

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 6, 2013  
PUBLIC AGENDA REVIEW MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

August 6, 2013

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The public agenda review meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:40 p.m. at the Washoe County School District's Central Administration Building, 425 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

**1.02 ROLL CALL**

President Barbara Clark and Board Members David Aiazzi, John Mayer, Howard Rosenberg, and Lisa Ruggerio were present. Trustees Estela Gutierrez and Barbara McLaury were absent from the meeting. Superintendent Pedro Martinez, Deputy Superintendent Traci Davis, and staff were also present.

**1.03 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee Aiazzi and seconded by Trustee Rosenberg that **the Board of Trustees approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Barbara Clark, David Aiazzi, John Mayer, Howard Rosenberg and Lisa Ruggerio.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries

**1.04 PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Clark opened the meeting to public comment.

Todd Bailey reminded the Board that the Nevada Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 74 and that the bill was signed by the Governor in May. SB74 would be in effect on October 1, 2013 and would set a higher standard for the transparency of public documents. He was frustrated at the lack of transparency surrounding Assembly Bill (AB) 46, that the District had sponsored. He had testified at the hearing on SB74 that violations should be considered a Class D felony and result in a civil penalty of \$1 million. While that amendment was not considered, he would bring the proposal back to the Legislature in 2 years if there were continued problems. He presented the Board with a copy of SB74.

**2. Items for Discussion or Information**

**2.01 DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON AUGUST 13, 2013. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY PROVIDE QUESTIONS TO STAFF AND/OR REQUEST THAT STAFF REVIEW THE ISSUES AND BACKGROUND RELATED TO ANY OF THE ITEMS ON THE AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> AGENDA. THE BOARD WILL NOT DELIBERATE AND NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

President Clark opened the discussion on the August 13, 2013 regular meeting agenda. She explained that the following items would be removed from the agenda and placed on the August 27, 2013 agenda: consent agenda items 4.04, approval of minutes from the Board of Trustees Work session on February 26, 2013, 4.05, approval of minutes from the Board of Trustees regular meeting on March 12, 2013, and 4.06, approval of minutes from the Board of Trustees work session on April 27, 2013.

President Clark asked if there would be any new information presented under item 6.01, Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the 2014-2015 Budget. Superintendent Martinez explained that staff had nothing new to present and the item was requested as a standing agenda item because there would be information, such as a budget book, that would be discussed at future meetings. He added that regarding item 6.02, Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Capital Funding and Planning, information would be presented on a timeline of presentations to the Board.

President Clark asked about what type of information would be presented under item 7.01, Presentation and Discussion Regarding SB504 "Zoom" Schools. Superintendent Martinez stated that during the final days of the Nevada Legislature, a bill was introduced to set aside funding specifically for schools with majority English Language Learner (ELL) populations. Someone came up with the term "Zoom schools" and it was put into the legislation. The legislation was very clear on how the funding was to be spend, namely for pre-K programs, full-day kindergarten with class sizes of no more than 21, and reading and intervention centers. The District would receive close to \$4 million per year for 2 years to fund the stated programs at 6 schools. In comparison, Clark County would receive close to \$20 million per year to fund 15 schools.

President Clark wondered what the decision-making process entailed in deciding on the schools. Lindsay Anderson, Director, Government Affairs, explained the intent of the legislation was to fund the programs in schools with the highest percentage of ELL students and that were some of the lowest performing. The Legislature wanted to fund programs in as many schools in each school district in the state as possible. The District presented approximately 14 schools that could be eligible for the funding. Superintendent Martinez indicated that the 6 schools chosen were all part of the new

Acceleration Zone program. The District aligned the funds to meet the criteria set forth in the legislation.

President Clark inquired if the bill was related to the ELL pot of money the media had been discussing. Ms. Anderson stated it was. The District would receive \$3.75 million each year for 2 years to fund the programs. Based on the budgets the District received from the schools, they were able to determine the District would be able to use the funds in 6 of the 14 schools.

Trustee Aiazzi asked if the 6 schools already had full-day kindergarten. Ms. Anderson explained that they did and most already had pre-K services. The District would be able to use the ELL funding for the programs, which would free up the funds that those schools had used for other services.

Trustee Aiazzi wondered where the funds would be going. Kristen McNeill, Chief of Staff, stated that the state-funded full-day kindergarten funds that had been slated for those schools would be used for additional full-day kindergarten programs that were next on the list to receive the funding.

Trustee Aiazzi wanted to make sure the Board knew where the freed up funds went when the District received funding from state and federal programs because the Board should have a say in where those savings were spent. Ms. McNeill explained that the money that would be freed up from the full-day kindergarten program was grant funding from the State and the District was required to continue to spend that money on full-day kindergarten programs. Only a small percentage of General Fund money was spent on full-day kindergarten.

Trustee Aiazzi requested a spreadsheet of all full-day kindergarten programs in the District and how they were funded. Superintendent Martinez indicated that the information would be brought to the Board on Tuesday.

President Clark mentioned that her reading of the information was that the money could only be used for certain programs and she wondered if those programs were chosen by the District. Ms. Anderson stated that the legislation dictated what programs the funds could be spent on. Each school was required to have pre-K programs, full-day kindergarten, extended learning programs, intersession and summer school programs, and reading centers. Superintendent Martinez indicated the legislation was very prescriptive in how the funds were to be spent.

President Clark asked what the Acceleration Zone funds were used for and if those funds had been slated for any of the programs the "Zoom" school legislation would now be funding. Superintendent Martinez stated that the Acceleration Zone schools were receiving additional funds because they were low performing schools and also

happened to have some of the highest ELL percentages in the District. Because of the "Zoom" school funding, the District was able to increase the funding so all students would receive interventions and have access to reading centers. More schools in the District would be able to offer full-day kindergarten because those grant funds were freed up by the "Zoom" school funding.

President Clark requested information on all the different funding that the 6 schools would be receiving and where the funds that were freed up would be going. She also requested clarification that the 6 schools were the lowest in the District for academic performance. Superintendent Martinez indicated the information would be presented at the August 13, 2013 meeting. Unfortunately, all the schools slated for the "Zoom" school funding were also some of the lowest performing in the District, which was why they were part of the Acceleration Zone.

Trustee Rosenberg wanted to make sure that when the information was presented to the public, it was made clear that the schools were of the highest need not because of demographics but because of academics. Superintendent Martinez agreed.

Trustee Mayer asked if any accounting procedures were placed on the schools who would receive the funds. Ms. Anderson stated that there were some reporting requirements. The District would have to submit a plan to the State Department of Education regarding what the schools would be using the funds for. There was also an annual report the District would have to submit. The bill did not discuss metrics of how much of an increase the District or State expected to see, but there were reporting requirements.

Trustee Mayer wondered how the plan would be developed by the schools since classes were scheduled to begin on Monday. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief School Accountability Officer, mentioned that the schools knew who they were and the information was included in the staff report. The District had received support from the State on how to proceed with the plans. The schools were required to submit their plans by August 15, 2013. The plans would be preliminary and the final versions would be presented to the District later in the fall, along with their school performance plans.

Trustee Aiazzi mentioned that it appeared the District and the schools were already doing most of what the legislation required and wondered why a new plan needed to be developed. Dr. LaMarca indicated that the District was going to work with the University of Nevada, Reno on the reading skills centers which were a new program for the District. The funds would build upon what the District was already doing in most cases. The State was looking for specific monitoring in some programs. Superintendent Martinez added that the funds would allow for additional resources and time to be spent for students. Staff would be able to work deeper in certain areas, specifically regarding the reading centers. The funds that were freed up would be

placed with other high need schools that were not able to receive the funding prior to the new legislation.

President Clark wanted to make sure there were ways to measure the impact the additional funding would have on student learning. She wanted to make sure that the District was tracking the impact even if there was not a State requirement to do so, that way the District would be able to replicate the program or seek additional funding from the State. Superintendent Martinez stated the District had already planned on collecting certain data from the schools because they were part of the Acceleration Zone. The schools had also developed plans for the increased Acceleration Zone funding. The additional funding from the legislation should allow for the schools to execute those plans even more effectively. He was interested in seeing both programs be successful so the District would be able to go back to the Legislature and seek additional funding for more schools since the money was not going to every school.

Trustee Mayer indicated that it appeared that the only decision let for the schools was with regard to personnel and how they would be divided. Superintendent Martinez mentioned that the schools were discussing how to implement the initiatives and which teachers would receive the additional training for the reading centers.

Trustee Mayer wanted to make sure that the additional teachers were evaluated similarly to other teachers in the District. Dr. LaMarca mentioned that the District would evaluate those teachers in a similar manner.

President Clark continued with the review of the August 13, 2013 agenda. She mentioned that she had questions surrounding the \$80,000 and the conversion to boxed juice. She wanted to make sure a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued and that it compared similar items. Superintendent Martinez stated that the report was intended to show only the staff recommendation on how to handle the juice question and to make sure the District knew what they were providing the students was a pure, 100% juice product. The prior conversation regarding the issue included other factors, such as staff time in preparing the juice.

Trustee Rosenberg clarified that the question was who was providing the boxed juice. Superintendent Martinez indicated the intent of staff was to use the current food services provider and the \$80,000 would be the cost to move to the boxed juice.

President Clark felt the previous conversation revolved around the quality of the juice and the 3-year contract. She wanted to make sure the Board was able to look at options when it came to providing the boxed juice. Andrea Sullivan, Purchasing Supervisor, mentioned that when the original bid was renewed, it was comparing the same product. The current discussion was the result of the Board wanting to provide a better quality juice to the students and changes in the United States Department of

Agriculture (USDA) guidelines that required the product was 100% juice. The Board approved the conversion to the boxed juice at the July 23, 2013 meeting. Juice and milk were the only items the District purchased for Nutrition Services. Part of the contract with Aramark was that they would take over the procurement of the juice because they had greater purchasing power than the District. The District had not previously issued an RFP because they had granted a 1-year extension on the previous contract, but since the District was converting to the boxed juice, it made sense for Aramark to take control of the purchasing, since they also handled all other food purchasing for the District. Superintendent Martinez added that staff was interested in bringing the juice item before the Board so they would be able to see the additional cost of the 100% juice product.

Trustee Aiazzi clarified that the Board signed the 1-year extension. Ms. Sullivan indicated that the District signed the extension and it was done prior to the Board requiring renewals go before the Board.

Trustee Aiazzi mentioned that he was interested on having the renewal items come before the Board so the public would be able to comment on the process. Ms. Sullivan stated that if the District was going to provide a product, they would be required to follow procurement laws, which meant that an RFP would be issued and the District would be required to award the bid to the lowest, reliable bidder no matter where they were from.

President Clark clarified that the \$80,000 was not the total cost for the juice. Ms. Sullivan indicated that the \$80,000 was the increase in the cost of the juice, over what the District was currently paying. Pete Etchart, Chief Operating Officer, added that staff had the labels of the current juice product reviewed by the USDA and were told that the product was not 100% juice, so would only be counted as calories and not a fruit. The Board agreed at the July 23, 2013 meeting that it would be best for the District to move to the 100% juice product. Ms. Sullivan added that the \$80,000 increase was a worst-case scenario and the actual cost would be less.

President Clark clarified that the decision before the Board would be to utilize a portion of the surplus from Nutrition Services for the increased cost of the juice. Ms. Sullivan stated that the Board had indicated that the District move to the boxed juice but there was not a vote taken on the item and any items that would require a contract would return to the Board for a vote.

President Clark wondered why the item was on the agenda if the Board had already decided. Superintendent Martinez mentioned that there was a question about the Provision II schools and that was the reason the item was brought back.

Trustee Aiazzi asked if the \$2.2 million in the Capital Projects budget for Nutrition Services could be paid out of the Nutrition Services budget. Mr. Etchart stated the funds were being paid out from a variety of places and placed into a Capital Projects account for a Nutrition Services enterprise fund.

Trustee Aiazzi wanted to make sure that if the funds were not specific to Capital Projects, they were not included in the Capital Projects lists sent to the Washoe County Commission. He wondered if some of the capital items for Nutrition Services could be completed with the enterprise funds.

President Clark sought clarification on what the difference was between the Board providing direction on the juice item and the recommended action. Randy Drake, Chief Legal Counsel, stated that he would review the discussion and possible motion.

President Clark opened the meeting to public comment.

Todd Bailey indicated that the surplus funds should be used for the one- and two-star schools' before and after school programs that were a concern to Trustee Gutierrez. The programs would cost \$25,000 per school and there were 13 schools, for a total of \$350,000. Trustee Rosenberg had stated that he would support the programs if the money could be found and it appeared that money had been found.

Trustee Aiazzi stated that Nutrition Services was an enterprise fund and any money in that fund had to be spent on Nutrition Services items. The money could not be used for anything else.

President Clark asked if information on Provision II schools would be presented at the meeting. Mr. Etchart indicated that it would and Tony Cook, Director, Nutrition Services, was working on that information for the Board which would include a timeline of implementation, the cost of implementation, and the impact.

President Clark continued with the agenda review.

Trustee Aiazzi asked if agenda item 7.04, Presentation Regarding Special Education Intervention, was broad enough to cover the concerns raised during public comment at a prior meeting regarding the "scream" rooms. He wanted to make sure that the Board would be able to direct staff to dismantle the rooms and the potential cost of doing so if that was the desire. Frank Selvaggio, Executive Director, Student Support Services, indicated that the language was broad enough that the Board would be able to direct staff but not too broad that the public would not know staff's recommendation. He stated that he had met with some families who had raised concerns and would continue to work with them and others on their concerns.

Trustee Aiazzi wondered if it would be possible for the Board to start a discussion on what would happen if the County Commission decided not to pass the School Capital Needs Initiative. Superintendent Martinez indicated that discussion could take place under item 6.02, Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Capital Funding and Planning.

## **2.02 BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AGENDAS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

Trustee Aiazzi requested that a presentation be provided to the Board regarding the Affordable Care Act so they would know how it would affect the District for negotiations. He also requested that any person who had been issued a trespass order by the District be allowed to attend public meetings of the Board of Trustees so they would be able to exercise their First Amendment rights. He was not concerned if the item was a Board policy or an administrative procedure.

President Clark requested that information be provided to the Board regarding the number of trespass orders the District issued.

Trustee Ruggerio thought that the Chief of School Police was supposed to provide information on how the District handled trespass citations. Superintendent Martinez indicated that the Board had requested certain practices be put in place for future trespass orders.

President Clark asked that a report be provided on SB74 and if there were additional practices the Board and District would be required to put in place to be in compliance with the legislation. Mr. Drake indicated that he would provide the Board with the information.

Trustee Rosenberg mentioned that he had spoken with Professor Jim Gibson at the Desert Research Institute (DRI). Mr. Gibson had been researching the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and noticed during the research that carbon dioxide was retained in older buildings at a higher rate than in newer buildings. Mr. Gibson was interested in studying if there was a correlation between the age of schools and student performance. The cost of the study would be approximately \$25,000 and the District would need to seek a grant for the funding. High school science teachers and their students could be the ones to operate the instruments, measure and collect the data. He felt the relationship the experiment would create between DRI and the District would be beneficial to all parties.

President Clark asked that staff research the study more and report back to the Board if the study would be feasible for the District to fund. She mentioned that she had

requested input from the Board on names of facilitators for a team building exercise during the September 13, 2013 work session.

The Board discussed possible persons who would be able to facilitate team building exercises and what types of exercises would be acceptable for the event.

President Clark indicated she would like to hold a conversation on how the Board and the Superintendent worked together. She wanted to have the conversation facilitated so all voices would be heard and the Board President and Superintendent would not have to worry about running the meeting. Staff would provide a list of facilitators to the Board for them to choose from.

### **3. Closing Items**

#### **3.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

#### **3.02 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Clark declared the meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

---

**Barbara Clark, President**

---

**Lisa Ruggerio, Clerk**