

LAS VEGAS CITY SCHOOLS  
"BOARD OF EDUCATION"  
Regular Board Meeting

February 22, 2024

A Regular Board Meeting of the Las Vegas City Schools Board of Education was held at the Administrative Building located at 901 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701 at 5:15 pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2024.

A quorum was present: the meeting was called to order by Board President Quintana. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the New Mexico Pledge. Those present were as follows:

ROLL CALL: Board President Quintana called for roll call:

Board President Quintana – Present

Board Vice President Gonzales – Present

Board Secretary Dr. Meserve – Present

Board Member Cordova – Present

Board Member Romero – Present

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Barbara Casey Interim – Superintendent, Associate Superintendent Darlene Ulibarri.

Public in attendance: Kristina Korte, Felicia Ordonez, John Tiernan, Mari Hillis, Lorenzo Aragon, David Romero, Tim Montgomery, Carol E. Aragon, Elaine Martinez Gonzales, Donne L Valdez, Vanessa Garcia, Christina Gonzales, JC Fulgenzi, Samantha Fulgenzi, Ida Sue Gonzales, Denice Spier, Chaylene Sena, Mike Yara, Crystal Burch, Judith Trujillo, Martha Pena

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Board member Romero, addressed Mr. President indicating that he did not believe that the meeting could be held because what he received on his emails, the agenda has changed twice since what it was posted originally and has received calls from parents and teachers that it has changed at least twice on the web site. Response from President Quintana that there was a mix up on the agenda and the first one that was posted is the one that will be used for the meeting, that is the legal one, anything after that is not legal so the legal first one posted will be used. Clarification done with Mr. Tiernan that the first one was posted on Sunday. Board vice president Gonzales made a motion to approve the agenda for today, February 22, 2024, seconded by board secretary Meserve. Motion is approved Vote 4-1

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Public input, it is asked that public input comments be limited to topics on the current agenda and not to exceed 3 minutes per person.

Carol Aragon: I did not see the agenda beforehand so my comment is not on the agenda but would like to proceed, approved by IS Casey, I request of the board and all others present to acknowledge and applaud Tony Archuleta. Mr. Archuleta is a former and long-time bus driver with the city schools and he is now celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this week. Although he is not in attendance, he will learn that he is appreciated, so if you would, I would like you all to say happy birthday to him from all of us. IS Casey thanked Ms. Aragon for bringing that to our attention. BS Meserve asked if information or acknowledgement could be made on the website in reference to Mr. Archuleta on his birthday and service to the school district. IS Casey asked Ms. Aragon if she could provide information to the IT team in order to include it on the website.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A. Minutes: discussion approval of minutes for December 21<sup>st</sup>, BP Quintana made a motion to approve minutes for December 21<sup>st</sup>, second by BVP Gonzales, motion passed vote 5-0
- B. For the January 18, 2024 meeting, Mr. Quintana. BP Quintana made a motion on the January 18, 2024 to table the minutes since they were just made available just a few hours ago and would like to have time for the board to review, second, seconded by BVP Gonzales, motion passed vote 5-0.
- C. Minutes for the January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 board meeting minutes, Mr. Quintana. BVP Gonzales made a motion to approve the minutes for January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024, seconded by BM Cordova, motion passed vote 5-0
- D. Minutes for February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 board meeting minutes, Mr. Quintana. BP Quintana asked for a motion to approve, motion made by BS Meserve, seconded by BVP Gonzales, motion passed vote 5-0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Discussion / Action: Purpose of leasing Legion Park School – Mayor David G. Romero and City Manager Tim Montgomery  
Mayor Romero and City Manager Montgomery appeared before the board with a request of consideration towards the leasing of Legion Park Elementary school to the city of Las Vegas due to city office being vacated due to a contamination issue and currently city office personnel are displaced throughout the city. The request is based on the school's readiness in reference to HVAC, IT and fire suppression. Board member Romero indicated there was a previous interest in the building by the forestry division but yet have not presented continued interest to the current board. Mayor Romero and City Manager Montgomery indicate their timeline is currently undetermined and would be either on a short term or long-term lease. This is dependent on the findings of the contaminate at city hall and any traffic studies that may be needed at Legion Park Elementary. BP Quintana requests that the city council draft up and approve an agreement then bring it back to the board for review, once a fair market value is identified. Both the board and the city are in

agreement for full disclosure and transparency for any transaction in reference to Legion Park Elementary.

Motion made by BP Quintana to give a directive to Interim Superintendent to start the communication process with the city of Las Vegas to start pursuing this as an option.

Motion was seconded by BVP Gonzales; motion passed 5-0.

- B. Discussion / Action: Purpose of hiring a forensic auditor – Michael Quintana, Board President. Item was tabled until after a conference attendance which will be held March 20-22. This and additional information obtained after a meeting with Ms. Ulibarri and Ms. Hillis and Mr. Gonzales about some of our short falls that we'll be having this coming year. And Ms. Hillis gave us alot of good options which may be viable. BM Romero questioned reasoning for a forensic audit, BP Quintana indicated he discussed the situation with the attorney, and one concern in reference to the internal auditor is that's it's been the same auditor 9 out of the last 10 years.

Motion was made by BP Quintana and seconded by BVP Gonzales; motion passed 5-0

- C. Discussion / Action: Assignment of committees for Board Members  
Assignments: Finance Committee Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Quintana, Audit Committee Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Romero, Capital outlay Mr. Cordova and Mr. Quintana, Student Teacher appreciation Dr. Meserve and Mr. Cordova, West Las Vegas Headstart Dr. Meserve and Mr. Gonzales, School Health Advisory Committee Dr. Meserve and Mr. Romero; are there any objections to these assignments.

Motion made by BVP Gonzales and seconded by BM Cordova; motion passed 5-0

- D. Discussion / Action: Department Presentations not to exceed 5 minutes  
**Elaine Martinez-Gonzales, Director of Curriculum & Instruction / Federal Programs** – Update on February 14, 2024 Inservice Day  
Last in-service was last held on February 14<sup>th</sup> each month, a half day in-service is scheduled and it is planned with the administrative team to include superintendent, principals and directors. The training subjects are planned according to the district need and subjects that are mandatory or required. Elementary teachers K-4 were in the LETRS training, LETRS is Language Essential for Teachers Reading and Spelling, these trainings are already preplanned for our teachers, and is a mandatory training from PED. This is a teachers requirement along with an on line portion done outside of school hours. EA's and security are assigned special education training for FBA's, BIP's and IAP's. The training review is provided by the principals and case managers for each school site. It is important that everyone has input in the success of our students, whether it's behavioral, mental health, physical health and well-being and academics. All principals and teachers have access to the power school special programs to view any of the documents for the students in their classroom. So, because we're coming to the end of the school year it's important that everyone reviews all of the annual IAP's, BIP's and FBA's to make sure

that they are in order and that we are following them and making sure that our students needs are being met.

Custodians, food service, maintenance, nurses, and secretaries and transportation are assigned meeting times with their supervisors and if they were not assigned a training with their supervisors, secretaries and nurses were working in their office to complete health plans and collect immunizations records to make sure they are on file. Our next in-service is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>. IS Dr. Casey thanked Mrs. Gonzales for the wonderful way that she puts together in-services.

**Next item is Chaylene Sena, Food Service Director, appropriations received**

In December we applied for school grant, called SKI (school kitchen infrastructure) improvement grant. Basically, they awarded us \$250,000 dollars to renovate, do construction, school equipment, whatever we need to do with it, and have until 2027 to use it. My plan for this is, starting at Mike Mateo, because it is the most outdated and appears to need the most work, needing more modernized equipment, from there we plan on moving on to Sierra Vista as it has basically the same issues. After that we'll use any of the monies left over for other school sites, depending on who needs the most work.

**Ida Sue Gonzales, Transportation Supervisor – Update on random drug testing and other needs**

Random drug tests are needed on our DOT staff which needs 50% every quarter, or 50% a year, so 25% every quarter, which was done yesterday and random drug test will be done next week for non-DOT for anyone who drives school vehicles with or without students. School bus inspections are done semiannually, those are scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Mechanic is working on doing a through pre-trip inspection to ensure the safety of our students before the state inspector comes, as the department wants to be in compliance with all federal, state and district policies. Currently transportation, is missing one route driver, there are zero sub drivers, so sometimes routes have to double route, especially now with our busiest season being athletics. When the pay was raised in November up to \$30 an hour for contractors, \$28 for subs and activities that kept alot of our drivers with us, none the less we are still a little short. Two employees that have expressed an interest, and instructions have been given to them on how to proceed on getting their permits. Question by BP Quintana: how many drivers are you short on regular route? Response: one regular route drivers currently there is one double route that runs all the time, morning and afternoon. Question by BP Quintana: What impact does that have on our students getting home by having one driver have to do a double? Response: one route that currently does not have a driver is a special needs route and those routes tend to have more need kids that don't like change, and it's very hard on them. They are now put into a situation where they're on a bus with alot more people on it, it's more confinement and more behavioral problems.

**Thomas Trujillo, Director of Special Education – Update on staff needed**

Presentation not done, Dr. Casey reported Mr. Trujillo, out with Covid.

**Juan Carlos Fulgenzi, Director of Support Services / Co-Curricular Activities** – Athletic finance report: revenue from ticket sales, fundraising events, use of revenues, etc. Mr. Fulgenzi presented fundraiser information and how it is distributed among the clubs and teams as each have their own specific accounts. Discussion on dollar amount for meals, coach and sponsor meetings, deposit time limit requirements, trip funds request timeline, communication board, soccer field MOU, golf course MOU, types and limitation of passes, uniform replacements, huddle program and go fan. Refer to packet for further information.

E. Finance Committee:

- a. Discussion / Action: BARs / Transfers / Expenditures / Awards / Donations  
Presentation done by board member Romero, reporting

Finance committee met on Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, which reviewed and approved the minutes for the January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting. Bank reconciliation report for January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 for the general fund, reviewed along with the student activity fund, student activity fund balance report, no variance was noted. Reviewed cash report by fund, the budget vs actual report by fund, list of open purchase orders \$50,000 and above, list of donations, pledge collateral report, supplemental pay report, capital outlay bond, and bond SB9 report. The committee reviewed and discussed the status of the operating budget projected short fall, which is estimated at about \$300,000 dollars. The committee reviewed the following BARS: and would like to request ratification for the following: BAR 031 fund 2435, homeless emergency rescue ARP for \$1 dollar. Would like to request the approval for the following: BAR 31i fund 31703 SB9's state match increase of a \$115,298.65, BAR 2324 0032D fund 2433 RPSR3 decrease of \$34,281 dollars, BAR 2324 0033i fund increase of \$122,920, BAR 00341i fund 24160 rural low income increase of \$32,111 dollars, BAR 0035m fund 31701 capital improvements maintenance BAR and then BAR 0036m fund \$3100 100 bond fund maintenance BAR. Next meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by BVP Gonzales and seconded by BM Cordova; motion passed 5-0

F. Superintendent's Report: District Updates

A meeting was held with personnel to listen to concerns and thank them for their service and caring for our district and the students they serve. A directive that all school vehicles be returned to the transportation supervisor and must be checked out for use according to a procedure that was instituted. This procedure requires a preliminary approval by the transportation supervisor then followed by Superintendent final approval. Prior to this change the check-out only required one individual approval. In addition, school personal are not allowed to bring their children with them on out-of-town trips, this practice is strictly prohibited. Progressive discipline will be initiated if there are violations. Meetings were held with administrative staff to inquire about current standings and upcoming events or activities. A review of the budget, the PED budget, and stipends which are currently a part of our budget. Concerns at Memorial Middle School relative to there not being enough room for the students, this is a bonafide concern which I

recommend we spend time discussing and planning alternative solutions for our middle school students. Special Education 120-day report was submitted on time. Head basketball coach Branch informed me that he will be honored as basketball coach of the year during the summer, and our athletic teams, clubs and organizations continue to do well. Our 120<sup>th</sup> day student numbers and these may need to be adjusted depending if they are duplicate with other districts: pre-K 6 students, kindergarten 91, first grade 88, second grade 77, third grade 98, fourth grade 87, fifth grade 84, sixth grade 79, seventh grade 92, eighth grade 79, ninth grade 78, tenth grade 84, eleventh grade 99, twelfth grade 69, for a total of 1111 students.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board of Education will convene in closed session pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1-H (2) discussion of limited personnel matters and NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1-H (7) meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant.

Board entered into Executive Session at 1847.

Motion by BVP Gonzales to reconvene to regular session from Executive Session, motion seconded by BM Cordova, at 1906 pm.

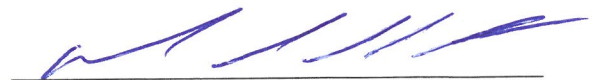
**FUTURE PLANNING:**

- A. Finance Committee on March 18<sup>th</sup>
- B. Spring Budget conference March 20-22, Albuquerque, attending BVP Gonzales, Mari Hillis, AS Ulibarri
- C. Board meeting to be held on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 pm

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Board Secretary Meserve to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Cordova. Motion passed 5-0, adjourned at 1910 pm.

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Board President



Board Secretary