

**LAS CRUCES PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The following are minutes for the meeting of the **Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools Board Meeting** held from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on February 11, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, LCPS Assoc Supt for Curriculum
Vice Chair Councilor Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, Councilor District 2
Councilor Kasandra Gandara, District 1
Teresa Tenorio, LCPS Board Member
Carol Cooper, LCPS Board Member
Dr. Henrietta Williams Pichon, NMSU
Dr. Stacy Gherardi, NMSU
Ashley Echavarria, CEO Boys and Girls Club Las Cruces
Julianne Lackey, Substitute Teacher LCPS & Non-Voting Member
Brian Kavanaugh, CEO FYI, Finance Chair
Councilor Yvonne Flores, District 6

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Denise Sheehan, NEA Board Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amanda Barela, LCPS Community Schools Director
Robin Van Sant,
Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life Director for City of Las Cruces
Maria Zuniga, Dona Ana Elementary School Community School Coordinator
Karen Trujillo, LCPS Superintendent
Sylvia Chavez, Lynn Middle School Community School Coordinator
Tatiano Del Toro-Frank, McArthur Elementary School Coordinator
Brenda Ballard, Lynn Middle School
Cheryl Carreon, NEA
Iris Fresquez, Lynn Middle School Community School Integrated Support Assistant
Daniela Cazares Rodriguez, BSW at NMSU
Michelle Valverde
David Greenberg, NEA NM Center for Community Schools

I. CALL TO ORDER (1:30 PM): Chair Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson called the meeting to order. Those present introduced themselves.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **Approve Minutes:** The minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting were reviewed by members. Board Member Echavaria stated she was present at that meeting and to remove her from the absent list. Michelle Valverde stated the same, listed absent but was present. Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated Mr. Ellison was not present. Board Member Abeyta-Stuve moved to

1 accept the minutes with the revisions. Seconded by Board Member Cooper.
 2 Motion passes.
 3

- 4 **b. Legislative Advocacy Letter:** Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated the next
 5 action item that was also in the e-mail prior to the meeting is approval of the
 6 legislative advocacy letter. Ms. Barela stated she put in a different article
 7 and took a lot of the content out so it was more brief. She is open to any
 8 changes. This will be sent out tomorrow/ASAP. Last year this was printed
 9 and mailed to legislators and also e-mailed. Ms. Barlea stated it is hopeful
 10 that they could increase funding for Community Schools, but contingent
 11 upon SB-40 and if that passes, and how allocation of funding goes. Board
 12 Member Kasandra Gandara suggested adding some data, number of
 13 students and families who have been helped, how addressed social
 14 determinants of food security, access to healthcare, as some catch phrases
 15 are important. She thinks the students and families get what they need from
 16 technology point of view and that is not there, and show something like that
 17 with bullets. Chair Miller-Tomlinson suggested for each Community School
 18 have one data point to show some of the effort that is going on. Board
 19 Member Kasandra Gandara stated that they have found if there is a certain
 20 bill that is being looked at that it helps to target that through an event on
 21 Facebook and then they can monitor the reach on that. Board Member
 22 Tenorio mentioned for future planning if possible to have recordings from
 23 the schools, like Zoom from a classroom saying, "fund our community
 24 school." Chair Miller-Tomlinson agreed with that idea. Board Member
 25 Kasandra Gandara has worked with legislatures with housing etc. to meet
 26 the needs of families. Board Member Lackey asked if there was a way to
 27 identify the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit, but put specifically this is how low
 28 income families were addressed, helped children with disabilities. Board
 29 Member Tenorio mentioned using an asteric after the data points and then
 30 refer to that statement about the Yazzie. Ms. Barela will do the changes
 31 and e-mail it tomorrow. Board Member Abeyta-Stuve moved to approve the
 32 legislative advocacy letter with edits. Seconded by Board Member Cooper.
 33 Motion passes.
 34

35 **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 36
 37 **a. Community School Brief Report Outs by School:** Doña Ana Elementary
 38 School, Maria Zuniga stated they are working on a project to increase the
 39 number of little free libraries. They have identified about 58 of them. Also
 40 trying to expand this to Doña Ana and Radium Springs as there are students
 41 in that area. There is on in Doña Ana and want to bring more so children
 42 have more access to books.
 43

44 Lynn Middle School, Sylvia Chavez stated she brought Iris to introduce her
 45 and see how they are using some of the grant money. Also after the grant
 46 money how they are going to sustain the position, and Iris is the new

1 integrated support assistant. Iris has learned about restorative circles,
2 PBIS, learning a lot about Community Schools. Her main role is going to
3 be supporting in the restorative room where kids go to free up the counselor
4 and the social worker so they can work on students in crisis. Iris Frequez
5 stated she is in contact with parents and help them out with students who
6 are having trouble logging in. Sylvia Chavez stated that Citizens Bank is
7 finally going to get them a marque which will be taken to the board on March
8 16th to LCPS. Their marque is falling apart and they are wanting to put
9 community news up there. Brenda Ballard stated that Iris is helping with
10 struggling students, but also recognizing students who are doing well.

11
12 Booker T Middle School, Tatiano Del Toro-Frank stated she will also report
13 for Booker T Middle School. She stated that Ms. Barnhill stated that the
14 Amador Health Center will begin providing therapy services to families,
15 students, staff, community members, provide better hours and bilingual.

16
17 MacArthur Elementary, Tatiano Del Toro-Frank stated they have partnered
18 with the bilingual department to offer citizenship classes and workshops.
19 This was reflected by their needs and asset assessment that the community
20 and parents wanted to have. They just got the approval for the instructor
21 and plan on starting in March. Focus on providing pointers in preparation,
22 give parents community the tools that they need to reach personal goals in
23 this area. Also to cover the same information for targeting different
24 populations. The instructor will also offer law support and paperwork
25 support. This will be completely free for MacArthur families but the Doña
26 Ana Community as well.

- 27
28 **b. Discussion of 2020-21 Strategic Plan:** Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated over
29 the last few board meetings they have continued to work on and discuss the
30 strategic plan, to keep it a living document to continue to refine and focus
31 the work with Community Schools. She thinks they have done a great job
32 in their committees of taking the strategic plan and taking them to action.

33
34 Ms. Barela reread the vision and mission statements and updated the work
35 she has done on the document. Vision is "That schools that are more
36 responsive to and collaborative with the community and a community that
37 is more responsive to and collaborative with the schools." The mission is
38 "To scale, support, and sustain a network of high quality community schools
39 to promote student achievement, positive conditions for learning, and the
40 well being of families and communities."

- 41
42 **c. Committee Break-Outs:** The subcommittees broke out for approximately
43 30 minutes.

- 44
45 **d. Committee Report-Outs on Strategic Plan Progress and Discussion:**
46 Policy and Practice Committee, Julianne Lackey stated they were

1 discussing formalizing a process, application process. They got Booker T,
2 MacArthur and Doña Ana, still have Alameda and Hermosa Heights that are
3 interested. They are wondering if they touch back with them or go through
4 a process and see if more principals would be interested in community
5 schools, especially with COVID. How to make a more formalized
6 application process for easier access to express interest.
7

8 Finance and Resource Development Committee, Tatiana Del Toro-Frank
9 stated they discussed community school profiles and how to analyze our
10 resources and our financial profile and to see what is leveraged and how
11 much bringing in as community schools, to be able to compare it to how
12 much we are actually receiving from the state and how much actually
13 bringing in. Also discussed a grant writer, why they need it, and the
14 importance. Who can they get for that position and who to hire that has the
15 knowledge of community schools along with having a reputable reputation
16 regarding the grants they have received.
17

18 Communication and Community Engagement Committee, Yvonne Flores
19 stated that Maria Zuniga discussed the brochure she had prepared.
20 General the committee liked the brochure. They discussed put it on social
21 media. A video was also mentioned. David Greenberg stated there is
22 nothing being introduced this session to do with Community Schools. Not
23 modifying the Community Schools Act at all. Really it is about funding. The
24 major proposals are whether it will be above the line funding that is stacked
25 onto extended learning which is the proposal put forth by the Public
26 Education Department which would allow them to submit an application to
27 expand for more funding, in addition to funding things like K-5 Plus. If K-5
28 Plus and extended learning is mandatory, then there is a different proposal
29 for just increasing the grant funds, would be below the line expenditure.
30 They heard from folks in the legislature is it is likely there would be an
31 increase in community school funds either way. Any money would be
32 allocated as per the Community Schools Act. Yvonne Flores stated they
33 also discussed getting the word out in the community. There are people
34 that still do not know about Community Schools. She continued discussion
35 on the brochure. They suggested by next meeting they could have at least
36 a draft for of the brochures for Lynn. It was then mentioned that Doña Ana
37 and Lynn already have brochures, but MacArthur and Booker T.
38 Washington that need brochures and hopefully a draft will be ready by next
39 board meeting. Board Member Gandara mentioned a letter and video need
40 to be done but they need between now and end of legislative session a
41 huge push to advocate for the finance committee to ensure the \$3.3 million,
42 \$5 million, and \$10 million that is non-reoccurring. She feels not just a letter,
43 a larger scale effort.
44

45 Results Data and Evaluation Committee, Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated
46 Community Schools have met with the district information operations

department to set up some indicators in the student management system which is Synergy. Continue to pursue a way to capture data that each Community School may want individually or collectively. Goal for next time is to actually have at least one piece of data visualization to share with this board.

- e. **Addition of new community schools:** Ms. Barela stated the task is how to expand, when, and how many schools. If the funding is increased, they could apply for one or two more planning grants. She has been contacted by the principal of Hermosa and Alameda for informal meetings of which she has done. She agrees with the committee to have an application process that is transparent and available to all schools and also a way to vetting through those. Chair Miller-Tomlinson also mentioned it is ultimately the decision of the school district and the expansion of Community Schools, so then coordinate with school district administration and the board of education. This group is to sustain and support the entity school's effort.

- IV. **LCPS Updates:** Chair Miller-Tomlinson mentioned at the February 2nd meeting the Board of Education allowed administration to expand face-to-face learning opportunities for the students so schools have been working with teachers that are willing to come back. We will continue to explore opportunities in seeing as far as vaccinating staff and status as a county. Board Member Cooper stated Lynn is a community school that has been organized for a few years now. In putting together the face-to-face with the students, are there volunteers who are not teachers that are willing to support. Brenda Ballard mentioned they do have some community partners who are interested in returning. Ms. Trujillo stated it is very difficult right now in small group setting and in the hybrid with the criteria that the PED is requesting as far cohorts, mixing, etc. that makes normalcy difficult right now. One of the criteria is that every school has to be inspected by the Fire Marshall. These inspections started this week.

- V. **Next Meeting March 11th:**

- VI. **ADJOURNMENT** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member Flores, seconded by Board Member Abeyta-Stuve. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:33 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

Dr. Wendy Miller-Tomlinson

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Chairperson

3-17-2021

Approved