public hearing was, why there was a pilot program, and why the public did not receive any information related thereto.

Mr. Kamal stated he was uninformed regarding Item 6.01. He suggested changing the time allotted for public speakers from three minutes to five minutes with an understanding that no additional minutes would be granted to result in a more pleasant meeting atmosphere.

**APPROVE ITEMS 6.01 THROUGH 6.03 (continued)**

Trustee Edwards gave a brief explanation of the current public hearing pilot program, which actually allows public speakers more time than current policy states. She stated that there was some taking advantage of time allotted during the pilot, but, for the most part, public hearings have moved quickly. She felt there was a need to find a way to control multiple items being signed up for one speaker and then those items not being discussed. She suggested that the pilot continue and urged further discussion on this issue.

Trustee Garvey expressed support of the pilot program but noted that rules of respect need to be followed by everyone.

Trustee Young stated it was important to hear what speakers have to say, although she felt badgering, harassment, and disrespect has occurred during Board meetings. She expressed support of extending the pilot, although she preferred hearing public opinions at the beginning of the meeting.

Trustee Moulton expressed support of the pilot program. She questioned whether it would be appropriate to set a time limit of 60 to 90 minutes of public hearing if many speakers were to sign up to speak, such as at a zoning meeting. She expressed support of the revised speaker sign-in sheet. Regarding the revised public speaking guidelines, she questioned whether the revisions were created with the help of attorneys, and if certain public speaking was deemed prohibitive, how should it be stopped.

Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office, responded that setting a time limit could be done, but it needed to be a reasonable amount of time, and the agenda would need to clearly state that limitation in advance. With regard to the appendix verbiage, she stated that Mark Wood, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office, utilized verbiage from a 2002 Attorney General opinion on public comment section, and she suggested she and Bill Hoffman, General Counsel, Legal Office, may review the guidelines in light of recent cases. She noted that some of the language may be difficult to enforce, and the guidelines read before public speaking begins has been helpful.

Trustee Moulton questioned whether individual Board members could bring a lawsuit if it was felt that someone was inflammatory, irrational, or slanderous towards a Board member.

Mrs. Miller responded in the affirmative, noting it depended on the circumstances, and she suggested it may be better to do that instead of cutting off the speaker in an open forum.

Trustee Wright agreed that the pilot should be extended to further evaluate it.

Trustee Janison agreed with extending the pilot another month, and she noted most speakers finished their speaking within three minutes.

*Motion to extend the pilot for an additional two months, to the end of November, so that Trustee Edwards could work on some language with Trustee Garvey and Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office, to be considered at the conclusion of the pilot regarding whether or not to implement it.*

*Motion: Edwards      Second: Moulton*

Trustee Young expressed support of the motion, although she suggested continuing the pilot through the rest of the year and implementing it at the beginning of the new year.

**APPROVE ITEMS 6.01 THROUGH 6.03 (continued)**

Trustee Edwards stated the pilot could be extended again at the end of November.

Trustee Janison clarified that the motion included Items 6.01, 6.02, and 6.03.

*Vote on Trustee Edwards' motion was unanimous.*

**APPROVE PUBLIC HEARING PILOT PROGRAM**

Approval regarding the way public hearing was conducted during the public hearing pilot program held at the regular Board meetings of Thursday, May 14, 2009, through Thursday, September 24, 2009.

**APPROVE BOARD REVIEW OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' POLICY GOVERNANCE GP-11**

Approval regarding modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to GP-11: Public Hearings, 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.

**APPROVE BOARD REVIEW OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' APPENDIX, PUBLIC SPEAKING GUIDELINES**

Approval regarding modification, additions, language changes, and deletions to Appendix, Public Speaking Guidelines, 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.

**APPROVE NOTICE OF INTENT OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' POLICY GOVERNANCE E-2**

Approval of the Notice of Intent to Adopt, Repeal, or Amend Clark County School District Board of Trustees' Governance Policy E-2: Academic Achievement, prior to submission to the Board of School Trustees for approval on October 22, 2009, as recommended in Reference 6.04. Any changes made to this policy will be reflected in the 2010-2011 evaluation period.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Young    Vote: Unanimous*

**AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

Report and discussion regarding the Audit Committee meeting held on September 14, 2009.

Trustee Moulton gave a brief update of the most recent Audit Committee meeting and items of recommendation that were being worked on that would be brought to the Board in the near future. She expressed appreciation to Trustee Janison for her attendance at the meeting.

**APPROVE MONITORING REPORT – EL-7: EMERGENCY SUPERINTENDENT SUCCESSION – 2008-2009**

Approval regarding the monitoring report for Governance Policy EL-7: Emergency Superintendent Succession – 2008-2009.

*Motion to accept in compliance.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Moulton    Vote: Unanimous*

### **APPROVE MONITORING REPORT – EL-9: COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS – 2008-2009**

Approval regarding the monitoring report for Governance Policy EL-9: Compensation and Benefits – 2008-2009.

*Motion to accept in compliance.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Moulton*

Trustee Edwards commented that she had discussion with the Superintendent on the issue regarding verbiage on page 1 of 3 that the Superintendent's supporting data and information does not address the public image and suggested that there be language that addresses it in future monitoring reports.

*Vote on Trustee Edwards' motion was unanimous.*

### **APPROVE MONITORING REPORT – EL-10: COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT TO THE BOARD – 2008-2009**

Approval regarding the monitoring report for Governance Policy EL-10: Communication and Support to the Board – 2008-2009.

*Motion to accept in compliance.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Moulton*

Regarding number 5, Trustee Moulton stated the following were performed well: Page 4 of 13, number 5; page 5 of 13, under Supporting Data/Information; and page 7 of 13, number 12. She requested background information on the survey, including, but not limited to, how the survey was distributed, the details on the survey, the numbers, and when it was taken. She commended the Superintendent overall for his performance.

Dr. Ruffes explained that these are Executive Limitations, things that the District would not do. He indicated that an area that needs strengthening is what the District is doing regarding public image.

Trustee Janison expressed appreciation to the Superintendent for his communication and agreed with strengthening the image of the District as a whole.

Trustee Young encouraged the working relationship of the Superintendent and staff regarding doing more community outreach, particularly in District C. She recommended quarterly meetings for District C to bring in the community with the Superintendent in an informal way to discuss topics the community raises.

Trustee Edwards commended the Superintendent for keeping the Board informed of policies. Regarding the survey, she noted that it would become harder to increase since it was already high scoring. She briefly commented on item 2 on page 2 of 13, failed to communicate District objectives, an area the reorganization fell under; and number 7, the Superintendent's duty to advise the Board when it was out of line.

Trustee Moulton commended the Superintendent and expressed support of the motion.

Trustee Janison commended the Superintendent and staff that supports him.

Dr. Ruffes noted that in the near future there may be more dissatisfaction expressed in the report due to budget cuts in school programs.

**APPROVE MONITORING REPORT – EL-10: COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT TO THE BOARD – 2008-2009 (continued)**

Trustee Janison suggested the need to continue to communicate.

Trustee Young suggested the need to investigate why students feel they are not getting fair treatment, as indicated consistently by the current and past surveys.

*Vote on Trustee Edwards' motion was unanimous.*

**APPROVE AMENDMENT OF CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULATION 3613.1**

Approval of the amendment of Clark County School District Regulation 3613.1, Vegas PBS Television Studio Fund-Raising Events, as recommended in Reference 7.05.

*Motion to accept.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Wright    Vote: Unanimous*

**EMPLOYEE LABOR RELATIONS AND CLOSED SESSION**

*Approval of closed session pursuant to NRS 288.*

*Motion: Edwards    Second: Wright*

*The maker of the motion and the second agreed to withdraw the motion.*

**BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION**

Dr. Rulfes acknowledged the Board's interest in the \$25 million grant Nevada received for improvement of schools, and he indicated that the eligible schools may be known by the end of September. He stated he would bring a plan to the Board on October 7 for expansion of empowerment schools in hopes of getting federal money and asking the Board to support funding empowerment in the event the District does not receive the federal money. He announced that West Ed, a highly respected research agency funded primarily by the federal government, was coming to Las Vegas on October 21, and he invited Mr. Axtell to give a brief overview of the presentations planned at Vegas PBS on Wednesday, October 21, 10:30 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m., to which Mr. Axtell complied.

Dr. Rulfes announced that Casey Jones Health Center's groundbreaking ceremony would take place at Wynn Elementary School on Thursday, October 22, at 2:00 p.m.

**AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Trustee Moulton requested a presentation, update, and discussion on affidavits and how extensively they are found in schools.

**BOARD REPORTS**

Trustee Moulton briefly reported on the recent Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) meeting wherein discussion took place regarding use of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, or chiropractors to give physical exams, and she suggested the District should investigate whether physical exams being given to athletes are being performed correctly. She also briefly reported on the recent Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) training, and she thanked the new Trustees for attending.

## **BOARD REPORTS (continued)**

Trustee Edwards briefly reported on the recent Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) meeting, noting that they were working on a number of issues, including Revision 14 of the bond. She noted that Gray Elementary School was the only school in Nevada that was selected as a blue ribbon school and that Gray receives Prime 6 children and is doing a great job.

Trustee Young briefly reported on the following: Her recent attendance at College of Southern Nevada (CSN) for the Cesar Chavez scholarship breakfast; her work with the Workforce Connection and their coordination with the District regarding youth programs; her work with the Nevada Diversity Roundtable; and she acknowledged Student Support Services Division for reaching out and supporting schools and students in the District.

Trustee Wright briefly reported on the recent community meeting she attended at Coronado High School, which she noted had good engagement. She also briefly reported on her recent visit to the Henderson Convention Center in which she viewed a touring copy of the Declaration of Independence.

Dr. Rulfes announced that Charlene Green, Deputy Superintendent, Student Support Services Division, had won this year's national Urban Educator of the Year Award.

Trustee Garvey reported on a recent visit at a women's prison and met with students who had lost engagement and noted some difficulties they were encountering, which she suggested the District could help address.

Trustee Janison briefly reported on the recent Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) meeting in which growth projections for the next 10 to 15 years were discussed. She requested that Mrs. Krohn provide this document to the Board.

## **DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Public Hearing – Marzette Lewis

Ms. Lewis requested a special meeting at West Prep and for West Prep to be put back on every agenda until it is addressed. She requested that the Board provide solutions regarding bathroom issues she alleged were occurring at West Prep, such as having the City of Las Vegas provide portable toilets.

Trustee Janison requested that Dr. Rulfes follow up with Dr. Mike Barton, Principal, Preparatory Institute School for Academic Excellence at Charles I. West Hall, regarding Ms. Lewis's allegations.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Dropout Concerns – Sam King

Ms. King applauded the Board for their work this evening. She suggested several ways to address the dropout issue and indicated the plan must be comprehensive and consistent to address dropout issues, although she noted financial issues exist.

Acknowledgement of Education Support Professionals – Bo Yealy, Brian Todd

Ms. Yealy asked the Board to acknowledge the education support professionals of the District.

The following CCSD employees addressed the Board regarding their own personal situations they have encountered during the RIF process: Terri Shuman, Claudia Ramano, and Chris Sedillos.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (continued)**

Mr. Todd stated he supports support staff employees in the District, and it pains him to see what they are going through because of the RIF process.

**EMPLOYEE LABOR RELATIONS AND CLOSED SESSION**

*Approval of closed session pursuant to NRS 288.*

*Motion: Edwards Second: Garvey Vote: Unanimous*

**RECESS:** 6:54 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 7:56 p.m.

**MONTHLY DEBRIEFING**

Trustee Edwards requested that the Trustees fill out their debriefing form. She conducted the monthly debriefing, highlighting the following items: People were well prepared at the meeting; regarding item (a) on page 2, that the Board continues to have some internal preoccupation and needs to work on the outward vision as a team; and regarding item (c) on page 2, that the Board does more administrative detail than needed and needs to work harder on that item.

**ADJOURN:** 7:59 p.m.

*Motion: Moulton Second: Young Vote: Unanimous*

Meeting minutes transcribed by Francesca Haak.