

**LOS LUNAS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Bryan C. Smith called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He thanked everyone for coming and reminded the audience to silence all cell phones and/or other electronic devices during the meeting.

**Board Members Present:**

Bryan C. Smith, President  
Georgia Otero-Kirkham, Vice President  
Sonya C'Moya, Secretary  
Frank A. Otero, Member  
Art Castillo, Member

**Administrators Present:**

Dana Sanders, Superintendent  
Juliette R. Benavidez, Assistant Superintendent  
Susan Chavez, Assistant Superintendent  
Erica Hidalgo, Dir. of Elementary Programs  
Darian Jaramillo, Dir. of Instructional Support  
Mary McGowan, Dir. of Compliance and Accountability  
Cynthia Philips, Dir. of Special Education  
Andrew Saiz, Dir. of Personnel/Leadership Development  
Julie Smith, Dir. of Secondary Programs  
Elena Trodden, Dir. of Assessment/Data  
Cathy Chavez, Coordinator of Federal Programs  
Eliseo Aguirre, Principal, Century High School  
Catharine Campbell, Interim Principal, Raymond Gabaldon Elem.  
Kaua Matthews, Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary  
Teri Gough, Asst. Principal, RGE/Valencia Elementary  
Deanna Herrera, Asst. Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary

**Others Present:**

Eric Harrigan, RBC Capital Markets  
Penny Valdez, NEA-Los Lunas  
JoAnnah Sanders, NEA-Los Lunas  
Seven (7) Additional Community Members, Staff, and Students

**2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING**

Superintendent Dana Sanders reported the meeting had been announced in accordance

with the Open Meetings Resolution, and was a legally constituted meeting of the Los Lunas Schools Board of Education.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Morgan Hidalgo, a sixth grader at Bosque Farms Elementary, led the audience in the Pledge.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Smith asked if there were any changes or deletions to the agenda.

There being none, Ms. Smith asked for a motion.

**Ms. Kirkham moved, and Mr. Castillo seconded, to approve the agenda as submitted by Ms. Sanders and her staff. There being no discussion, Mr. Smith called for a roll call vote with the following results: Art Castillo - yes; Georgia Otero-Kirkham – yes; Sonya C’Moya – yes; Frank A. Otero – yes; and Bryan C. Smith - yes. Motion passed.**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no requests to address the Board.

**6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**Mr. Castillo moved to consent Item #7 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 22, 2017 Regular Meeting. Ms. Kirkham seconded the motion.**

Mr. Smith announced for the benefit of the audience, that consent items were the action items on the agenda presented by the Superintendent and her staff for approval. The action items had been reviewed by the board members individually. If no discussion had been asked regarding the items by any of the board members, the items were submitted for approval with one motion/vote.

**There being no further discussion, Mr. Smith called for a roll call vote with the following results: Art Castillo - yes; Georgia Otero-Kirkham – yes; Sonya C’Moya – yes; Frank A. Otero – yes; and Bryan C. Smith - yes. Motion passed.**

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 22, 2017 Regular Meeting (Approved by**

Consent)

**8. PRESENTATION OF BOND SALE RESULTS: Series 2017 General Obligation Bonds**

Eric Harrigan, representing the District's Financial Advisor, RBC Capital Markets, announced that the bond sale had been held that morning, and he felt it had gone very well. The sale was for a total of \$7,500,000.00 in general obligation bonds, which the District had authorized last February.

Mr. Harrigan discussed the District's Moodys Rating. The rating remained an A1, and the positive interest rates the District received, he felt were indicative of the positive financial trend, and fiscally responsible achievements of the District. While it was Moodys discretion to change the rating, Mr. Harrigan felt that as long as the district continued its positive and financially sound practices, that rating could go up. He commended Ms. Sanders, Ms. Cieremans and their staff for their professionalism, knowledge, and responsible oversight of the District's funds; especially during this extremely challenging year.

Mr. Harrigan reported that six companies submitted bids through the New Mexico Credit Enhancement Program including: Cantor Fitzgerald & Co.; Wells Fargo Bank, National Association; BOK Financial Securities, Inc.; Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc., FTM Financial Capital Markets; and Raymond James & Associates, Inc.

Mr. Harrigan announced that the award went to Cantor Fitzgerald and Co. He reported that the true interest was 1.939%, which although not the lowest one ever achieved (that occurred last year), it was very good. In addition, the bases points curve spread was nine points, which he said was also a good sign.

Mr. Harrigan gave an overview of the transaction summary, the reoffering spread for Series 2017 bonds, the history of general obligation bond sales in the District since 2001, as well as, both current and long-term market trends.

**8. PRESENTATION OF BOND SALE RESULTS: Series 2017 General Obligation Bonds**

There being no questions, Mr. Harrigan and Bond Counsel, Art Melendres, were both thanked for their efforts. Mr. Smith announced that the Board had delegated authority to Ms. Sanders and Ms. Cieremans to act on behalf of the District for the bond sale. This item was for presentation only; therefore, no action was needed or warranted at this time.

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. School Presentation: Kaua Matthews, Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary**

Bosque Farms Elementary Principal, Kaua Matthews, thanked the Board and Superintendent Sanders for allowing her to speak about Bosque Farms Elementary. She introduced Deanna Herrera, the assistant principal at BFE, and recognized the staff and parents in the audience.

Ms. Matthews reported that they had 67 staff members who served their 568 students. First, second, and fourth grades had the highest enrollment. They had 96% of their staff return for the 2017-18 school year, and currently had one Kindergarten teaching position open at this time.

Ms. Matthews and Ms. Herrera then gave a comprehensive overview of the PARCC ELA of the third thru sixth grade levels in comparison with the state and district and the BFE L! Benchmark Data.

Ms. Matthews and Ms. Herrera stated they planned to address Student Reading Achievement Results as follows:

- Focus on first instruction with emphasis on essential standards
- RTI focus will be on Istation data and will hone in on the deficit skills for each Tier II student

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)**

**(Cont.) A. School Presentation: Kaua Matthews, Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary**

- Continuation of Journeys curriculum
- Implementation of a strong emphasis in early literacy through CORE strategies:

- Kindergarten: 20 minutes per day of intensive letter recognition/letter sound instruction; phonics
  - Grades 1-2: Heavy phonics instruction 20 minutes per day
  - Grades 3-6: Focused instruction on vocabulary 20 minutes per day
  - Utilization of district reading specialists
- Ms. Matthews and Ms. Herrera gave an overview of the results of Bosque Farms' PARCC Math tests for third through sixth grade, as well as, benchmark data, three-year comparison data, BFE VM Benchmark Data, as well as, the TransMath Benchmark Data.

Ms. Matthews and Ms. Herrera then discussed their plan to address the math achievement results, which included the following:

- Focus on first instruction with emphasis on essential standards.
- Implementation of new enVisions math curriculum.
- RTI focus will be on Istation data and will hone in on the deficit skills for each Tier II student.

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)**

### **A. School Presentation: Kaua Matthews, Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary (Cont.)**

Ms. Matthews and Ms. Herrera stated that the victories at Bosque Farms Elementary included:

- High Reliability Schools Level 1 and 2 Certified.
- Maintaining a positive relationship with our Parent-Teacher Committee and Community.
- Special Education students did very well on PARCC last year.

Some of the many areas of Bosque Farms' showcased included a pep rally put on by VHS to welcome them to the Jag Nation, the community involvements, and the annual two-day Ag days' event held in May.

Ms. Matthews and her staff were commended for their hard work and efforts on

behalf of the District's students, parents, and community.

**B. Student Representative Report: Sierra Anaya, Century High School**

Ms. Sanders introduced Sierra Anaya, the Student Representative from Century High School.

Sierra said that it was an honor to speak to the board members and Ms. Sanders about Century High School. She said that there were many amazing things happening at Century High School, from their increasing number of graduates to their school grade. Sierra said that she wanted to talk about five things that reflected how "Every Student Matters and Every Moment Counts" at CHS.

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)**

**B. Student Representative Report: Sierra Anaya, Century High School (Cont.)**

Sierra said that they had 152 students registered and attending Century High School. Many came voluntarily from around the county to reclaim lost credits and some to try their hand at graduating early.

A few of the students who attend CHS were also student athletes. They had one student who swam for the UNM Lobos right now, and later in the year she will be swimming for the LLHS Tigers. Sierra said they also had some students in rodeo and club soccer as well.

Sierra reported that CHS had a couple new classes this year, including an AP class, the return of their yearbook class, and new to them, a Craft Skills Class. She said that students were picking up knowledge and mastering topics that will make them ready not just for college, but for careers outside of school as well. Sierra said another example of this was the Leadership Conference that CHS would be sending 25 Centurions to in Isleta. Sierra said that in support of all those amazing things they did, the CHS Administration has continued to offer tutoring to all their students so that they could be supported academically. CHS offered lunch

tutoring, as well as, after school tutoring, and all students were encouraged to attend.

Sierra was thanked for her report. Board President Smith told Sierra she was well on her way to achieving her goal and wished her the best of luck in all that she did. Ms. Sanders thanked Sierra for her report, and said she appreciated Sierra being there to represent her school and the district.

## 9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

### C. School Grades

Juliette Romero Benavidez said it was her great pleasure to introduce the mastermind behind the District's data and assessment, Ms. Elena Trodden. Ms. Trodden thanked the Board for allowing her to discuss the school grades. She said that she and Ms. Sanders had looked at the data intensely, and she applauded Ms. Sanders for her efforts. Ms. Trodden added that Ms. Sanders was very passionate about the topic, and had taken the issues they had found to the forefront. Over the years, districts had wondered about the grading system but had been too timid to approach the PED, but Ms. Sanders had taken the issue to the PED for answers. Ms. Sanders stated that she was not a statistician, but the teacher in her felt it was important to understand the process that was used to determine grades and to be able to explain them in such a way that laymen could understand them. To that end, she and Ms. Trodden had poured over the information provided in the technical manual, which was sent out on the same day as the grades, and made a concentrated effort to try to understand the process.

Ms. Trodden and Ms. Sanders, gave a PowerPoint presentation during which they gave an overview of grades, categories, formulas, outcomes associated with the issuance of the school grades. The areas discussed included:

- The formulas used to determine the grades in all categories:
  - **Current Standing Q1 (lowest 25%) And Q3**  $\text{SubjectScore}_{ij} = B_0 + B_1 \text{SubjectP1}_{ij} + B_2 \text{SubjectP2}_{ij} + B_3 \text{FAY}_{ij} + B_4 \text{ALT}_{ij} + B_5 n_j + B_6 \text{MOB}_j + u_j + e_{ij}$

- **School Growth**  $SubjectMeanScore_j = B_0 + B_1 MeanPrior1Subject_j + B_2 MeanPrior2Subject_j + B_3 MeanFAY_j + B_4 nj + B_5 Test_j + e_j$
- **Student Growth**  $SubjectScore_{ij} = B_0 + B_1 Subject P1_{ij} + B_2 Subject P2_{ij} + B_3 FAY_{ij} + B_4 ALT_{ij} + B_5 nj + B_6 MOB_{j+uj} + e_{ij}$

## 9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

### C. School Grades (Continued)

- There was a special formula for SAM (Supplemental Accountable Model) Graduation Rates:

$$SAM \text{ Graduation Rate} = \left( \frac{4CGR * 4CGR \text{ Denominator}}{\text{Total Denominator}} \right) + \left( \frac{NCGR * \text{Count of all 40D Seniors}}{\text{Total Denominator}} \right)$$

Where:  $4CGR = \left( \frac{\text{Sum of fractions of snapshots of 4 year cohort members who graduated}}{\text{Sum of fractions of snapshots of all 4 year cohort member}} \right) * 100$   
 $NCGR = \left( \frac{\text{All non - cohort graduates}}{\text{All non - cohort students}} \right) * 100$   
 $\text{Total Denominator} = \text{Count of all 40D Seniors} + 4CGR \text{ Denominator}$

- The criteria used for cluster placement included:
  - percentile mobility
  - percentile English language learners
  - percentile students with disabilities
  - percentile ethnicity (African American, Native American, and Hispanic students)
  - percentile economic status
- Similar School Clusters:
  - EL1 – APE
  - EL2 – KGE
  - EL3 – LLFS
  - EL6 – BFE, DVE, LLE, PE, RGE, SE, TE, VE
  - MS1 – LLMS, VMS
  - HS5 – LLHS, VHS

- SAM1 – CHS

**9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (Continued)**

**C. School Grades (Continued)**

Ms. Sanders reported that upon review of the clusters, they found they were not of similar type at all. She gave the example of one cluster that included BFE with a school 150 students, which also included DVE and TE both of which had a different status in Title I and other areas. Ms. Sanders reported that they had discovered that the PED’s formulas were set up in such a way that less than 30% of all schools could ever receive a grade higher than a ‘C’. In addition, the Current Standing Category used that low score at least twice in grade calculations, which she felt, created an unfair practice. Further, there were discrepancies because numerous schools rose tremendously in proficiency, yet their grade still went down significantly. Additionally, the points and proficiency criteria changed between 2016 and 2017 changing the dynamics of the grades.

Ms. Sanders reported that she had filed an IPRA with the PED asking for additional information regarding the way they set up the clusters, and subsequently issued the grades. They wanted to see for themselves a more detailed listing of the grading system they had used, especially given that there was no correlation in many cases between percentages and points. Ms. Sanders stated that the PED had yet to get the information back to her, citing it was a burdensome task and they would need additional time to gather the information requested. Ms. Sanders said she would get back to the Board when more information was available.

Ms. Sanders and Ms. Trodden were thanked for their diligence.

**10. APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY COUNCIL (PSCOC) STATE AWARD: Broadband Deficiencies Correction Program (BDCP) Award for Category 2 Projects**

Mr. Castillo asked Ms. Sanders to refresh his mind on the details of the award. Ms. Sanders reported that the technology department applied for e-rate funds to help with Category 2 Projects, which were broadband and internet services.

Mr. Castillo asked if Ms. Sanders knew which other districts put in for the award. Ms.

Sanders stated that she did not have that information on hand, but would provide that to him.

**Mr. Castillo moved, and Ms. Moya seconded, to approve Item #10 APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY COUNCIL (PSCOC) STATE AWARD: Broadband Deficiencies Correction Program (BDCP) Award for Category 2 Projects as presented. There being no discussion, Mr. Smith called for a roll call vote with the following results: Art Castillo - yes; Georgia Otero-Kirkham – yes; Sonya C’Moya – yes; Frank A. Otero – yes; and Bryan C. Smith - yes. Motion passed.**

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS**

Mr. Smith announced that this brought them to the announcement of meetings. As allowed by the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and District’s Open Meetings Resolution, on occasion a quorum of board members attended the same function, including those held at school sites, at the district level, as well as sports functions, conferences, workshops, and trainings. Members agreed to refrain from discussing and/or acting upon, board issues in those settings. In addition, only official meetings were published, and if other meetings were scheduled, they would be announced in accordance with the NM Open Meetings Act. Mr. Smith then announced the following meetings:

- September 19, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting, Central Office Board Room at 4:30pm
- September 26, 2017 Regular Board Meeting, Central Office Board Room at 6:00pm

Ms. Sanders noted that the Valencia High School Community Pep Rally and Football Homecoming Game was this Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The pep rally would begin at 5:00 pm with the game scheduled for 7:00 pm. She invited the Board and audience to attend all the festivities.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Kirkham moved, and Ms. Moya seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith called for a roll call vote with the following results: Art Castillo - yes; Georgia Otero-Kirkham – yes; Sonya C’Moya – yes; Frank A. Otero – yes; and Bryan C. Smith - yes. Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**APPROVED THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2017.**

**Bryan C. Smith, President**

**Sonya C'Moya, Secretary**

ksw