

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

April 18, 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 18th day of April 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 – Absent

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

Public in attendance: Mari Hillis, Elaine Martinez Gonzales, Ida Sue Gonzales, Christina Gonzales, Lou Ella Marr-Montoya, Maria Sanchez, Faith Gelvin, John Tiernan, Santana Aragon, Melissa Vigil, Chris Archuleta, Michelle Aragon, Elizabeth Hernandez, Doug Earick, Kristina Korte, Brandon Gallegos, Martha Pena, Brian Colon, Inaaya Hashim, Donna Valdez, Areli Romero, and Roger Romero.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Board Vice President Gonzales made a motion to approve the agenda for today, April 18, 2024, seconded by board secretary Meserve. Motion is approved Vote 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Minutes: discussion approval of minutes for March 27, 2024 BM Romero made a motion to approve, second by BVP Gonzales, motion passed vote 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Swearing in for Student Board Member: Angelyna Romero, conducted by Judge Eddie Trujillo.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Presentation / Discussion / Action: Non-School District Sponsored Travel Group to Switzerland/Italy/France – Re: Use of district social media platforms – Brandon Gallegos
Mr. Gallegos indicates there is a proposed plan of a trip to Switzerland/Italy/France, which will take place July 21-31, 2025 and is coordinated by EF (Education First) organization, which offers adventure along with availability of high school to college credit. Cost per student is \$4500. Adults may accompany for an additional cost of \$5600. There are support teams, response teams, medical teams available within the company. The company has been in service for over 50 years. For every 6 students, there is a chaperone. All adults are required to have a background check as the company puts safety of students first. Included in the cost is roundtrip airfare, roundtrip bus fare, hotel, breakfast, dinner, and museum tickets. Student participants under the age of 11 are required to have a parent, those 12 and over it is optional. If there is more than 30 participants, adults and students we are identified as a single group, if under our group will be mixed with other school districts. There is also availability of high school and college credit by completing some requirements from EF who is associated with New Hampshire University for college credit. Mr. Gallegos indicates his request is to utilize LVCS media platform such as class dojo, website, mass media for information distribution. No vote is necessary, acting superintendent to check on liability concern and finalize request on use of media platform.

B. Presentation / Discussion / Action: Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire – Smoke damage Claim Update – Singleton & Schrieber – Brian Colon
Mr. Colon presented an update as to the representation of Singleton & Schrieber for the school district and referred to community suffering for two years as a result of our federal government's negligence. Singleton and Schrieber were very clear that the system that FEMA has put up has failed not just public entities, but also the community members of northern New Mexico. There was an allocated 4 billion dollars to rebuild northern NM, which has not been realized, based on his perception. Mr. Colon said that an announcement made yesterday indicated that there is a new administrator, and we're (the legal firm) is hopeful that they will bring in a legal team to assist in advancing these claims, and provide recovery and resources to make the individuals of northern NM whole and to give claimants all the damages and benefits they are entitled to as well as our public entities. Mr. Colon acknowledged Superintendent Casey, Mari and Darlene for working closely with partner, Brett Schreiber, who is an expert in developing damage models. The next step is to work with Dr. Casey, to identify 100% of the square footage for the district, and work with our counsel in submitting a claim for the soot ash damage, which is historically being paid at \$35 per square foot. Mr. Colon indicated that as our representative, the federal government will be given notice of our claim and expectations of compensation. If the claim is not resolved in 180 days after filing, a suit will be filed in federal court. Work was also done regarding flood insurance deadlines, which were met and submitted for processing. Any further discussion will be held in executive session due to possible litigation.

No vote is necessary.

- C. Department Presentation: Capital Outlay Projects, Facilities Updates – Chris Archuleta
New bleachers are in but there is a problem with there being a 27-inch gap, due to track not lining up, current bleachers will be pushed back and two rows will be installed along with red tile indicating caution. Two skylights in the gym were removed and the three over the gym floor were replaced and sealed. No information available in reference to construction completion on Legion Dr., which is negatively impacting Sierra Vista. Paul D. Henry demolition completed. FMAR visit to Sierra Vista identified violations. Maintenance is working to resolve identified violations. Mike Mateo Elementary: gym door replaced, gym roof repaired. North wall siding panels is out for quotes. Memorial Middle school east and west patio doors have been replaced, Norcon installed new score board at old MMS soccer field. Los Ninos: Franken is doing warranty work on the panic door hardware, which is to be installed on south side of the building. Robertson High school gutters replacement is in progress, new gym roof overlay is in progress. Working with CCSMI to obtain funding for field house roof repair. Upcoming projects: Old MMS greenhouse awaiting quotes, working with CCSMI to identify vendors for central office elevator. Awaiting NMDOH award to replace sidewalks on south side of gym. Los Vigiles property quick deed to Acequia Madre de Los Romeros/Los Vigiles Land Grant requested to acquire property.
No discussion or action necessary, informational only.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion / Action: 2024-2025 School Calendar – Calendar Committee Representatives-Melissa Vigil
The calendar committee met on March 26th to develop the calendar using survey responses gathered from a survey that was provided to all personnel weeks in advance. The need to have 185 teaching days, 3 non-teaching days, team and teacher workshop days, parent / teacher conference days, holidays, and required closure dates for a national election. On April 8th the voting for option A or B was open and closed on the 11th. By a 68% to 32% vote, calendar A received the highest percentage of the 123 individuals voting. A motion was made to table the approval of calendar A until it could be approved at the same time as the budget, motion was seconded, motion carried 4-0 vote to table to next meeting.
- B. Discussion / Action: MOU with NMHU Re: Professional Development for teachers / administration – Dr. D. Earick
A five-year MOU with New Mexico Highlands University was presented with no type of monitory commitment from the school district. Currently, NMHU has MOU's with seven or eight school districts, West Las Vegas, Mora, Penasco, Wagon Mound, Pecos, Cuba, and one in Albuquerque. Tonight's presentation is to discuss and finalize the MOU with the Las Vegas City Schools. The MOU, mostly is commitment of people. NMHU is requesting a representative from the school district to sit on the advisement council, and

for the LVCS representative to attend the national council every year. The purpose of the MOU is to engage in Professional Development with school districts by establishing an effective partnership to develop effective teachers and administrators. It also aids in preparation of culturally sustaining and effective learners, leaders, and activists through a personalized inclusive education pathway. By recommendation of the acting superintendent a motion was made by Mr. Romero, second by Mr. Gonzales. Motion passed 4-0.

- C. Discussion / Action: Fine Arts Elementary Act Grand (FAEA) – E. Gonzales
Actually, a renewal application for the fine arts grant, this is based on our prior 80- and 120-day average times 0.055 cost times the unit value for school year 2025 which is \$6442.55 so estimated award value would be \$215,084.53. Grant helps fund teachers, fund four positions, materials and supplies for art program and media program and then we also use this to fund the national dance institute, usually comes to Sierra Vista.
By recommendation of the acting superintendent, a motion was made by Mr. Romero, second by Dr. Meserve, motion passed 4-0.
- D. Discussion / Action: Rural Low-Income Schools Grant – (RLIS) – E. Gonzales
This is one of the smaller grants, that is utilized to pay stipends for recruitment and retention of teachers, bilingual teachers, reading, writing, math and science for approximately 55 staff members.
By recommendation of the acting superintendent, a motion was made by Mr. Romero, second by Mr. Gonzales, motion passed 4-0.
- E. Discussion / Approval: 2024 E-rate Network Refresh Project RFP and Award – J.Tiernan
Every five years, E-rate resets and we're allotted a certain amount of money based on our student population. We can use that to upgrade our network infrastructure. Last year with the project reset, we have the amount of money that was provided into pockets that was spent over a five-year period. This project is going to use up every penny of our e-rate allocation for this, and the equipment that we need to buy is a firewall, networking equipment, switches and wireless access points. Between the e-rate funding and our RFP, we will be able to cover the entire cost of this project.
By recommendation of the acting superintendent, a motion was made by Mr. Romero, second by Mr. Gonzales, motion passed 4-0.
- F. Discussion / Approval: Ratification of 2-year contract /2024-2026, Juan Carlos Fulgenzi,-
B. Casey
In reviewing contracts and preparation for next year renewals and budget items it was discovered that there were three employees who were given a 2-year extended contract by previous superintendent. The law does allow for a 2-yr contact to be given by the superintendent; however, it also requires that the 2-yr extension be approved by the governing body. After reviewing board minutes, and agendas for the last few years of the school board, those contract extensions did not come before the governing body. The law statute number 22-10A, 21 B4 reads in part: all employment contracts between superintendent and licensed school employees shall be for a period of one school year, the statute was changed in 2021. In reviewing the contracts, it was found that the contracts

that had been issued based on the law that was dated 2016. Being that LVCS is in a budget short fall, a recommendation was made to table this item due to funding concerns for the school year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Motion was made by Mr. Quintana, second by Mr. Gonzales, motion passed 3-1

G. Discussion / Approval: Ratification of 2-year contract / 2024-2026, John Tiernan,- B. Casey

H. Discussion / Approval: Ratification of 2-year contract / 2024-2026, Elaine Gonzales,-B. Casey

Board Member Romero recommends that items F, G, and H get lumped into one vote. Motion made by Mr. Quintana to table items G and H, to a further date, second by Mr. Gonzales, motion passed vote 3-1

I. Finance Committee: Discussion / Action: BARs/ Transfers/Expenditures / Awards/ Donations – Board Vice President Gonzales

Finance committee met on Wednesday, April 17th, 2024, which reviewed and approved the minutes for the March 26th, 2024 meeting. The bank reconciliation for February 29th, 2024 general fund, the student activity fund and the student activity fund balance report were reviewed with no variances noted. Also reviewed, the cash report by fund, the budget versus actual report by fund, the list of open purchase orders \$50,000 and above, pledged collateral report and the supplemental pay report. The Capital outlay, bond-SB-9 report was reviewed as well. Total revenues received in March were \$29,855. Outstanding RFR's as of 3/31/24 is approximately \$713,751. The committee reviewed the list of donations and would like to recommend board approval of all donations. The committee reviewed the following BAR's and would like to request ratification for the following: Next meeting is May 15th.

BAR #069-0002324-0032-T Fund 24106 IDEA-B Transfer

We would like to request approval of the following:

BAR #069-000-2324-0053-D Fund 11000 Operational decrease of \$115,758

BAR #069-000-2324-0054-D Fund 11000 Operational decrease of \$37,450

BAR #069-000-2324-0055-I Fund 24154 Carl Perkins \$2,836

BAR #069-000-2324-0056-I Fund 27405 School Bus Cameras \$2,500

BAR #069-000-2324-0057-I Fund 27405 School Bus Cameras \$2,500

BAR #069-000-2324-0058-I Fund 31703 SB-9 State Match \$63,699

Motion made by Mr. Romero to approve all BARS and ratifications, seconded by Mr. Gonzales; motion passed 4-0

Donations list:

RHS Girls Basketball \$1000.00

Banner Printing \$500.00

Prom \$1000.00

RHS Athletics-Track \$150.00

Total of \$2,650.00

Motion made by Mr. Gonzales to approve all donations, seconded by Dr. Meserve; motion passed 4-0

J. Superintendent's Report: District Updates

There will be summer school this year for all grades, starting June 3rd through June 20th, kindergarten to 6th grade students, will be meeting at Sierra Vista Elementary from 8 am to 3 pm, the 7th and 8th grade students will meet at Memorial Middle School from 8 am until noon, students who are in need of remedial work or credit recovery are to be recommended by their teachers. STEM work for all other students will also be offered. Grades 9 through 12 will be meeting at the RHS library and this will be for credit recovery only. Breakfast and lunch will be offered at all summer school sites. Teachers, educational assistants and office workers will be hired for the summer school session, anyone interested, please submit a letter of interest to Elaine Martinez-Gonzales no later than April 26th. There are three new hires: activity bus driver, a registered nurse and a special education staff. There are two retirees to date, five teacher licensure advancement, four teacher licensure advancement in progress, four teachers who have submitted required paperwork and or have taken required assessments to advance licensure prior to their current licensure expiration date. Other updates: Legion Drive, road work, has traffic congestion, Las Vegas Police Department will be sending officers to the area to help with traffic control both in the mornings and in the afternoon. Parking at Quintana building health center, some of the parents stop there and park in front of the building have been ticketed or received parking citations from the police department when they went to pick up a sick child or to talk to the medical providers there. The police department was advised of the situation, therefore those who are parked in front of the health will no longer be given parking citations. A request was made to El Centro Family Health, if there was a possibility of one of their medically trained providers to volunteer at sports events in case there of an emergency, related to our students, and help attend an injured student or students who may become ill during a sporting event. A response is pending. Come back campaign: focuses on getting students back and bringing back others who have left. We need to increase student numbers, and would like to have an advertising campaign, posted on the website, inviting students, teachers, and others who have left our district to seriously consider returning to Las Vegas City Schools. Our district has a lot to offer, with course offerings, innovated activity and extra circular activities that can not only enhance their learning but also extend their learning to different and fun classes that will provide the opportunity to advance their skills and talents. Lastly high school teacher Donna Ortiz is working on her national board certification which is a prestigious certification, which requires a content knowledge, differentiation of instruction, teaching practice and learning environment, and being an effective and reflective practitioner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board of Education will convene in closed session pursuant to matters and NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1-H (2) discussion of limited personnel matters NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 (H) (7) meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which public body is or may become a participant. Entered at 1836, regular session resumed at 1915.

FUTURE PLANNING:

- A. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday May 16th, 2024 at 5:15 pm
- B. Law Conference – May 30-31, 2024, Albuquerque NM
- C. Leadership Retreat – July 11-13, 2024, Taos, NM

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Board Member Romero to adjourn, seconded by Board Vice President Gonzales.
Motion passed 4-0, adjourned at 7:20 pm.

LAS VEGAS CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION



Board President



Board Secretary

