

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

WORK SESSION

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

8:05 a.m.

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Roll Call: Members Present  
Linda E. Young, President  
Chris Garvey, Vice President  
Deanna L. Wright, Clerk  
Kevin L. Child, Member  
Erin E. Cranor, Member  
Carolyn Edwards, Member  
Patrice Tew, Member

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Carlos McDade, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Kim Wooden, Deputy Superintendent, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit; Ryan Yanagi, Deputy Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Division; Sandy Ginger, Director Student Activities, Instructional Support and Student Activities, Instruction Unit; Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations; Elizabeth Carrero, Executive Manager, Office of the Superintendent; Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office; Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary, Board Office; and Stephanie Gatlin, Transcriber/Recording Secretary, Board Office.

**TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED**

Teleconference call with Trustee Edwards was connected at 8:08 a.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Trustee Garvey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

*Adopt agenda, except move Item 3.03 to follow Item 2.01, move Item 4.03 to follow Item 3.03, note reference material provided for Item 3.01, and note additional reference material provided for Item 4.04.*

*Motion: Garvey Second: Tew Vote: Unanimous  
Trustee Cranor was not present for the vote.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

## **APPROVE LEGISLATION**

Approval on potential legislation that could impact school board members during the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Trustee Edwards said she wanted to have a discussion on whether the Board wanted to take a position on appointed boards as opposed to elected boards.

Trustee Wright said she would like to have a discussion about adding language to the platform that recognizes the diversity of the District, the increased number of students living in poverty and associated educational needs of those students, programs that address narrowing the achievement gap, and the disproportionality related to discipline and students of diverse backgrounds.

Trustee Garvey said she would support having that conversation and said those topics mentioned by Trustee Wright are important as they move toward discussions about the funding formula. She spoke in opposition to appointed boards or even a hybrid of appointed/elected boards. She said with that type of system, the public loses its representation, effective accountability is compromised, and the appointed official may be far removed from the community he represents and may not be easily accessible.

Trustee Tew agreed with Trustee Garvey's comments. She said it is critical that the people in the community are able to be the voice for the community.

## **TELECONFERENCE CALL CONNECTED**

Teleconference call with Mrs. Haldeman was connected at 8:15 a.m.

## **APPROVE LEGISLATION (continued)**

Trustee Edwards agreed that an elected board is best. She said she does feel, however, that legislation which would require professional development for school boards would be beneficial.

Trustee Wright also opposed an appointed or hybrid board and agreed with those reasons stated by Trustee Garvey. She said with regard to legislatively mandated professional development, she does not feel that one elected body should mandate that for another elected body, that all elected bodies should be engaging in the same professional development.

Trustee Child also opposed appointed or hybrid boards.

Trustee Young also opposed appointed boards. She said elected officials are elected by the community and are a part of the community they serve. She asked if boards are appointed, then would other elected positions be subject to appointment. She said if board members are appointed, there are no checks and balances.

## **APPROVE LEGISLATION (continued)**

Trustee Edwards said this is a reactionary step taken by the Governor to an isolated situation and should not result in a law or mandate applied to the state as a whole. She noted that if a hybrid structure were adopted, it would be very difficult to run a campaign and fundraise in such a large portion of the county in terms of the electorate, and therefore it would become more unlikely that there would be people running for office for the right reasons and who have the energy to run that type of a campaign.

Trustee Young said she believes that if they moved to appointed boards, matters would become truly political.

Trustee Garvey spoke about what the Board and the Superintendent have accomplished together in engaging the community, the higher level of engagement with business partners, and the movement forward to become a city where education is truly the focal point of the entire community.

Trustee Young noted that the Board members also have connections in the community that are supportive and parents that want the Board members to be the voices for their children.

*Motion to have the legislative team review the Board's comments and consider them as the Board's position opposing appointed boards.*

*Motion: Garvey Second: Child*

*Trustee Edwards asked that the motion include appointed or hybrid boards.*

*Trustee Garvey and Trustee Child agreed with that amendment.*

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

## **2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: UPDATE TO STANDING ITEMS**

Prior to each legislative session the Board of School Trustees has endorsed a list of standing items. This platform provides the District's lobbying team the Board's position on a host of issues that may be raised during the course of the session. Discussion and possible action on approval of the updated standing items for the 78th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature as requested in Reference 4.03.

Mrs. Haldeman said staff would ensure that the Board's position on appointed/hybrid boards was reflected in the Legislative Platform.

Trustee Wright suggested that language be added to the platform that would "recognize and honor the diversity in our District, recognize the increasing number of students living in poverty and associated educational needs, and programs that address narrowing the gaps in academic achievement and in the disproportionality of discipline among students with diverse backgrounds."

**2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: UPDATE TO STANDING ITEMS** (continued)

Trustee Young said she has had discussions with the community, and there have been suggestions to use the term "least proficient students" as opposed to "struggling" or "not successful" with regard to proficiency.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff tries to keep the platform items as broad as possible so they are not restricted in making clarifications in a timely manner to testify in hearings and have some flexibility.

Trustee Garvey referred to the second bullet on page 2 of 3 and said she would like to add language to suggest working collaboratively with charter schools.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he has expressed concern to the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority director regarding the lack of diversity in the charter schools. He said he can encourage that collaboration but again would like to keep the language in the platform very broad.

Trustee Garvey said she would like these concerns conveyed to legislators.

Trustee Young expressed concern that the funding does not following students coming into CCSD from charter schools.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said students also leave public school to go to charter schools after count day, and staff can provide that data.

Trustee Garvey said she would like some information regarding charter school students who play sports at their CCSD home school.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he can get that information to the Trustees as well.

Trustee Wright expressed concern that in her area there appears to be a type of re-segregation of the population through the movement of students from public schools to charter schools because of zoning. She said she supports charter schools, but there needs to be balance in the communities that surround the charters. She said perhaps there should be some type of stipend that comes back to the public school when charter school students access the public school's sports or music program.

Trustee Young requested information about special education students who return to CCSD from charter schools because their needs are not being addressed in charter schools, including hearing and visually impaired students.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff could provide data related to numbers and categories of special needs students who returned to CCSD, but there would be no information regarding why these students left the charter.

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: UPDATE TO STANDING ITEMS (continued)

Trustee Young said she would like to know if charter schools offer accommodations for special needs students.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he could request that information from the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority.

Trustee Garvey said she learned that charter schools must provide special needs accommodations, and she has heard that while charter schools do not deny access to students with special needs, they highly encourage those families to seek access within traditional school districts. She suggested comparing CCSD's typical Individualized Education Program (IEP) students with those special education students in charter schools and perhaps making it clear on the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority's website that special needs students cannot be denied access to charter schools if they meet all other requirements.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he has spoken with the director of the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority director about those concerns.

### Public Hearing

Yvette Williams provided a memorandum written to the Board of Trustees concerning the 2015 Legislative Platform and "the absence of many pressing issues impacting African-American students in Clark County School District."

*Motion to add the following bullet points to the 2015 Legislative Platform: "Recognize and honor the diversity in our District; Recognize the increasing number of students living in poverty and associated educational needs; Programs that address narrowing the gaps in academic achievement and disproportionality of discipline among students of diverse backgrounds."*  
*Motion: Wright    Second: Garvey*

*Ms. Miller recommended that the three items proposed by Trustee Wright be brought back for an update at the next meeting and for staff to consider them during any interim hearings.*

*Trustee Wright amended her motion to include that the legislative staff consider these items and that those items be brought back for review and approval at the next Board meeting.*

*Trustee Garvey agreed with that amendment.*

*Superintendent Skorkowsky asked that it be put into the motion that a separate bullet be added to address English Language Acquisition programs.*

Trustee Young asked if any of Ms. Williams' comments could be considered.

**2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: UPDATE TO STANDING ITEMS (continued)**

Superintendent Skorkowsky said that information could be reviewed and would be added to the February 12, 2015, meeting agenda reference material.

Trustee Garvey suggested changing "Common Core Standards" to "Nevada Academic Standards."

Mrs. Haldeman said there was a concern that people were unaware that "Nevada Academic Content Standards" meant "Common Core", and suggested the language, "Common Core Standards (known in Nevada as Nevada Academic Content Standards)."

Trustee Garvey agreed with that suggestion.

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

*Motion that staff modify the language anywhere in the document that mentions "Nevada Common Core Standards" to include the language "in Nevada known as the Nevada Academic Content Standards."*

*Motion: Garvey    Second: Wright    Vote: Unanimous*

**APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION**

Approval on the superintendent's evaluation.

Trustee Young read the following summary of the monitoring reports: "Based upon the Board's acceptance of the monitoring reports and the ongoing monitoring of the organization's and the Superintendent's performance during the preceding year, the Board reaches the following conclusions relative to the Superintendent's performance: Executive Limitations – Approval with respect to the Superintendent's performance on meeting the Executive Limitations the Board has set for him. It is moved that the Board finds as follows: The Superintendent is in compliance regarding his performance on EL-1: Global Executive Constraint, EL-3: Treatment of Students and Their Families, EL-4: Treatment of Staff, EL-5: Financial Planning/Budgeting, EL-6: Financial Conditions and Activities, EL-8: Asset Protection, and EL-9: Compensation and Benefits.

"At the regular meeting of February 27, 2014, by unanimous vote, the Board granted a one-year waiver of the timeline for monitoring reports EL-7: Emergency Superintendent Succession and EL-10: Communication and Support to the Board. Ends – The Board finds the Superintendent in compliance with the combined monitoring report for E-1: Vision Statement and E-2: Student Achievement."

Trustee Edwards commented on the Superintendent's outreach to the business community to work with the District, and she expressed concern with relation to asset protection and related issues that during this Legislative Session if there is a rollover of the bond, the District needs to move forward and place someone in the facilities position that has expertise in those areas.

**APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION (continued)**

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff believes they are ready to move forward with an offer of employment for that position, and it would be on the February 26 meeting agenda.

Trustee Young acknowledged the work that the Superintendent and his staff are doing in the area of helping youth of color stay in school and be successful.

**Public Hearing**

Yvette Williams commended the Superintendent for his efforts in reaching out to the community and addressing particular issues. She invited the Board and staff to the Clark County Black Caucus Student Summit event.

**BOARD MEMBER ARRIVES**

Trustee Cranor arrived at 9:28 a.m.

**APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION (continued)**

*Motion to accept the Superintendent's evaluation in compliance with commendation.*

*Motion: Wright Second: Garvey Vote: Unanimous*

Superintendent Skorkowsky thanked the Board and spoke about the importance of the superintendent and the board working together for the common goal of student success. He expressed appreciation for the Board's support.

**APPROVE SCHOOL BOARD STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Approval on whether or not the School Board Student Advisory Committee should remain a committee of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees.

Keely Eshenbaugh, chairperson of the School Board Student Advisory Committee, shared that in recent meetings she is finding it difficult to have an open and developing dialogue because of the constraints of operating as a Board committee.

Ms. Ginger offered that a committee that is not subject to the Open Meeting Law (OML) would be more appropriate. She stated that the committee's meetings are now recorded and publicized, and students' information is being made available through this. She said OML often limits discussion. She said another concern is that the public is allowed to comment on topics the students are not discussing but the Board might be discussing. She suggested that to address these concerns and to allow for more flexible discussion, the student committee could become part of the Instruction Unit or a Trustee ad hoc committee.

Trustee Tew said that because of the concerns expressed here, perhaps the committee should be dissolved as a Board committee and have it moved under the direction of the Superintendent.

## **APPROVE SCHOOL BOARD STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (continued)**

Trustee Cranor said any committee that advises the Board is subject to OML. She said if the Student Advisory Committee were to be dissolved and moved under the Superintendent, the committee would not be able to advise the Board. She said she would prefer to keep the committee as a Board committee.

Superintendent Skorkowsky clarified that this is not a staff decision, this is a Board decision, and that staff is not requesting or recommending that the Board make any changes in this matter.

Trustee Edwards said students' voices are extremely important, and dissolving this committee would mean not hearing from the students. She said she believes students understand that this committee is governed by OML when they sign up to serve on the committee, and perhaps what that entails could be further clarified. She said she wanted to continue to hear from the students.

Trustee Wright said although she understands the difficulties in operating under OML, this is a Board committee, and this is the way it needs to function. She suggested working with Board counsel on some broader agenda item language. She said some of these students could also benefit from learning how to function in an OML environment. She said she is not in support of dissolving this committee.

Ms. Miller said the OML does inhibit frank and open discussion, and she suggested that if this committee were dissolved, students could bring topics and discussions to the Board at an open meeting.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said if the Board chooses to dissolve the committee, he would work with the students and the Board to continue the opportunity for students to advise the Board.

Trustee Garvey said students do need to learn how to navigate the political world, but the Board should also support these students as they learn these lessons. She asked if this committee were dissolved, could the Board members still individually reach out to their students and have discussions on specific topics.

Ms. Miller said the Board still has the ability to appoint ad hoc committees.

Trustee Tew said this is a different time, and with the internet and social media, there are concerns. She said another concern is that operating under OML inhibits the type of dialogue that the students find most beneficial. She said she is in favor of the idea of giving students the open arena to have those discussions.

Trustee Edwards suggested that the Superintendent can have student committees to meet with on certain sensitive issues that students do not want to discuss in an open meeting, but dissolving this committee would be a mistake.



**APPROVE SCHOOL BOARD STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (continued)**

Trustee Young said serving on this committee is an opportunity for students, and she feels this committee needs to remain in place.

Trustee Tew asked if this was a committee under the Superintendent, would it preclude a Board member from attending any of the meetings as an invitee.

Ms. Miller said up to three Board members could attend if invited.

Trustee Tew argued that the purpose of the OML does not fit with the purview of this committee. She said the students of today are thinking differently, moving faster and should not be encumbered by OML when they have issues they want to discuss immediately. She said the idea of the Superintendent creating committees for particular topics is unrealistic and inefficient.

Trustee Edwards stated that the Board should be an example and trying to circumvent the OML is a mistake.

After more comments from the Board and Ms. Ginger, Trustee Garvey suggested bringing this topic back for further discussion.

Trustee Tew said she would like to give the Trustees an opportunity to consider what has been discussed.

Ms. Miller advised that no action needs to be taken at this time, and a Trustee can bring this back at a future date.

**APPROVE AMENDMENT OF CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY 5137**

Approval of the amendment of Clark County School District Policy 5137, Safe and Respectful Learning Environment: Bullying and Cyberbullying, as recommended in Reference 4.01.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said Policy 5137 is being brought forward as an amendment for the Board's consideration.

**Public Hearing**

Theresa Hoard said something needs to be in place to hold school staff accountable for following District policy. She shared experiences that her daughter had in being bullied and the difference between how the separate incidences were handled by two different schools.

*Motion to accept the amendment for Policy 5137.*

*Motion: Wright    Second: Garvey*

**APPROVE AMENDMENT OF CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY 5137 (continued)**

Trustee Edwards said the comments made by Ms. Hoard are critical. She asked that the Superintendent work on ensuring that all schools are following District policy because it is clear that not all schools are following the policy.

Trustee Tew asked if requiring a telephone call to students' homes was supposed to be included in the policy.

Mr. McDade said state statute requires written notice, but there is no prohibition to a phone call.

Trustee Wright said her understanding was that the telephone call would not be placed in policy, but that the Superintendent was asked to put it in the administrative guidelines, and that it be done as a practice.

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

**APPROVE SPECIAL COUNSEL RATE OF COMPENSATION**

Approval of the rate of compensation of outside or special counsel employed by the District, as required by NRS 41.0344, as recommended in Reference 4.02.

Trustee Cranor said that she is a potential witness in a case that is being represented by an attorney from this law firm, and an attorney from this firm represented the part of this case in which she was named, and asked if she should abstain from the discussion and vote.

Ms. Miller recommended that Trustee Cranor abstain from the discussion and the vote on this item.

**BOARD MEMBER LEAVES**

Trustee Cranor left the dais at 10:43 a.m.

**APPROVE SPECIAL COUNSEL RATE OF COMPENSATION (continued)**

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Wright Second: Tew Vote: Unanimous*

*Trustee Cranor was not present for the vote.*

**SCHOOL CALENDAR OPTIONS**

Information and discussion regarding school calendar options for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 school years.

Mr. Yanagi presented school calendar options for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 school years.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR OPTIONS (continued)**

Superintendent Skorkowsky said some concern has been expressed over the intense workload for high school students with students being given work to complete over the winter break, diminishing family time, and students having to take high stakes exams immediately following winter break with no time for review. He said he is most concerned with the elementary school year round calendar with the least requested tracks, tracks 1 and 2, testing as many as 20 days earlier than their counterparts and receiving assessment results in time to comply with state laws for reporting. He said the District would have to obtain a waiver from the Nevada Department of Education with regard to the calendar shifts in the 2016-2017 school year.

Trustee Young asked when this item would come back before the Board as an action item.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said staff could bring this item back in the last meeting in March or in April.

Trustee Tew suggested that having a four-day school week might be a way of addressing the extra expense of the school being open during August. She shared some of the benefits of having a four-day work week that other school districts have experienced.

**TELECONFERENCE CALL DISCONNECTED**

Teleconference call with Trustee Edwards was disconnected at 10:59 a.m.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR OPTIONS (continued)**

Trustee Garvey asked if Washoe County School District adopted this calendar.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said Washoe County School District utilizes a hybrid of this calendar.

**TELECONFERENCE CALL RECONNECTED**

Teleconference call with Trustee Edwards was reconnected at 11:00 a.m.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR OPTIONS (continued)**

Trustee Garvey asked if we had any information on whether Washoe County School District conducted any cost savings analysis and information on how they worked out the testing schedule.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said he has not seen any type of analysis but said he could have that information for the Board when this item is brought back.

Trustee Garvey said she would also appreciate information related to how the Superintendent intends on making funds available for this calendar change, such as cutting from other areas.

Trustee Wright said she believes there is value in looking at these options at this time. She said she is in full support of starting the calendar earlier.

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR OPTIONS (continued)**

Trustee Cranor said she is hesitant to change the calendar and invest this amount of money in this manner.

Trustee Young said it is difficult for the students and the teachers to take that break during the holidays. She said she would be in support of the earlier start. She asked what schools are doing abroad and if there are any best practices nationally and internationally.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said international calendars include components that differ from CCSD's structure; namely, the length of the school day and the number of school days in the year. He said he can bring that information forward at a later time.

Trustee Edwards asked if the calendar presented here would be impacted by the potential change in high school start times.

Superintendent Skorkowsky said it would not impact start times. He said Mike Barton, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Instruction Unit, would be making a presentation about school start times at the February 12 Board meeting.

Trustee Edwards said she shares Trustee Cranor's concerns with regard to the costs and facility usage. She said with this calendar football practice would be starting in early August so that should be considered as well.

Trustee Tew said an 11-month calendar would be beneficial for English language learner (ELL) students and would help toward closing that achievement gap.

## **BOARD MEMBER LEAVES**

Trustee Garvey left the Board meeting at 11:15 a.m.

## **AGENDA PLANNING: ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

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

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**ADJOURN:** 11:17 a.m.

*Motion: Edwards Second: Child Vote: Unanimous  
Trustee Garvey was not present for the vote.*