

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 January 14, 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
*Councilor Yvonne Flores, District 6 (arrived 2:20)
*Brian Kavanaugh, CEO FYI, Finance Chair
*Denise Sheehan, NEA Board Member
*Julianne Lackey, Substitute Teacher LCPS & Non-Voting Member
*Teresa Tenorio, LCPS Board Member
*Carol Cooper
Dr. Henrietta Williams Pichon, NMSU Interim Director, College of Education
Ashley Echavarria, CEO Boys and Girls Club Las Cruces

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Stacy Gherardi, NMSU

OTHERS PRESENT:

*Amanda Barela, LCPS Community Schools Director
Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life Director for City of Las Cruces
Jill Aguirre, Recording Secretary & Sr. Office Manager
Gregory Shervanick, Resident
Felicia Herrera, MSW Intern at NMSU
*Maria Zuniga, Dona Ana Elementary School Community School Coordinator
Monica Marquez, Booker T Washington Elementary Principal
Karen Trujillo, LCPS Interim Superintendent
*Jessica Barnhill, Booker T Washington Community School Coordinator
Edward Ellison, LCPS Chief Financial Officer
Anne Barraza, Dona Ana Wellness Institute
Fayth Franzoy, New Mexico Oil and Gas Association
Zack, Intern
Maria Flores, LCPS Board
*Tatiano Del Toro-Frank, McArthur Elementary School Coordinator
*Brenda Ballard, Lynn Middle School
Michelle Valverde

I. CALL TO ORDER (1:35 PM): Chair Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson called the meeting to order. A quorum was deemed present. Those present introduced themselves.

1
2 **II. ACTION ITEMS:**

- 3 **a. Approve Minutes:** The minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting were
4 reviewed by members. Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson should be Chair not
5 Vice-Chair. Board Member Abeyta-Stuve moved to accept the minutes as
6 presented. Seconded by Board Member Tenorio. All members were in
7 favor.
8

9 **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 10
11 **a. Community School Brief Report Outs by School:** Doña Ana Elementary
12 School, Maria Zuniga gave this report, but with some audio issues.
13

14 Booker T Middle School, Jessica Barnhill stated they have started their
15 attendance team and are reviewing the Attendance for Success Act and
16 have broken down the students between the different tiers of two through
17 four. The members are the counselor, Jessica Barnhill, the registrar, AP,
18 and the nurse. The team meeting to come up with ideas on how to better
19 support the families that are having obstacles and barriers and students
20 attending and being successful with school.
21

22 Lynn Middle School, Brenda Ballard stated their biggest success has come
23 from having a wellness team. The wellness team is the counselor,
24 community school coordinator, and community school assistant, and
25 administrators. The wellness team has identified students who were failing
26 three or more classes, for which there were a little over a hundred. They
27 created the Success Academy for students who have shown motivation and
28 willingness to engage but have two barriers: adult support, and technology.
29 This would be providing paper packets and some instructional support for
30 these students. Also discussing grading.
31

32 MacArthur Elementary, Tatiano Del Toro-Frank stated they are working on
33 the Teco's home program which is a pilot program which used to be one-
34 on-one and now moving that to virtual. This is happening at MacArthur,
35 Doña Ana, and at Booker T.
36

- 37 **b. Discussion of 2020-21 Strategic Plan:** Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated the
38 strategic plan that has been created is a living document. To make action
39 steps and measure those action steps on a regular basis so the strategic
40 plan remains strategic, remains alive, with making progress toward
41 improvement.
42

43 Ms. Barela read the vision and mission statements. She shared a link for
44 the Board. There are four different committees. And now the direction is to
45 formulate short and long-term goals and to attach action steps to them. She
46 thinks for today's meeting it would be good to focus on the timelines for the

different committees, what has been and not been accomplished, assigning to different committee members, re-evaluating, general review of the progress so far.

c. Committee Break-Outs: The subcommittees broke out for approximately 30 minutes.

d. Committee Report-Outs on Strategic Plan Progress and Discussion: Policy and Practice Committee, Julianne Lackey stated the policy passed December 18th by the School Board was listed in the strategic plan. Also the other three bullet points were discussed and some depend on other subcommittees. Also discussed professional development on community schools for district staff and principle. Ms. Barela states they working to cover the State Legislative priorities and then later have a group discussion as a Board in terms of advocacy for that. Ms. Barela is also scheduled to present to all the mental health professionals in the district to help increase awareness and visibility surrounding Community Schools.

Finance and Resource Development Committee, Brian Kavanaugh stated the conversation centered on the first step which is exploring the contract for research with NMSU, specific to the Community School project. Tatiana is meeting with Erica and look at the contract, explore what has been done, and then build that into building a schools resource file with present or new data. Preparing for opportunities with foundations with other funding sources with the end goal of diversifying funding, more sustainable, and more self-sufficient.

Communication and Community Engagement Committee, Teresa Tenorio stated they added Cruces Creatives as it is a strong action for getting stakeholder engagement and getting teachers to reach out to community partners. They are searching for a new intern and are considering contacting and working directly with high school media teachers for helping with video projects about Community Schools. Discussed the brochures and identified Doña Ana and Lynn both have brochures and wondering if general information could be added. Looking at any literature the Community Schools has and checking Spanish translations or bilingual.

Results Data and Evaluation Committee, Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated they discussed the data tracker, tool provided by the public education department that has various data collection points, etc. Continue to work on the tracker, including the inputs and resources coming into the Community Schools. Also a way to gage things like student engagement both in academics and other programs and initiatives, gaging relationships, language congruence, does the teacher speak the same language as the parents and the students. Also discussed work that needs to take place at the school district level, creating dashboards for Community Schools to

measure the metrics such as grades, attendance. Also a structure for this Board to review some of the metrics quarterly. Brian Kavanaugh asked if the data collection was centralized within LCPS or is in coordination with NMSU as this might be a missing aspect that could help their committee. Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated they have talked about legislative priorities and asks and budgets, wherever seeking funds having some data points to share with the entities. Carol Cooper noticed that in the document she has that neighborhood businesses are not mentioned, and she believes they are a valuable resource. Karen Trujillo stated the comments from Brian Kavanaugh and Carol Cooper go hand in hand about the resource directory for each school. Maria Zuniga stated last year with their launch events many went to local businesses and talked to them about the event. She found several that were students of that school and they do have that connection and want to see the kids succeed. Councilor Gandara stated what's coming and what is going out are different than a resource guide, but it is important to think about that. She stated that Resilience Leaders group she founded are working on a resource guide specific to community and the schools. She warned of duplication of work. Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated the purpose and power of the group is to see what is out there and tap into the knowledge and resources to streamline what is out there. Brian Kavanaugh stated that they three areas, the LCPS system, the contract with NMSU, and the Resiliency Leaders group, and maybe a logical step would be to pull from all of them and whatever is not covered would be beneficial to the Community School initiative and lean into the Resiliency Leaders group and see how that can fill the gaps if possible.

e. Legislative Priorities for Community Schools:

f. Appointment of new Policy and Practice Committee Chair: Julianne Lackey volunteered to Chair the Policy and Practice Committee. Councilor Flores moved for Julianne Lackey to Chair the committee, seconded by Board Member Tenorio seconded.

g. Board Vacancies Discussion: There are two Board vacancies, one by the retirement of Dr. Susan Brown. Dr. Henrietta Pichon as the interim dean of the college of education today and she expressed interest in filling that vacancy. Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated in March there will be an annual meeting and do reorganizing, new Chair, new Vice-Chair.

The second vacancy is from NEA due to Ms. Barela became the Community Schools District Coordinator. Denise Sheehan stated Cheryl Carreon has expressed interest.

IV. LCPS Updates

1 **a. LCPS Board Policy on Community Schools:** Chair Miller-Tomlinson
2 stated the one update is the new Community Schools Policy (KJJ) passed
3 by the Board in December which was sent to all of this Board. Ms. Dahlman
4 and Señora Flores were instrumental in getting that policy going.
5

6 **V. Next Meeting February 11th:**
7

8 **VI. ADJOURNMENT** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member
9 Cooper, seconded by Board Member Kavanaugh. All were in favor. Meeting was
10 adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.
11

12 DocuSigned by:

13 *Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson*

14 2D693C231F85470...

15 _____
16 Chairperson

17 2/15/2021
18

19 _____
20 Approved