

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

May 13, 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 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: Associate Superintendent Darlene Ulibarri, Acting Superintendent Dr. Barbara Casey

Public in attendance: Mari Hillis, Elaine Martinez Gonzales, Ida Sue Gonzales, Lou Ella Marr-Montoya, Maria Sanchez, Martha Pena, James Ortiz, Donna Ortiz, Juan Carlos Fulgenzi, Samantha Fulgenzi, Jose Medina, Sarah Flores, Angelyna Romero, James Branch, Jaryd Marquez, Nancy Wright, Michael Yara, Andrea Love, Gerald Love, Alicia Arguello, James Reddy

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Board Member Romero made a motion to approve the agenda for today, May 13, 2024, with two changes in numbering and sequence, seconded by board member Cordova. Motion is approved vote 5-0

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. Romero: Congratulated the track team and tennis team for placement in state. Questioned what the board was doing here, stated board was not working for the kids but has spent money that should have gone to the kids.

Mr. Fulgenzi: Stated he was speaking as a parent of two Las Vegas City School students. Indicated what the roles of the school, the parents, and the school board should be. Las Vegas City Schools has been a very productive school district for employees to work at, addition in which students have been able to excel in all aspects, while being supported and recognized.

Verbalize that a disciplinary concern in violation of the handbook was calculated and personal. Questioned if this was consistent with other disciplinary actions for other students that violated the handbook? Questioned if student discipline depended on who the parents are, and if all student disciplines referrals will be sent to the board? Stated he felt people were getting sick, resigning, not being offered re-employment and or being placed on admin leave, and causing a hostile work environment. Stated the board took an oath to do what is right and in the best interest of the students and the district. True leaders don't create separation, true leaders bring people together, something that this board is failing to do, collectively as a board how committed are you to the improvement of this district.

#### PRESENTATION NMSBA RECOGNITION:

LVCSB presented Mrs. Donna Ortiz with the New Mexico School Board Association Excellence and Student Achievement Award. The Excellence and Student Achievement Award program seeks to promote student achievement in school districts and assist local school boards in recognizing school leaders, staff, and other individuals who have played an important role in improving student achievement at the local level. This award is sponsored by the New Mexico School Board Association and is presented on behalf of the NMSBA by the local school boards. This recipient is an individual that has played an important role in improving student achievement and student outcome at the district level.

#### DISTRICT ACCOLADES:

RHS Boys Basketball – Coach Branch stated they had an outstanding season, but finished a little bit short, placing second runner up in state. RHS BB finished with a record of 27 and 4, were the Stu Clark champions this year, the state, and district champions this year. There were three individuals that made the all-state team, and had five all district selections. Recognized players in attendance as being very instrumental in helping RHS have the success that we did have. Also recognized assistants Mr. coach Bustos and coach Arguello. Stated they had an outstanding season, great group of kids, and have been 79 and 16 during his three-year tenure, which include a state championship and two runner ups positions.

RHS Girls Basketball – Coach Medina stated they had a heck of a season, starting off six and six, with the schedule, had 13 - 14 in a row, then went eight and 0 in district, becoming number one seed in state for the district. Stated he was proud of the girls, they work hard, not only on the basketball court but in the classroom, and in the community. Acknowledged assistant coaches, coach Jared Marquez, coach Elaine Martinez-Gonzales, Alicia Arguello and Shalyne Sena at the middle school. The C team went 14-3 over all 6 and 2 in district, district runner up, winning the Santa Fe Indian School tournament. The JV team went 20-1, 8-0 in district, were district champs and came in third in the Eliana Herrera Memorial tournament. The varsity team, went 20-8, 8-0 in district, regular season number 1 seed, and lost in the quarter finals at the state Tournament. Overall, the three programs were very successful this year, there were four young ladies that made all district this year and one young lady that made the North-South team. There are only 2 seniors this year, so 25 – 26 young ladies are coming back next year, so I'm looking forward to a lot of great things from these young ladies next year.

### RHS Wrestling – Coach Baca not present

RHS Powerlifting – Coach Armijo presented Orlando Romero. Stated that one of the things about powerlifting it's a lot of things kids don't like to do. They don't like to hit the weight room, they don't like to get up in the morning, after practice they don't like to hit more weights, but Orlie dedicated himself, a lot of it on his own motivation. At state he won the 275 lb. weight class for 1A to 3A, during that time he set two state records, he set a state record in squat at 530 lbs. and one in total weight and that was actually 1A thru 5A he lifted 1340 lbs. total weight that day. That day he was also the strongest kid in NM in that 1A thru 5A, he lifted the most weight and he's second right now all time in NM history. He is a junior and he gets to come back and do it again next year.

RHS Track – Coach Maria Sanchez introduced assistants, hurdle coach Adam Martinez, Desiree Garcia, distance and javelin Kevin Villanueva, long jump Brian Trujillo, high jump Mike Boyle, and throw coach Sandra Romero. The girls came up and got fourth in their district with only 9 girls, the boy's got second with 15 boys. At state 7 girls, and 10 boys qualified. Track is one of those sports where an athlete is actually measured against each other, by time and running events, distance, throwing and jumping events, height and other jumping events. It's a mental sport that not everyone can handle, but those who do are the best well rounded athletes. And this small group right here are among of the best in the state of NM. Our junior girl placed 5th in the 100 hurdles and 3rd in the 300 hurdles. another placed 4th in the shot put, another placed 5th in the discus, these three young ladies alone put Robertson Girls track in the 11th place at state, out of 21 teams. On the boy's side, these boys out performed teams that had 2 to 3 times the numbers of athletes, and they came home with a state runner up trophy. Competing in only 12 of 20 events they proved that they belonged there. We have a state champ in the 100, 200 and broke the school record and is the state champ in the 400-meter dash. Another placed 4th in the 100 hurdles, he's state runner up in the javelin, and placed 3rd in the long jump, one also placed 4th in javelin, another placed 3rd in the 400 and the high jump. Another record was broken in the 4 by 1 run and they are your state champs in the 4 by 1.

RHS Tennis – Coach Fulgenzi introduced assistants, and members of girls' and boys' tennis teams. Boy's won a seat to the state tournament as a wild card, number 12 seed. The doubles team, district 2 Quad A, were runner ups in doubles after advancing to the state tournament. One player will be representing Robertson High School this week at the all-star event. Girl's event had one qualifier as a wild card, who came in 4th in district, advancing to state tournament losing in the quarter final match. Team state tournament advanced to the semi-finals losing in the third match after a tough defeat. Credit given to the teams for their hard work and dedication, along with acknowledging the support from assistants and parents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Minutes: discussion approval of minutes for April 18, 2024 BM Romero made a motion to approve, second by BS Dr. Meserve, motion passed vote 5-0

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion / Action: Consideration of and approval of a Resolution Authorizing and Approving submission of a completed Application for financial assistance and project approval to the NM Finance Authority- K.Weimerskirch  
Explained the districts tax base has seen strong growth over the past 5 years. The districts tax year 23 AV increased by 2.6 % to a total of \$330 million, the five-year average growth rate is currently sitting at 3.2% and the 10 year is currently sitting at 2.7% for financial purposes and to be conservative it anticipates the district of having a growth rate of just 1 ½ per year. The district set its general obligation bond tax rate at \$9.83, keeping the total residential tax rate level at \$12.05. The district's current plan of finance is based off of keeping the total residential tax rate current at its current level without any changes, so the issuance of this 2024 bonds will not increase taxes but rather continue to support that level tax rate. The district currently has \$12.6 million dollars of general obligation bonds outstanding. The district last went out to voters for general obligation bonds authorization in 2021 for \$8.5 million, \$4.3 million dollars of that has been sold and the remaining \$4.2 million dollars of that authorization is now preparing for sale. A new bond will go back out to voters in November of 2025, with a projection of \$11 million dollars, but that election amount is preliminary and subject to change both on the growth and assessed value and also based on the needs of the district too, but based off keeping the tax rate level as is. The district also has SB9 in place which was last renewed in 2021 and since that authorization lasts for 6 years, the district will not need to renew it until 2027. The districts legal bonding capacity, based off the districts 2023 assessed value, is at 63% bonded capacity with \$7.2 million dollars left in legal capacity.  
Motion made by BVP Gonzales to approve, BM Cordova seconded, motion passed 5-0
- B. Discussion / action: consideration of and approval of a resolution authorizing sale of school bonds, authorizing sale of school bonds, establishing procedures for the sale and deliver of the bonds, authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the NM finance authority, and authorizing other matters related to the issuance of the bonds.  
One of the resolutions allows us to go with the sale with the NM finance authority, and then the other resolution provides the district's business staff the authority to sign off on the final terms of the bonds. Information covered in item A.  
Motion made by BM Romero to approve, BS Dr. Meserve seconded, motion passed 5-0
- C. Discussion / Action: 2022-2023 audit – Chris Garner, Patillo, Brown & Hill LLP  
Audit is due November 15th, for the last several years audit's been on time. An audit requires communication to follow different standards: regular auditing standards, US auditing standards, government auditing standards or the yellow book standards. Auditors are hired to express an opinion on financial statements. What that means, auditors give what's called reasonable assurance, there's no way to look at every transaction as auditors, so auditors pick stational samples, to look at internal controls.

Under US auditing standards when it comes to internal controls, all auditors have to do is take from each significant cycle, meaning like payroll, cash disbursements, cash receipts, from those cycles and walk it through the system. In a yellow book audit, the state auditor expands the yellow book and tests certain transactions, things like travel per diem, procurement, so they expand in the state audit rule. Basically, to the ground level, so as we go through and test those samples and test those internal controls, we have to report everything in our state as a finding. There is also a single audit to look at grants. Grants more than \$750,000 have to be looked at least once every three years to assess compliance with federal government's requirements. Previous audit findings were in 2022, and a second in 2023, the culture lately has been let's resolve them, let's deal with them and that's what you want to see as a board member.

D. Discussion / Action: 2024-2025 School Calendar – B. Casey

The calendar includes the minimum of 1140 instructional hours per school year, secondary students, the high school students shall attend a minimum of 3.5 instructional hours per day. Allows for students to take, classes at the university or at Luna, work or participate in some kind of mentorship or apprenticeship program. Length of the day, a minimum of 5 ½ instructional hours for a full day or 3 ½ hours for a half day. Days can be no longer than 7 ½ hours, 60 instructional hours per school year for secondary students and for primary grades up to 30 instructional hours for those. So, 180 days are covered, there are scheduled in-service days, or trainings for employees. Calendar has the first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year as August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and those are work days for staff and teachers. The first day for all students is August 8<sup>th</sup>, the first day of no school, the first vacation day is September 2<sup>nd</sup> which is Labor Day, and then monthly in-service days will occur September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, November 20<sup>th</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup>, January 29<sup>th</sup>, February 26<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>. The 2025 graduation day is scheduled for Friday May, 23<sup>rd</sup> and the last day for students is May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Monthly ½ day services will continue to take place as they do now. In clarification there are 188 days, three which are teacher prep days, 185 instructional days, each of the half day in-services count as a full instructional day, for professional development.

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Presentation / Discussion / Action: NM School Board Association Recognition: Donna Ortiz, Robertson High School, moved up to Accolades.
  
- B. Presentation / Discussion. Department Presentations Angelyna Romero, Student BOE Member. Report for the month of April, a blood drive was done on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the McFarland gym, receiving a total of 27 volunteer pints of blood. Ms. Amy Hufnal directed the play Wizard of Oz on April 19<sup>th</sup> all 270 seats were full for both morning and afternoon performances. The film team created and directed a short film, which won the audience choice award in NM film prize. The high school and middle school band participated in the greater south west music festival, both bands combined were the large group competition earning the excellence 2 ratings from professional educators, the band also competed in small ensembles earning superior 1, RHS woodwind choir earned an outstanding 0, the RHS brass choir also received an outstanding 0. Future events:

baseball team that will be going to the championship quarterfinals May 16<sup>th</sup>, followed by semifinals May 17<sup>th</sup>, and finals May 18<sup>th</sup>, awards night for our fine arts students on May 13<sup>th</sup>, students will be receiving awards for their creativity and hard work. Student Council will be hosting a senior's awards banquet for all our seniors, RHS student council is planning an end of the year field day for Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A band, red wave pride band, memorial middle school band and radiance jazz band will be performing in the band room May 21<sup>st</sup> and will also be holding a banquet May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our choir and Robertson High School and Memorial Middle school will be performing May 21<sup>st</sup>; lastly RHS student council is planning a student survey to distribute to their peers either before the school year ends or at the start of the next school to collect data and information about what is going on at RHS as well as new or improved things they would like to see. No action necessary

- C. Presentation/discussion/action: RHS Girls Basketball – Permission to travel out of state to Canyon Texas: West Texas A&M University Women's Summer Basketball Team Camp, Coach Jose Medina. Robertson lady Cardinal basketball team and program requesting travel to out of state travel to Canyon Texas to participate in the West Texas A&M University summer basketball team camp. Also requesting financial assistance deferring the cost of the bus driver and fuel. Departure for this tournament is on June 10<sup>th</sup> and return on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, staying in Amarillo, Texas which is 18-20 miles from Canyon, Texas. different teams and good quality competition. It is learning opportunity for our players to work on and improve their skills and abilities and for our coaches to learn new things and work on our coaching skills and abilities. Approximately 20-30 young ladies will attend the team camp; we will have coaching staff and parent chaperones as well. Entry fee is \$500 per team, we're taking three teams, varsity, JV and C team so, that's \$1500. Our program is also hosting a BBQ May 26<sup>th</sup>, to help raise money and funds to help support our trip and our whole summer program, which will start the end of May and run through the end of June. We will be participating in about five team camps throughout that period of time. Transportation will be provided by RHS transportation department to all our events this summer.

Motion by Mr. Romero, second by Mr. Cordova, motion passed 5-0

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion / Action: 2024-2025 Proposed budget – M. Hillis  
Finance committee met on Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the committee reviewed the fiscal year 2024-2025 operational budget which include the following: revenue includes an emergency supplemental request of \$2,297,000, expenditures include salary increases for all staff of 3% health and medical increases of 15.53%; vision increase of 3%; dental increase of 5% and the risk premium increase of 31.86%. Emergency Supplemental is still pending PED and approval. Discussion as to how the district is addressing this shortage and how to move forward. What administrative costs, and administrative expenses have been considered to reduce or restructure as a means. Report indicates some expenditure due to benefits and salary changes due to licensure level increases. There is a review and suggestion of possibly increasing class size, cutting all stipends by 20%, remove associate

superintendent, decrease the superintendent salary by 25%, consider eliminating one principal or have a principal and an assistant to cover the two elementary schools and to cover Mike Mateo. Based on the uncertainty of the emergency supplemental at this point, BVP Gonzales made a motion to table, second by Mr. Romero, unanimous to table.

B. Presentation / Discussion / Action: Donations (Cash/Property) BARS / Transfers / expenditures / awards / donations – M. Hillis

The committee reviewed the list of donations and would like to recommend board approval of all donations detailed on the attached.

Donations list:

Teacher Appreciation	\$100.00	RHS NHS	+/- \$250.00
MMSE	\$50.00	Total of	\$400.00

Motion made by Mr. Romero, second by Mr. Gonzales, motion carried 5-0

C. Superintendent Report: District Update – B. Casey

Graduation is May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, board members should arrive at 0930 to prepare for the procession leading the graduates into the gym and their seating. It's been a tradition that the superintendent, associate superintendent, board members, counselor's and teachers have been required to wear robes, and this graduating class would like that also. Personnel matters: working in collaboration with the PED licensure bureau the school district has received guidance on the licensure requirements for nine teachers who currently hold an alternative or provisional license or a one-year certificate that will expire June 30<sup>th</sup>. There are individuals who have made progress towards the licensure and some are near competition for licensure requirements. There are five individuals who have advanced in licensure, and will also be moving up on the pay scale to level 3. There are two individuals moving up to level 2, and one licensure advancement is pending on submission of their completed paperwork. There have been five official resignations, three official retirements, and two non-renewed positions, as of May 5<sup>th</sup>.

No action necessary

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board of education will convene in closed session pursuant to the follow matters: limited personnel matters as permitted under NMSA 1978 10-15-1 H 2 discussion of hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment, or resignation of or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against an individual, public employee.

FUTURE PLANNING:

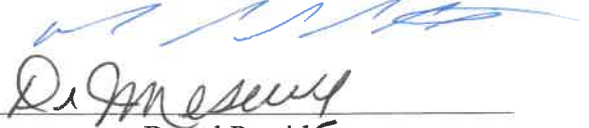
- A. Special board meeting – Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 pm
- B. Robertson Graduation – Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 am
- C. Law Conference – May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Albuquerque NM
- D. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:15 pm
- E. Leadership Retreat – July 11-13, 2024, Taos, NM

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Board Member Romero to adjourn, seconded by Board Secretary Dr. Meserve.

Motion passed 5-0, adjourned at 7:56 pm.

LAS VEGAS CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

  
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Board President

  
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Board Secretary