

# **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 August 13, 2020

at Booker T. Washington Elementary, 755 E Chestnut Ave., Las Cruces, NM, 88001.

## **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 (Arrived after agenda item II.)  
Terrie Dallman, LCPS Board Member  
Dr. Susan Wightman Brown, NMSU Interim Dean of College of Education  
Brian Kavanaugh, CEO FYI, Finance Chair  
Denise Sheehan, NEA Board Member  
Julianne Lackey, Substitute Teacher LCPS & Non-Voting Member  
Amanda Barela, NEA Board Member  
Teresa Tenorio, LCPS Board Member  
Ashley Echavarria, CEO Boys and Girls Club Las Cruces  
Dr. Stacy Gherardi, NMSU

## **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Councilor Yvonne Flores, District 6

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dave Greenberg, LCPS Community Schools Director  
Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life Director for City of Las Cruces  
Maria Zuniga, Dona Ana Elementary School Community School Coordinator  
Monica Marquez, Booker T Washington Elementary Principal  
Sean Barham, LCPS Chief of Staff  
Jessica Barnhill, Booker T Washington Community School Coordinator  
Sylvia Chavez, Lynn Middle School Community School Coordinator  
Tatiana Del-Toro, MacArthur  
Cherie Love  
Brenda Ballard, Lynn Middle School

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

## **II. ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Approve Minutes:** The minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting were reviewed by members. Chair Miller-Tomlinson had a correction, under the Call to Order it stated Vice Chair instead of Chair. Board Member Sheehan moved

1 to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Board Member Abeyta-  
2 Stuve. All members were in favor.  
3

### 4 **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 5  
6 **a. Public Education Department State Funding Update and Funding**  
7 **Discussion for Community Schools SY 20-21 Budget:** Mr. Greenberg  
8 stated he had good news for budget for Community Schools. All the  
9 Community Schools throughout the state that were receiving state funding  
10 will continue to receive that funding in full for this school year. He believes  
11 the letters from the Board sent out to legislatures, Governor, and Secretary  
12 of Education made an impact. The MacArthur Community School funding  
13 is coming. The Public Education Department said they should receive an  
14 award level by the end of the month.  
15

16 Also update on some conversations as a statewide Community Schools  
17 Coalition around some of the budget issues that are looming for next fiscal  
18 year. There is projected to be a billion dollar budget short fall in the state  
19 so state funding for Community Schools hangs in the balance to a certain  
20 extent. We do have a diversified funding stream in Las Cruces so we can  
21 handle it better. What are some strategies that we could use in Las Cruces,  
22 as a state to make sure that those Community School funds remain intact.  
23 There were some suggestions in planning for the year and one of them was  
24 to really hone in on a few indicators specific potentially the virtual learning  
25 and virtual engagement that we can be tracking, and continue doing what  
26 we've already been doing to create this highlight reel, mounting of evidence  
27 behind the efficacy of Community Schools. There were a few other ideas  
28 included, information about the Governor's emergency relief fund that is  
29 anticipated in the future, and other updates around the at risk spending  
30 formula that has been increased in recent years. Community Schools is an  
31 explicitly allowable use of that at risk funding. At the Community Schools  
32 nationally are pushing for national relief for K-12 from the federal  
33 government.  
34

35 Also a personal point of privilege, formally let the Board know Mr.  
36 Greenberg will be transitioning from the current role as Director of  
37 Community Schools in Las Cruces to a position that will support Community  
38 Schools throughout the state. He wanted to emphasize it has been an  
39 honor to work with everyone in this capacity.  
40

41 Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated Mr. Greenberg will be missed. He has been  
42 instrumental in our Community School effort here in the Las Cruces Public  
43 Schools and in the Las Cruces community. She stated there are some  
44 ideas to broaden this position with other community outreach efforts within  
45 the district where Community Schools would be a part of that. She will keep  
46 the Board involved and updated. She also stated the Board need to position

1 themselves to be very involved legislatively and getting the ear of the people  
2 will be crucial.  
3

4 **b. Community School Updates by School:** Lynn Community Middle School,  
5 Sylvia Chavez stated some things they have been doing in August, handed  
6 out about 100 Cruces Creative learning kits, which included light up  
7 bracelets, circuit panels. Parents were happy about having something for  
8 the kids to do. They did a Roadrunner distribution for August and give out  
9 71 boxes of food. Starting in September they are going to do chi kits which  
10 are weekend kits. She started with 25 for parents who needs those snack  
11 kits over the weekend. They started Memorial Resident Doctor Program,  
12 Dr. Miller, she is going to some videos on proper mask wearing. The job  
13 description is ready and in the process of hiring an integrative support  
14 assistant position. This position will assist the counselor and social worker  
15 in engaging students that are not engaged after the teachers give them the  
16 list. When school comes back, that person will be helping in the restorative  
17 room, also creating easy ways to report discipline and attendance and  
18 helping the social workers just get a handle on that. Also learning about  
19 how to keep the kids in the restorative room engaged while the social worker  
20 and the counselor are working on crisis situations. They used to have a  
21 dental program and it was discussed with the students since they cannot  
22 return, they are offering all services for a fee of \$50 in their clinic, cleaning,  
23 x-rays, everything. For Lynn students, all services are free. They are  
24 getting some online GED courses, in English and Spanish. This will be  
25 partnered with NMSU. The program will begin the August 18th through  
26 December 15th. Hoping to service about 10-15 parents to start and then  
27 build on that. Walgreens donated 1,000 bags they were filled with minimal  
28 school supplies, some comp books, some books that were grid/graph paper  
29 books for math, pencils, eraser. About 500 were given out. Approximately  
30 400 technology were given out. Brenda Ballard stated they ran out of  
31 Chrome books so started with the X-360 and those ran out so now into  
32 iPads and still trying to image X-360 to get a few more out. They are going  
33 to do a makeup distribution day tomorrow, because they feel if they got 500  
34 kids in they are missing about 150. Calls are being made to the missed  
35 students to ge them all in tomorrow morning. They had materials for math  
36 and language arts they were able to give out as well. Ms. Chavez shared  
37 a CD "Don't Look at me." One of their students went through the Oslo  
38 program and that program started by Jack Soules and she worked to record  
39 a music album from start to finish including the artwork on the cover, got the  
40 CDs, Oslo paid for the rights. Her parents were excited about her going  
41 through this process about something that she is passionate about. Hope  
42 to continue to build on that to get kids to find their passions and do these  
43 projects. When they are done doing the whole program, which for Abby too  
44 probably a year, then she had to write a reflection and a snip-it from that  
45 "This project was very important and special to me because music is my  
46 passion and it's been my dream since I was little to record my own music.

1 Working on 'Don't Look at me' gave me the chance to start learning about  
2 how to product my own music way earlier than I thought I would ever get to.  
3 I hope that my project can inspire other kids my age to start learning about  
4 their passions and working on projects with learning experiences through  
5 Oslo."

6  
7 Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated the schools have been working over the last  
8 couple of weeks and into the next week distributing technology. One of  
9 things that has been interesting about this time is that everyone is in the  
10 same boat that we are and scrambling to get technology. A lot of technology  
11 was ordered and the technology department has done a great job  
12 processing all of those things and getting them out to schools so they can  
13 be distributed to students. There are another 5,000 devices on the way.  
14 Interesting to track the progress from China, then to North Dakota for some  
15 reason, and then they should be here next week. The schools that have  
16 gaps in technology should have additional devices in the next couple of  
17 weeks. Hopefully, all of the 25,000 students that need a device will have a  
18 device for online learning.

19  
20 MacArthur, Tatiana Del-Toro Frank stated after their needs assessment  
21 they have established one goal for each pillar. For integrated student  
22 support they are working with partnership with the Amador Health Center  
23 and finding ways to create opportunities for families. Working with them  
24 has been good due to they are open and supportive and trying to find  
25 creative solutions to keep moving forward. Currently the Amador Health  
26 Center is providing fee vaccines and flu shots to interested families at  
27 MacArthur. Also working on creating virtual classroom discussions with  
28 their mental health care provider as they work on the MOU in order to  
29 provide students mental health services and also their families. Their dental  
30 health services currently have restrictions and guidance from the  
31 Department of Health, so waiting on that. They worked alongside Sandy  
32 Pew for guidance on to move forward and that was a wonderful  
33 collaboration. Also with Sonya Saenz to get moving forward on mental  
34 health services at MacArthur. In regards to the expanded learning time and  
35 opportunities goal, proceeding with NMSU STEM program to provide the  
36 afterschool program virtually. Teachers are still signing up for it. Not sure  
37 how smoothly it will go but it exciting to work with a new program to still  
38 provide students those opportunities. Also collaborating with bilingual  
39 department and Lynn Middle to provide families with GED classes. They  
40 had kinder registration with 40 families enrolled. They have been calling  
41 families to discover their needs such as computers, internet, and bill  
42 payment necessities. So 146 families received a computer and 14  
43 requested internet access and their secretary is working with them. Twenty  
44 are currently being referred to programs to assist with their needs that they  
45 mentioned in the survey. Also starting first Community School advisory  
46 council with interested staff.

1  
2 Booker T. Washington, Jessica Barnhill stated they are also collaborating  
3 with Lynn and the other Community Schools to support families with the  
4 GED classes. They are also supporting the administration and their  
5 secretary with answering calls, on-line registration during this time. She has  
6 established good relationships with the families, going one-on-one, asking  
7 what they need. Also collaborated with Heart of the World Church to help  
8 families and staff with fruit and produce boxes. They have also begun their  
9 second or third round of care packages and it includes essential needs,  
10 essentially basics. Happy to announce that Western Sky Community Care  
11 awarded \$1,500 to Booker T. to start the community closet. They will be  
12 filling the closet with basic needs items. She has also met with FYI to talk  
13 about wraparound process, training was attended. They are working on  
14 their goals on the comprehensive plan with the City of Las Cruces. Also  
15 met with NAMI Southern New Mexico to talk about how they can support  
16 our families with on-line support groups. Today they are handing out  
17 technology, kinder through 5th grade. The parents are patient with the red  
18 tape. Their next steps are to start on family engagement and goal team,  
19 what attendance will look like and how to engage families. Goal team is  
20 admin, Jessica, counselor, and a teacher. She has been working with the  
21 teachers to talk about what workshops would be beneficial to the families  
22 and parents.

23  
24 Doña Ana, Maria Zuniga stated last week they had parent workshops (in  
25 English and Spanish) with various topics that were offered thanks to the  
26 partnership and collaboration of Engage New Mexico, the New Mexico  
27 STEM Outreach Center, and Children's Reading Alliance. Some of the  
28 topics were How to Read with My Child, Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring  
29 program, Finding Peace During On-Line Learning, Health Family Workout  
30 Sessions, Helping My Child with On-Line Learning. About 60 parents  
31 registered, each one got a parent toolkit for help with on-line learning. More  
32 of the parent toolkits will be given out tomorrow. They have had several  
33 nonprofit organizations reach out that they would like to help the teachers.  
34 New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum, Cruces Kids Can, La Semilla Food  
35 Center, the Asombro Institute for Science Education, are asking how they  
36 can help. She will continue to see how they can partner with them. They  
37 are doing distribution day, which is tomorrow, distributing devices and  
38 materials but also 375 backpacks with school supplies in them which were  
39 a donation from Engage New Mexico. The families will also be getting  
40 learning kits; 375 learning kits from New Mexico Farm and Ranch, kinder  
41 through second kit, and the third grade through fifth grade kit. Cherie Love  
42 stated a small business owner dropped off additional school supplies. Last  
43 night was the last gardening class. Close to 200 families have requested  
44 technology.  
45

Chair Miller-Tomlinson appreciates the great efforts going on. Mr. Greenberg stated it is clear there are many community partners willing to support during this time and the Community Schools have been able to tap into those resources in a great way. Board Member Dallman asked how many parents attended the workshops. Maria Zuniga stated they had 60 registered and 36 attended; some did one day, many did two, three, or four days. Cherie Love stated the parents were fully engaged in workshops. The workshops were an hour but probably could have extended that as there were so many questions and quite engaged in the presentations. Vice-Chair Abeyta-Stuve stated she is impressed with the safety procedures they have at Lynn. Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara asked how many children are high risk that efforts are being coordinated with them. Sylvia Chavez stated they are focusing a bit on that, and that is why they hired the position to support the social workers. They are currently waiting for a list from teachers of students that are not engaged to being home visits. Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara stated there are community providers are interested in helping/partnering, etc. Mr. Greenberg wanted to thank Amanda Barela and Dr. Gherardi who work with College of Social Work at New Mexico State University and currently looking to have a social work intern at each of the Community Schools to support some of the higher tier interventions. Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated they really need to support teachers and the mental health needs of teachers because there are some people struggling. Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara stated on the City of Las Cruces website on the COVID there is a resource tab, and on that tab there is a mental health screening tool for anyone. Need to mitigate the stigma of talking about mental illness. She heard an interesting MPR on a youth who has established a policy related to mental health days in the schools. This brings to light those students sooner rather than later. She is advocating for a policy that the City will institute on mental health days. Hopefully in this group we can push for something like that.

- c. **Board Committee Discussion:** Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated this committee has four standing committees and in the bylaws the way it works is the chair appoints the members of each committee and the chairs of those committees and then the Board approves all of that. At the next meeting, the membership will be solidified and the chairs of those committees.

Finance and Resource Development Committee. Oversee budgeting process, financial oversight, developing resources, ensuring sustainability. Mr. Kavanaugh is the chair, with Denise Sheehan and Vice-Chair Abeyta-Stuve.

Communication and Community Engagement Committee. Promote the Partnership for Community Schools throughout our community and communicating the benefits and progress of the Community Schools with all stakeholders and ensuring the structures to reach and engage diverse

1 sectors of our community. Councilor Flores is the chair with Mayor Pro-  
2 Tem Gandara.

3  
4 The Results, Data, and Evaluation Committee. Develop tools to measure  
5 the impact of Community Schools and a framework for measuring results  
6 and planning for continuous improvement. Chair Miller-Tomlinson is the  
7 chair with Dr. Gherardi, and Ms. Echavarria.

8  
9 Policy and Practice Committee. Develop and advance local, state and  
10 national policy to scale and support the development of Community Schools  
11 in Las Cruces and to ensure our systems and practices reflect best  
12 practices for Community Schools. Ms. Barela is the chair with Ms. Dallman,  
13 Dr. Brown, Ms. Tenorio, and Ms. Lackey.

14  
15 Chair Miller-Tomlinson asked if anyone wanted to move to a different  
16 committee, or some time to think about it, the Board will establish  
17 membership of those committees at the next meeting.

- 18  
19 **d. Community School Strategic Planning Virtual Retreat:** Chair Miller-  
20 Tomlinson stated in the July meeting they decided to spend some time  
21 doing some strategic planning and having a little Board retreat to do some  
22 that work. Instead of picking a date, think about what to accomplish at that,  
23 what should be on the agenda. They could do on their next regular meeting  
24 date, instead of doing the regular business, could make that the strategic  
25 planning time, instead of having an extra meeting.

26  
27 Mr. Greenberg shared a rough draft of the agenda, some background  
28 reading. Included founding documents, vision statement and mission  
29 statement. Maybe a visioning exercise. Mission statement, key words are  
30 scale, support, and sustain. First hour would be about brainstorming broad  
31 goals for the partnership, then a break, and then come back and look at the  
32 goals that were just brainstormed and assign them to the committees that  
33 they may fit into. Then another break and break out into committees and  
34 each committee could begin by reviewing and updating their SWAT analysis  
35 to include some of the opportunities and threats that we didn't know about  
36 in February. And integrate any additional goals that were on the back  
37 burner with the goals that were just brainstormed from the broader group in  
38 the first part of the session, and then each committee could refine those  
39 goals to be more like smart goals. Measurements or indicators of success  
40 in relation to each of these goals. Then the committees could think of an  
41 action plan or calendar of activities. Then a break and then conclusion.  
42 Possibly do some share outs of where committees are and some  
43 expectations of committees and think through for possibly committees  
44 coming forward in October to the Board meeting with an action plan and  
45 with their smart goals outlined/draft form. And then some post retreat  
46 planning ideas. This agenda would be a little under four hours.

1  
2 Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara stated she thinks four hours is a lot of time to sit  
3 virtually, and would like to see it broken up to two hours a month or two and  
4 a half hours to get what is needed accomplished. She likes the visioning  
5 and the reviews. Asked if the facilitator is to be hired. Mr. Greenberg stated  
6 that option has not been discussed. For the question about SWOT analysis,  
7 they are by committee so there is not the mechanism to do the broader  
8 SWOT analysis. They could easily put that in there, do a whole group  
9 SWOT or do a survey of the Board beforehand and assemble that and then  
10 discuss it depending on how to spend the time. Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara  
11 believes there are able people in the community that could help facilitate.  
12 She would like to see also spend time around evaluation, are we doing what  
13 we say we're doing, one year, three year, five year thing.

14  
15 Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated she had two thoughts in line with that. She  
16 agrees that four hours in this environment is a long time, especially doing  
17 this kind of work. Break it up and do some pre-work, have everyone come  
18 with some thoughts on goals. Possibly send a survey or thinking prompts  
19 to get everyone thinking about these areas regarding support, scaling, and  
20 sustaining. Questions about evaluation and how to know we are doing  
21 these things can kind of fall under those as action steps. Be mindful of in  
22 doing this work, here to support Community Schools and any goals or  
23 actions established by the Board need to be mindful of whose responsibility  
24 it is to carry these things out. Be sure not to add work to people. She  
25 believes it is very practical and overdue to have program evaluation and  
26 sustainability. Every time there is a budget crisis that puts us into crisis and  
27 Community School in peril and how to get to sustainability. The missioning  
28 and visioning she believes they have those.

29  
30 **IV. Confirm Next Meeting Time: Tentatively Scheduled for September 10:** Chair  
31 Miller-Tomlinson stated they could have the strategic planning session in lieu of  
32 their regular meeting of September 10th, or keep regular meeting and add another  
33 strategic planning retreat, or meeting/retreat. Mayor Pro-Tem suggested using it  
34 as "Part 1" of the strategic planning and then the next month "Part 2." Board  
35 Member Dallman suggested starting at 1:30 p.m. for continuity and finish at 3:30  
36 p.m.

37  
38 **V. ADJOURNMENT** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member  
39 Dallman, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara. All were in favor. Meeting was  
40 adjourned at approximately 2:48 p.m.



Wyatt Ford

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Chairperson

*September 10, 2020*

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Approved