

Minutes
Clark County School District
Special Meeting of the Board of School Trustees
Clark County Government Center, Commission Chambers
500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

Joint Meeting of the Clark County Commissioners and the
Clark County School District Board of Trustees

Thursday, July 18, 2019

5:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present

Lola Brooks, President
Linda P. Cavazos, Vice President
Chris Garvey, Clerk
Irene Cepeda, Member
Danielle Ford, Member
Linda E. Young, Member

Member Absent

Deanna L. Wright, Member

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

Board of County Commissioners

Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair
Lawrence Weekly, Vice Chair
Larry Brown
Jim Gibson
Justin Jones
Michael Naft
Tick Segerblom

Also present were: Yolanda T. King, County Manager; Christopher Figgins, Deputy District Attorney; Beth Koch, Deputy Clerk; Karen McDonnell, Deputy Clerk; and Cindy Krohn, Executive Assistant, Board Office.

Commissioner Gibson left the meeting prior to public comment.

Public Comment

Autumn Tampa spoke on Item 5. She said approximately 30 percent of CCSD pre-kindergarten students are being served, and she would like to see that increase to 50 to 70 percent. She said in order to accomplish that goal, CCSD would need funding for an age-appropriate curriculum that could be standardized and aligned to the kindergarten curriculum, educators, assistants, bus drivers, transportation vehicles, learning materials and supplies, functional materials, facilities, and outreach to parents and community members. She said CCSD could also partner with local community groups.

Public Comment (continued)

Jana Pleggenkuhle spoke on Items 3 and 8 and said she was excited to see items related to Senate Bill (SB) 543 and Assembly Bill (AB) 309. She said the District is in dire straits and cannot continue to make cuts, so she said she looks forward to being able to better fund education.

Jim Frazee spoke on Item 8. He said CCSD has some of the most challenging schools in the country, and CCSD sends its newest teachers to the most challenging environments and expects them to succeed and that does not work. He said 25,000 CCSD students do not have a teacher and he is asking that the County Commissioners address it.

Angie Sullivan spoke on Item 8. She expressed concern with the number of teacher vacancies along with the number of teachers likely to leave before winter break. She said these vacancies are happening in an area that usually does not have a voice.

Alexis Salt spoke on Item 8 and said the District is in desperate need of funds. She said there are teachers in classrooms that are unprepared. She said money does not solve everything, but it can help address the teacher crisis and having well-funded classrooms makes all the difference.

Vicki Kreidel spoke on Item 8. She shared her experience as a new teacher in CCSD six years ago and said she was placed in a Title I school that was virtually empty in terms of tools and materials. She said these Title I schools need support. She stated that in order to address teacher retention, there needs to be adequate funding.

Carol McGrew spoke on Item 8. She said she views the District's current funding situation as a form of education abuse on CCSD students, as they are placed in overcrowded schools and in classrooms with inadequate support.

Rebecca Garcia spoke on Items 3 through 7. She encouraged the Commissioners and the Trustees to focus on proven programs which can immediately impact students and involve the broader community in the solution.

Steve Laycock spoke on Items 3 through 8. He said he understands the need for funding for education but was of the understanding that the sales tax dollars would also go toward county spending for homelessness. He said if that is correct, he would like to see what the county has done in terms of budgeting. He said he teaches in Title 1 schools as a substitute teacher intentionally because there is a need there.

Dr. S. S. Rogers said he appreciates this joint meeting and the collaborative effort of the school board, parents, and community.

Public Comment (continued)

Ryann Juden spoke on Items 3 through 8. He commended the County Commissioners and Board of Trustees for holding this meeting. He said in moving forward with urgency, there must be trust that everyone, although with different viewpoints, is doing this for the same reason.

David Cherry spoke on Item 5. He said the Henderson City Council recently adopted an updated strategic plan and added quality education as a priority. He stated that they also have a Community Education Advisory Board (CEAB) that works toward improving student achievement and one of the areas they have looked at is the impact preschool has on student success. He stated that a goal of the City Council's strategic plan is to increase preschool enrollment by 5 percent over the next five years.

Paul Moradkhan spoke on Items 4 through 8. He said the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce would urge consensus and collaboration between the County Commissioners and the Board of Trustees. He said in terms of the programs, if the proposal moves forward, the Chamber would encourage robust accountability measures, transparency, and reporting to the public.

Shawnee Coleman (phonetic) spoke in support of Items 4 and 5. She shared that the City of Las Vegas has a robust early childhood development program and a number of Safekey programs that utilize a number of schools so Open Schools Open Doors is important. She said they understand that AB 309 has a component which addresses homelessness and affordable housing and that is important to the City of Las Vegas as well.

Terri Shuman spoke on Item 6. She said there are high school students who come to school but leave early when they do not want to attend a certain class. She suggested that additional campus security monitors and additional truancy officers are needed.

Nicole Beer spoke on Item 8. She said there are schools in CCSD whose principals have chosen not to have a librarian. She said she gets students in her English college course who do not understand what APA or MLA is but her 5th-grade students do.

Mark (phonetic) spoke in opposition to the tax increase for funding for the school district. He said there are issues with the way the money is being handled in the District. He said money is being mismanaged.

Sarah Grindstaff (phonetic) spoke on Item 8. She said as a future teacher she would not want to teach in Clark County as it currently stands. She said there is not enough support so CCSD does not look attractive to a future educator, considering the pay and the overcrowded classrooms.

Marco Montenegro (phonetic) spoke in opposition to a tax increase because it would affect the parents. He said there are many highly educated professionals in this country who come from places where schools do not even have lights so he does not believe money will solve the problems. He said parents need to be heavily involved.

Public Comment (continued)

Lauren Beattie (phonetic) said the magnet schools benefit all of the students who attend them. She spoke on Item 8 and suggested one way to retain teachers would be to better train them on how to handle challenging behaviors. She stated that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) offers related classes but said she was unaware of that for the first 13 years of her teaching career and that would have been helpful to know.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick explained that AB 309 is a bill that was sent to the Clark County Commission from the legislature, and the education components of that bill are what would be discussed at this meeting.

Trustee Brooks gave an overview of the special meeting held on July 12, 2019, with the Board, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, CCSD staff, and community members to discuss chronic absenteeism, pre-kindergarten, and workforce training.

Approval of Agenda

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Naft Vote: Unanimous

Receive a presentation on Senate Bill 543 of the 80th (2019) Legislative Session relating to modernizing Nevada's K-12 funding system. (For possible action)

Jeremy Aguero, Principal, Applied Analysis, gave a presentation on SB 543.

Discuss the Open Schools - Open Doors Interlocal Agreement between the Clark County School District and Clark County. (For possible action)

Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if there were any barriers to using CCSD schools. She asked specifically about the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) component.

Superintendent Jara stated that approximately 110 schools were located on BLM property and the current lease specifies that the schools are to be for student use.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick said it was her understanding that it would require a simple addendum and a \$100.00 application fee. She asked if it would be a possibility going forward to include that in future contracts.

Superintendent Jara agreed with Commissioner Kirkpatrick.

Discussion was held between Commissioners, Board members, and District staff regarding BLM patents and student and public use.

Discuss the Open Schools - Open Doors Interlocal Agreement between the Clark County School District and Clark County. (For possible action) (continued)

Commissioner Kirkpatrick directed staff to bring back a report in two weeks to the Commission and the Board and an update on definitions of casual uses.

Discuss Assembly Bill (AB) 309, Section 8, Subsection (a), of the 80th (2019) Legislative Session, pertaining to one or more programs of early childhood education operated by the Clark County School District or any public school in the Clark County School District. (For possible action)

Trustee Brooks and Trustee Young gave an overview of the group discussion of a pre-kindergarten program held at the special meeting on July 12, 2019.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick commented on partnering with municipalities, having a consistent curriculum, and that four hours would be appropriate length of time pre-k students are in class.

Trustee Cepeda said the teacher shortage is a concern and where qualified educators would come from.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that this would be an opportunity for a teacher pipeline type of program.

Trustees Ford commented on partnering with Head Start and the possibility of creating an additional revenue stream by competing with privatized daycare programs.

Trustee Brooks said she would like to look at options outside of traditional pre-k hours and potential partnerships with large employers to help with costs.

Trustee Young spoke about the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion and providing support to the families.

Trustee Cavazos commented on the social-emotional component.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick discussed this being a performance-based service with a consistent curriculum; there being accountability; and that the funds should stay with Clark County and be paid out to the service provider for added transparency.

Commissioner Weekly questioned if there were existing facilities within the school district for the pre-k program with a healthcare component.

Staff was directed to look at some pre-k centers and capacity.

Discuss Assembly Bill (AB) 309, Section 8, Subsection (a), of the 80th (2019) Legislative Session, pertaining to one or more programs of early childhood education operated by the Clark County School District or any public school in the Clark County School District. (For possible action) (continued)

Trustee Young said she would provide information on best practices for early childhood education programs.

Discuss Assembly Bill (AB) 309, Section 8, Subsection (c), of the 80th (2019) Legislative Session, pertaining to one or more programs to reduce truancy. (For possible action)

Trustee Brooks and Trustee Cavazos gave an overview of the group discussion around addressing chronic absenteeism in the District, which was held at the special meeting on July 12, 2019.

Commissioner Jones recommended considering The Harbor program. He invited John Etzell, Boys Town Nevada, Executive Director, and Brandon Danowski, Principal, J. E. Manch Elementary School, to speak about LIFT Together with Boys Town, a program that is in place at Manch Elementary School.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick invited Jack Martin, Director, Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services, to speak about The Harbor.

Trustee Garvey questioned if there was any data available regarding children that were involved in The Harbor and the relation to absenteeism and schools being held accountable for absenteeism.

Mr. Martin said as this moves forward, chronic absenteeism would be a marker that is tracked.

Trustee Garvey asked for an update on accountability for truancy.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick directed staff to reach out to the Clark County Department of Social Services, Family Services, and Department of Juvenile Justice regarding options; and requested that the CCSD Board of Trustees bring back data on truancy rates.

Discuss Assembly Bill (AB) 309, Section 8, Subsection (b), of the 80th (2019) Legislative Session, pertaining to one or more programs of adult education operated by the Clark County School District or any public school in the Clark County School District. (For possible action)

Trustee Brooks, Trustee Cepeda, and Trustee Ford gave an overview of the group discussion around workforce training held at the special meeting on July 12, 2019.

Commissioners Kirkpatrick and Weekly commented on various issues, including specific skillset programs, the possibility of auctioned equipment being used for schools, and looking at implementing career centers at local libraries.

Discuss Assembly Bill (AB) 309, Section 8, Subsection (b), of the 80th (2019) Legislative Session, pertaining to one or more programs of adult education operated by the Clark County School District or any public school in the Clark County School District. (For possible action) (continued)

Trustee Young suggested that through this program students could be trained for jobs within CCSD.

Discuss Assembly Bill (AB) 309, Section 8, Subsection (f), of the 80th (2019) Legislative Session, pertaining to incentives for the recruitment or retention of licensed teachers for high-vacancy schools in the Clark County School District. (For possible action)

Commissioner Segerblom commented that spending funds in order to recruit and retain teachers in high-vacancy schools is extremely important.

There was some discussion regarding the number of high-needs schools, the number of vacancies in those schools, and what the cost would be recruit and retain teachers in those schools.

John Vellardita, Executive Director, Clark County Education Association (CCEA), spoke about the need to fill vacancies and retain teachers and how that could happen through incentive pay. He said that incentive could be focused around options other than cash, such as housing assistance or student debt relief.

Further discussion was held regarding incentives, recruitment and retention, Zoom and Victory schools, funding, and supports for teachers.

Public Comment

Nicole Beer shared some information related to incentives Zoom schools teachers received.

Dr. Michael Maxwell agreed that early education positively impacts many issues and shared specific ways in which pre-k impacts a child and their family.

Jana Pleggenkuhle agreed that in discussing recruitment and retention, there needs to be an emphasis on systemic change.

Alexis Salt agreed that mental health services are needed as a support for teachers. She said in some cases it is needed immediately and could take weeks to see a mental health professional through the teachers' health insurance.

Latasha Olsen said as a teacher she is tired, and teachers need more resources and supports, not just money. She asked that Commissioners and Trustees spend time talking with the teachers.

Vicki Kreidel said the reasons teachers are not staying at these high-vacancy schools is a very complex issue, and it is not simply because of money. She said she would follow a good administrator anywhere because she would feel supported and appreciated.

Public Comment (continued)

Angie Sullivan said money is the issue and is needed for smaller class sizes, resources, and support for parents and the community.

Vikki Courtney agreed that a pre-k program and incentives for teachers in the most at-risk schools are needed but said good leaders are also needed in those schools.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked that Trustee Brooks put this topic on the Board's agenda as a discussion item to receive the information that was requested.

Adjourn: 9:11 p.m.

Motion: Cavazos Second: Young Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Commissioner Weekly Vote: Unanimous