

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

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4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the **Las Cruces Partnership for**
5 **Community Schools Board Meeting** held from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on July 9, 2020

6
7 at Booker T. Washington Elementary, 755 E Chestnut Ave., Las Cruces, NM, 88001.
8

9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

10 Chair Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, LCPS Assoc Supt for Curriculum
11 Councilor Kasandra Gandara, District 1 (Arrived after agenda item II.)
12 Vice-Chair Councilor Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, Councilor District 2
13 Councilor Yvonne Flores, District 6
14 Terrie Dallman, LCPS Board Member
15 Dr. Susan Wightman Brown, NMSU Interim Dean of College of Education
16 Brian Kavanaugh, CEO FYI, Finance Chair
17 Denise Sheehan, NEA Board Member
18 Julianne Lackey, Substitute Teacher LCPS & Non-Voting Member
19 Teresa Tenorio, LCPS Board Member
20 Amanda Barela, NEA Board Member
21 Dr. Stacy Gherardi, NMSU
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24 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

25 Ashley Echavarria, CEO Boys and Girls Club Las Cruces
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27

28 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

29 Dave Greenberg, LCPS Community Schools Director
30 Jill Aguirre, Recording Secretary & Sr. Office Manager
31 Felicia Herrera, MSW Intern at NMSU
32 Maria Zuniga, Doña Ana Elementary School Community School Coordinator
33 Monica Marquez, Booker T Washington Elementary Principal
34 Karen Trujillo, LCPS Interim Superintendent
35 Jessica Barnhill, Booker T Washington Community School Coordinator
36 Sylvia Chavez, Lynn Middle School Community School Coordinator
37 Tatiano Del Toro-Frank, McArthur Elementary School Coordinator
38 Brenda Ballard, Lynn Middle School
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41 **I. CALL TO ORDER (1:30 PM):** Chair Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson called the
42 meeting to order.
43

44 **II. ACTION ITEMS:**

- 45 • **Approve Minutes.** The minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting were
46 reviewed by members. Board Member Kavanaugh moved to accept the

minutes as presented. Seconded by Board Member Brown. All members were in favor.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Public Education Department State Funding Update and Carryover Funding Discussion for Community School SY 20-21 Budget:** Mr. Greenberg thanked everyone for their work on the letter and for getting the letters out to the folks listed via paper and electronically. Feedback has been received from several legislatures that the letter was received and effective. In the special sessions the State Funding for Community Schools did take a cut. There was \$4 million allocated for this coming school year and it was reduced by \$1.9 million, almost 50%. He stated the Governor stated they are looking at ways to compensate for the cut with other Federal Funding streams. Still in limbo in terms of exactly where our budget is here in Las Cruces. Lynn budget at \$150,000 grant from the state has been approved, and this is due to Lynn being a second year of funding in its three-year implementation grant. McArthur Elementary was going from planning year to first year of implementation, unfortunately the State has said until it figures a way to leverage additional funding McArthur will not be funded. This was discovered right before the start of the fiscal year and so essentially we are still waiting for the Public Education Department to give a final word on whether McArthur will be approved or not. Hopeful that that funding will come through because the team did a terrific job on the application, but also know that McArthur has the Federal ESSA designation of TSI (Targeted School Improvement) and that puts them in a higher tier category for being eligible for Federal funds from the State. Hoping to take the carryover funds from last year's City funds, as mentioned in the last meeting, there is approximately \$50,000 left there. At last meeting \$5,000 of that was taken for grant writing contract. Hoping to use the \$45,000 to fund the Community School Coordinator at McArthur until hearing from PED about the funding. This is a clear stopgap measure to do in the meantime.

Board Member Dallman asked if worst case scenario if the funding does not get approved, how will that impact the rest of the expenses other than just the coordinator? Mr. Greenberg stated that Las Cruces is in a better position compared to many places around the State. If the McArthur grant is jeopardized by the cuts, then there is another vacant position that is in the Lynn Grant that was approved, that is vacant: Community Schools integrated support specialist.

- **Community School Updates:** Doña Ana Elementary, Ms. Zuniga shared that they have continued to provide approximately 250 lunches every day. Recently partnered with La Semilla Food Center and NMSU STEM Outreach Center to provide gardening kits to students and families, of which 100 were give out. Families acquired a tomato plant, chile pepper plant,

1 pots, gardening soil, gardening hose, seeds, etc to have a home garden.
2 Also holding virtual classes for the families for the next couple of weeks in
3 English and Spanish. Also partnering with Farm and Ranch Museum to
4 give out learning kits in the next couple of weeks, kinder through second,
5 and also grades three to five. Also partnered with Engage New Mexico to
6 provide families with backpacks and school supplies. 370 backpacks were
7 donated with rulers, pencils, crayons, markers, everything a child would
8 need to get school started. These will be given away closer to the start date
9 of school. She is also calling parents, see how they are doing, feelings
10 about the new school year. They would like to do some Zoom workshops
11 virtually, but also provide families with some handout information in case
12 they cannot participate virtually. Also partnered with the bilingual
13 department at LCPS, meeting every week to offer focus group session for
14 information on how the Community Schools can better support them, kinds
15 of classes, topics that would help the family. The virtual workshops will be
16 started at the end of July with different topics; how to do remote learning,
17 help families create a schedule with the children, how to relieve stress with
18 mindfulness meditation, reading with my child. Also another session on
19 community resources. Also with Engage New Mexico and the New Mexico
20 STEM Outreach Center is giving parents a tool bag with schedule, timer,
21 handouts they can have during this time to get more support during the
22 hybrid learning.

23
24 Booker T. Washington, Ms. Barnhill shared over the summer Farm and
25 Ranch donated over 250 kits for K-5 and they will be picked up tomorrow
26 and distributing them next week. Herself, her principal and a few parents
27 participated in parent engagement focus group. Community Schools is also
28 collaborating with Community Action Agency to distribute more care
29 packages to our families in need, offered a \$5,000 contract in addition for
30 supplies. Also received 100 cloth masks from Las Cruces Chamber of
31 Commerce. Western Sky Community Care is donating \$100 a month for
32 materials and supplies for our Western Sky Community Closet to help
33 families in need. It should be up and running in fall 2020. She also
34 contacted Southern New Mexico Organization and scheduled Zoom
35 meeting to discuss addressing one of the goals in the comprehensive plan.
36 To prepare for the upcoming year she is directly contacting families that has
37 struggled with attendance and how to work with them for the upcoming year.

38
39 McArthur, Ms. Del Toro-Frank shared they are giving out approximately 125
40 lunches per day as well as collecting technology. McArthur is currently
41 remodeling. Their principal holds a weekly question and answer session
42 for all staff with a really great turnout. This week families will receive a
43 district survey regarding school reopening. They plan to follow-up on July
44 17th to call each family to any concerns. Also assisted in the garden kit
45 distribution with Doña Ana, over 100 families received gardening tools.
46 Currently working with Amador Health Center to create collaborative

measures at McArthur. Also involving the district for guidance, staff and families had a high need and interest for health services including medical, dental, vision, mental. They want to have a kinder registration day because the kinder registration numbers are low, this will be no contact. Also have a time and opportunity for families to address their health concerns; updating vaccinations, and interested in having COVID-19 testing done before school starts. This month worked on the community needs assessment and report to the PED all the surveys they had, which included a lot of the history of McArthur in regards to their education. Talked about the mission statement at McArthur. The school has increased their numbers at PED and are providing service for students and their families, especially in regards to mental health and intervention crisis. 236 families were surveyed, bilingual, 123 students, and 34 staff. 83% families expressed need for medical, dental, mental health services and for that reason they are working with the Amador Health Center. 89% families a need for more after school enrichment activities. Currently working with the STEM program and also Boys and Girls Club Program to provide more after school opportunities, however this is unsure waiting on the Las Cruces guidance and whether or not after school programs are going to exist for this upcoming school year.

Lynn, Ms. Chavez shared they have programs in place so just waiting to see the district decisions. Cruces Creatives has done some learning kits they are going to start giving away every Tuesday, makers kits, robot type kits. Helped Doña Ana with distribution. Continuing Roadrunner food distribution throughout the summer, and added feeder schools. They did two trainings for the teachers, 12 teachers attended. One was mindfulness from a Professor at NMSU. Another was trauma informed from an Assistant Professor at NMSU, understanding student behavior, building meaningful relationships, helping students regulate, developing student responsibilities. This group of teachers are going to be a team and frontrunners for focus of this training, helping students regulate. EHA are in process. Worked in the past with Memorial Medical Residents and hopefully this year have meetings and what they can do remotely. Teachers starting to meet and doing some remote home visiting, and training that might happen, how to carry that into the fall. Community based learning cohort team in process of thinking outside the box, community based learning virtually and in the classroom. Creating a connection from home to school possibly with a garden. Holding leadership camp at Lynn and it is going well with 25 students, three weekly groups, which will end July 31st.

Lynn, Ms. Ballard stated her own daughter is attending the camp and it is going well and working around the social distancing requirements. Kids miss the socialization. Right now with the hybrid model as planned have students in for orientation for one day instead of two, and then split them so

1 only half the students. Then make into smaller groups and look at how to
2 avoid having intermingling. Also how to support parents.

3
4 Board Member Dallman asked how many students serving during the
5 summer in the camp. Ms. Ballard stated four weeks of camp, and then each
6 camp will have 25 kids, no more five students per adult, but they have more
7 adults than that. New set of 25 students every week. Board Member
8 Dallman asked what measures taken to disinfect. Ms. Ballard stated the
9 students get dropped at the cafeteria door, police have a no-touch
10 thermometer that is used prior to the student getting out of the car.
11 Everyone wears masks. Portable sanitation station to wash hands and
12 hand sanitizer as they walk in and as they walk out. Students put into pods
13 of five students each, so five groups of five and pretty much remain that way
14 except for special projects. Students released at 1:00 p.m. Police sanitize
15 using E23 disinfectant on every surface that was used. Students wear
16 masks the whole time except to eat or drink and are not sharing food or
17 drinks.

18
19 Mr. Greenberg shared a link to the Community Schools Partnership
20 Facebook in the chat. Partnered with NMCO Media for the graphics. Funds
21 from Western Sky and Community Action Agency over the past month is an
22 example of how they help.

23
24 Councilor Gandara suggested pushing on principals to take action to ensure
25 children are cared for as many of the children use school as a refuge. Also
26 shared the various organizations in the City that are receiving funding from
27 the City. Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated principals are reaching out to
28 families and providing them information.

- 29
30 • **Reentry Task Force Report Out:** Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated the State
31 has given guidance and school is opening in what they are calling the hybrid
32 model which means 50% capacity. The schedule for Las Cruces Public
33 Schools on Monday and Tuesday if last name starts with A-L will come to
34 school face-to-face. Wednesdays will be remote learning day for all
35 students allowing for deep cleaning of school buildings, buses. Thursday
36 and Friday if last name starts from M-Z will be school face-to-face days.
37 There is outreach with families to be sure students within each family have
38 the same schedule, or whatever is needed to accommodate families the
39 best. There are about 40 students fully online due to wanting to get ahead
40 and that number is going up drastically. 950 inquiries of families wanting
41 fully remote learning. Plan right now to do temperature checks for staff,
42 symptomology for students, masks are required, providing personal
43 protective equipment for teachers or students that need it. Physical barriers
44 for office areas, desks. All aspects in better shape than in the spring:
45 Instruction, health and safety, transportation. Essential services coming in
46 will be mental health providers, medical, dental, and need to continue to

1 allow families to access. After school programs, have the 21st Century
2 Grant, NMSU STEM Outreach Center and provide extended learning time
3 program, and they have done some planning and working directly with
4 principals on after school programming. Vice-Chair Abeyta-Stuve asked if
5 reaching out to students and staff that are medically compromised, and
6 them discussing with their medical personnel to make proper decisions
7 moving forward. Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated on the student side if they
8 are medically fragile Schools provide homebound support for those
9 students by sending a tutor, and students now are enrolled in the virtual
10 learning academy. If someone in the home is medically fragile or high risk,
11 accommodating those students. On the employees side the Human
12 Resources department has reached out to employees/staff members have
13 medical condition and doctor's recommendation that they should not return
14 to work now and HR is working through those, finding alternate work
15 assignments. Ms. Tenorio stated it seems everyone is really trying to
16 accommodate everybody's needs and have good leadership. Mr.
17 Greenberg stated the Community Schools process is not about physical
18 space but about systems and relationships, and philosophy and value
19 system underscores all. Mr. Greenberg shared two documents, excerpt
20 from Maryland reopening plan. Community schools are good at assessing
21 needs and assets and forming partnerships are critical right now. And
22 shared a document that aligns New Mexico Public Education Department
23 guidelines around reentry and some of the recommendations, with the core
24 essential functions and standards of Community Schools and Community
25 School Coordinators to demonstrate how our community school network
26 and coordinators and administrators and schools are uniquely situated to
27 respond to the reopening and the challenges there.

- 28
29 • **Community School Strategic Planning:** Mr. Greenberg stated there are
30 a lot of challenges right now with both short and long term strategic
31 planning. Another document from ABC Community Schools Partnership,
32 not shared due to being over 100 pages, but included in everyone's packet.
33 Comprehensive planning document and deep analysis completed over the
34 past couple of months in Albuquerque in their Community Schools
35 Partnership. This document can be a case study of Albuquerque and also
36 as a case study in what a strategic plan could look like and kind of elements
37 to borrow from that. How to continue implementation of Community Schools
38 this year and potentially even over the next several years knowing some of
39 the challenges with the state budget, with the budget at every level, ensure
40 sustainability for all positions. A suggestion to look at not just the four
41 Community Schools, but all of the different pieces that represent
42 Community Schools.

43
44 Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated planning should focus on how to leverage the
45 resources that we already have both in the district and with the partners. It
46 would be nice to hire a coordinator at every school to coordinate the

activities, but in light of that hope and dream for some day, how to use existing personnel, partnerships, and resources to get that done.

Board Member Barela stated in terms of diversification of the funding, how much effort has been put into approaching local businesses, but there are some profitable local businesses. Mr. Greenberg stated he agrees Oakland had a long term partnership with Kaiser-Permanente, so currently they have one of the most robust district wide Community School initiatives in the country. The finance committee would be best suited for who to approach and how and what the ask is. Oakland stated the commitment to the plan helped win over some of the private funders. Councilor Gandara agrees with this. Councilor Flores agreed with Board Member Barela and begin approaching the big corporate international firms. Board Member Dallman suggested the Gates Foundation, public television donators are very receptive to helping organizations.

Chair Miller-Tomlinson stated we need to set next meeting date and start carving time for a retreat.

- IV. Set Next Meeting Date:** Tentatively August 13th, which is the day after school starts, per se. Board Member Tenorio suggested Zoom meeting with breakout rooms. Chair Miller-Tomlinson suggested for subcommittee work.

Chair Miller-Tomlinson asked Mr. Greenberg to explore dates for a retreat and a poll to the group for three to four hours to really work on this strategic plan and have something solid for the new school year.

- V. ADJOURNMENT** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member Dallman. Seconded by Board Member Gandara. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.



Chairperson

August 13, 2020

Approved