

Minutes  
Clark County School District  
Joint Meeting of the Board of School Trustees and the Nevada State Board of Education  
Nevada Department of Education  
2080 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 114, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

Thursday, September 30, 2021

4:32 p.m.

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Roll Call: Members Present  
Linda P. Cavazos, President  
Evelyn Garcia Morales, Clerk  
Lola Brooks, Member  
Danielle Ford, Member  
Lisa Guzmán, Member  
Katie Williams, Member

Jesus F. Jara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Nevada State Board of Education  
Felicia Ortiz, President  
Mark Newburn, Vice President  
Dr. Katherine Dockweiler  
Tamara Hudson  
Christina Nguyen  
Dr. Rene Cantu

Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Also present were Mary Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Luke Puschnig, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Deputy Superintendent; Jason Goudie, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Unit; Fikisha Miller, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Nadine Jones, Chief Human Resource Officer, Human Resource Division; Kellie Ballard, Director, Office of the Deputy Superintendent; Joe Caruso, Special Assistant to the Superintendent/Liaison to the Board of Trustees, Community Services Department; and Cindy Krohn, Director, Office of the Board of Trustees.

### **Flag Salute**

State Board President Felicia Ortiz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Felicia Ortiz, Board President, Nevada State Board of Education, opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.  
Linda Cavazos, President, Clark County School District Board opened the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

### **Public Comment #1**

Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association, spoke about support staff employees and said they are the lowest paid. He also expressed concern with Service Level Agreements (SLA).

Ryan Lewis, principal, spoke about staff who are placed in positions they are not qualified for.

Hawah Ahmad, Clark County Education Association (CCEA), asked that terms of the carryover funds be defined and clarified.

Jeff Horn, Clark County Association of School Administrators and Professional-technical Employees (CCASA), spoke about empowering principals with staffing their schools and also said the Clark County School District (CCSD) is violating the law.

Jan Giles, Education Support Employees Association (ESEA), spoke about contract language and seniority. She is concerned that most of the 80 recently surplused support staff were sent to Central Office and only four were sent to schools.

Rebecca Garcia asked how the reorganization is benefiting students. She expressed concerns with School Organization Teams (SOT), which included oversight, meeting times, and Open Meeting Law. In addition, asked both Boards to focus on student achievement and not bargaining issues.

Dana Roseman, principal, gave a scenario of a teacher who was surplused to a school they did not want to work at. She asked that principals have the autonomy to place teachers in their own schools.

Ed Gonzales, asked when the District will start to follow the law, noting that nothing has been implemented. He is concerned about the SLA's and surplus funds.

Kerry Larnerd, principal, would like to have the ability to hire who she needs for her school community.

David Rose, principal, expressed concern with the surplus process stating that some employees are not a good fit for their school and requested that principals have the ability to choose/hire their own staff.

Lindsay Dalley would like the Trustees to be trained by the Department of Education on what the reorganization means as he feels CCSD does not know what is going on. He also expressed concerns that schools have no control over funds and SLAs.

Kent Paul, principal, feels that when the money is close to the school the school succeeds. He feels principals should only focus on instruction and other items should be handed by Central Services.

### **Public Comment #1 (continued)**

Syrissa Jolly said CCSD is non-compliant as they have taken away autonomy and have more control. She would like to see training for the CCSD Board, end funding control by the District, and have a neutral committee that can ensure that AB 469 happens.

Trustee Ford arrived at 4:48 p.m.

Jessica Jones, teacher, expressed frustration that AB 469 has not been fully implemented. She asked if the schools get money back if they do not use certain services. She also said there is confusion with the new budget that was provided to her school.

Machelle Rasmussen, teacher, said she is concerned with surplus when the budgets are released this fall.

Fernando Romero feels there are violations taking place at Global High School and that CCSD is not addressing the issues.

### **Information and Discussion Regarding the Implementation of Assembly Bill 469 (2017)**

The State Board of Education, along with the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, will review information regarding the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 469 from the 2017 Legislative Session and receive an update from the AB 469 Subcommittee of the Board regarding its progress. [Contact Person: Linda P. Cavazos] (Reference may be provided.)

- Dr. Katherine Dockweiler, Member of the State Board of Education and Chair of the AB 469 Subcommittee
- Felicia Gonzales, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement
- Kellie Ballard, Director, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, Clark County School District

Felicia Gonzales, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, Nevada Department of Education, presented a PowerPoint regarding the Implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 469, as shown in Reference 3.01.

State Board Member and AB 469 Subcommittee Chair Katherine Dockweilder provided a review of the work that the Subcommittee has done during its September 8 and September 14, 2021, meetings.

Kelly Ballard, Director, Office of the Deputy Superintendent's Office, CCSD, provided an update of the on the current state of the reorganization per the District's October 1, 2021, Report, as shown in Reference 3.01.

State Board President Ortiz highlighted that the goal of the State Board was to assist in the full implementation of the bill and potentially avert breaking up the District, which she did not believe was in the best interest of students at this time. The goal was to provide clarifying language and develop regulations as necessary. She noted that AB 469 also needed to be understood in context of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan.

## Information and Discussion Regarding the Implementation of Assembly Bill 469 (2017) (continued)

State Board Vice President Mark Newburn suggested that breaking up the District may be the best long-term solution. The reorganization under AB 469 was meant as a test to see if reform was possible prior to that solution.

State Board President Ortiz noted that collective bargaining agreement negotiations should also be completed by the end 2021, as it has been five years since AB 469 passed

CCSD Trustee Lola Brooks stated that one factor leading to the passage of AB 469 was a narrative that the District may have been using funds inappropriately; instead, it seems as though the issue is fighting over limited resources.

State Board President Ortiz stated that putting guardrails in place around school autonomy may support the issue, but underfunding was a critical component.

CCSD Trustee Lisa Guzmán emphasized the importance of focusing on the items presented under public comment, identifying failures and improving student outcomes. She specifically focused on accountability and performance reviews.

President Ortiz noted that the stakeholder survey being administered by Nevada Department of Education should provide a better understanding of “in good standing” as it relates to educator performance reviews, and that accountability must lie with supervisors and administrators, not governing boards or trustees.

CCSD Board of Trustees President Cavazos supported the need for clarity regarding “greatest extent,” “in good standing,” and accountability. She emphasized the importance of guardrails regarding autonomy that prioritize transparency and communication.

State Board Member René Cantú stated that there is a philosophical gap between the idea that broad centralized efforts lead to greater success versus the idea of local control, which is the gap seen in AB 469 versus centralization arguments.

State Board Member Tim Hughes emphasized the importance of being data-centered, which CCSD Trustee Irene Cepeda agreed with.

CCSD Trustee Danielle Ford stated that the Trustees hadn't received any training regarding AB 469 and its implementation and, as a result, it has been impossible to provide oversight.

### **Public Comment #2**

Renee Paterson talked about being hired for one position and then ended up in a completely different job. She feels there is a lack of transparency.

Hawah Ahmad, CCEA, spoke about the money they helped bring back from the legislative session and asked that goals be equitable.

**Public Comment #2 (continued)**

Anna Binder said the District is worth saving.

Syrissa Jolle expressed thanks to both Boards for starting to take steps together in regards AB 469. In addition, she feels that the District does not trust principals.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Krohn.