

**LOS LUNAS SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Frank A. Otero called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He thanked everyone for coming and reminded the audience to silence their cell phones and/or other electronic devices during the meeting.

**Board Members Present:** Frank A. Otero, President  
Bryan C. Smith, Vice President  
Sonya C'Moya, Secretary  
Brandon Campanella, Member  
Milo W. Moody, Member

**Administrators Present:** Dana Sanders, Superintendent  
Brian Baca, Deputy Superintendent  
Julie Romero Benavidez, Assistant Superintendent  
Susan D. Chavez, Assistant Superintendent  
Casey Ahner, Dir. of Instructional Support  
Andy Garcia, Dir. of Maintenance and Construction  
Desi Garcia, Dir. of Safety and Security  
Mike Good, Dir. of Technology  
Erica Hidalgo, Dir. of Elementary Programs  
Wilson Holland, Dir. of Athletics  
Darian Jaramillo, Dir. of Secondary Programs  
Mary McGowan, Dir. of Compliance  
Cynthia Philips, Dir. of Special Education  
Michelle Romero, Dir. of Purchasing  
Andrew Saiz, Dir. of Personnel  
Sandy Traczyk, Dir. of Finance  
Elena Trodden, Dir. of Assessment and Accountability  
Cathy Chavez, Coordinator of Federal Programs  
Carlos Castillo, Payroll Supervisor  
Anthony Silva, Supervisor of Maintenance

**Administrators Present:** Eliseo Aguirre, Principal, Century High School  
Robert Abney, Principal, Los Lunas High School  
Albert Aragon, Principal, Valencia High School

Jason Baca, Principal, Valencia Middle School  
Lawrence Sosa, Principal, Los Lunas Middle School  
Melissa Contreras, Principal, Ann Parish Elementary  
Kaua Matthews, Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary  
Jessica Montano, Principal, Katherine Gallegos Elementary  
Alicia Himes, Principal, Principal, Los Lunas Elementary  
Catharine Campbell, Principal, Raymond Gabaldon Elementary  
Alicia Blaakman-Abney, Principal, Tomé Elementary  
Sonia Allen, Principal, Valencia Elementary  
Paul Carder, Asst. Principal, Valencia High School  
Joann Carter, Asst. Principal, Valencia High School  
William Hayes, Asst. Principal, Los Lunas Middle School  
Jennifer Gaerlan, Asst. Principal, Valencia Middle School  
Justin Decker, Asst. Principal, Valencia High School  
Robert Alexander, Asst. Principal, Ann Parish Elementary  
Deanna Herrera, Asst. Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary  
Anna Jimenez, Asst. Principal, Katherine Gallegos Elementary  
Eric Tiger, Asst. Principal, Los Lunas Elementary  
Regina Sedillos, Asst. Principal, Raymond Gabaldon Elementary  
Venessa Tregembo, Asst. Principal, Sundance Elementary  
Monica Rivera, Asst. Principal, Tomé Elementary  
Karla Dow, Asst. Principal, Valencia Elementary

**Others Present:**

Penny Valdez, NEA-Los Lunas  
Deborah Fox, Valencia County News Bulletin  
Approximately Ten (10) 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: Sophia Silva, Sixth Grader, Tomé Elementary**

Sophia Silva, a sixth grader at Tomé Elementary, led the Pledge.

## **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Otero asked if there were any changes or deletions to the agenda. There being none, Mr. Otero called for a motion.

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

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no requests to address the Board.

## **6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**Mr. Campanella moved, and Mr. Moody seconded, to approve all of the items on the action agenda by consent.**

Mr. Otero 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 by any of the board members regarding the items, the items were submitted for approval with one motion/vote.

**There being no discussion, Mr. Otero called for a roll call vote with the following results: Milo W. Moody - yes; Bryan C. Smith –yes; Brandon Campanella – yes; Sonya C’Moya – yes; and Frank A. Otero –yes. Motion passed.**

## **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 22, 2019 Regular Meeting (Approved by Consent)**

## **8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

### **A. Student Representative Report: Chloe Shetter, Valencia High School**

Chloe thanked the Board and Ms. Sanders for letting her speak to them about Valencia High School. She then gave the following report:

- The first subject she said she would like to bring to their attention to was an update on their athletic programs. Their Football Team had their best season since 2014, making an appearance in the NM 5A State Championships. Their Boys' Basketball Team so far had achieved a district record of 3-0 and a 14-7 seasonal record.
- Valencia's Student Council had been diligently working on staff appreciation since September of 2018 with activities such as "Muffin Mondays", "High Five Friday", and staff luncheons. Along with celebrating staff birthdays, they had traveled to all the elementary schools on the east side and made gifts for those in need at each school. Along with that, they had visited Beehive Nursing Home. They played games, read, and really got to know the senior citizens in their community. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, they would be participating in the New Mexico Student Council State Conference in Farmington for four days. She reported that they would be taking 14 members to try to gain as much leadership knowledge as given. At Valencia High School, they had started Video announcements. Their goal in doing this was to keep the students informed and entertained with events going on around campus.
- The HOSA- Health Occupations Students of America sold tickets around school for one dollar each. Each ticket was an entry to 'pie' their class principal in the face. All funds were raised for the Ronald McDonald House. HOSA would also be going to state this month and going to Nationals in June.

## **8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**(Continued)**

### **A. Student Representative Report: Chloe Shetter, Valencia High School (Continued)**

- In their Performing Arts Center, they often come together to show who Valencia is. In December, their fine arts displayed their hard work through different performances, including drama and band. There were also many goodies made by their culinary classes and beautiful pieces of art and pottery were displayed. They also welcomed the Albuquerque Youth Symphony to their PAC to collaborate a performance with their very own Valencia High School Wind Symphony.
- Chloe said their school would be welcoming Valencia Middle School Eighth Graders to register for classes and to see what high school was all about on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. To get the students excited for their new journey, there would be a car show, food, FFA

would be showing their animals, and tours through the classes would be available.

- They wanted to say a huge thank you to Mr. Navarro for keeping their social media accounts active and informative, and for starting their newspaper. Their school has a Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and a Snapchat account. They also have all their Video Announcements on YouTube for students, parents, and staff to watch when needed. Their video announcements were going to be shown on Instagram as well.
- Chloe said they were proud to announce that they have twenty-one apple certified teachers, and more were currently in training for the one-to-one roll out next year. They appreciated all that the staff did for the benefit of their students and school priorities.
- Lastly, Chloe said they would like to thank their counseling department for always helping their students get college-ready, help with scholarships, and for putting together our ACT Boot Camp for our students to succeed in testing.  
Sophia was thanked for informative presentation.

## **8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**(Continued)**

### **B. School Report: Tomé Elementary, Alicia Blaakman-Abney, Principal**

Ms. Blaakman-Abney thanked the board members and Ms. Sanders for allowing her the time to highlight Tomé Elementary. She introduced her Assistant Principal, Monica Rivera, and then recognized and thanked the staff who were in attendance at the meeting. She thanked her school's advocate, Erica Hidalgo, for her support. Tomé Elementary's mission was to focus and facilitate student learning to achieve the highest quality education and their vision: To be the *World's Best Elementary!*

Ms. Blaakman-Abney reported that current enrollment at Tomé Elementary was 421, and as far as mobility went, to date, 65 students had disenrolled and 65 new students had enrolled at Tomé. They had 70% (19/27 teachers) of their staff return for the 2018-19 school year. Of those, they had one exemplary teacher and four highly effective teachers. They currently had one open position, that being the Inclusion Support Coach.

Ms. Blaakman-Abney and Ms. Rivera gave a comprehensive overview of the three-year trend of PARCC ELA, as well as, their Language! Live Benchmark Data.

They stated they planned to address Student Reading Achievement Results as follows:

- Use of Reading Specialists
- Teacher participation in Literacy Cadre
- Professional Learning Coach modeling and supporting the work
- CORE Training
- Focus on Tier I Instruction: Journey's curriculum with integrity mixed with unpacking the essential standards
- Guided Reading Groups
- CORE survey assessment
- 6 Steps of Phonics K-3 daily, 4-6 as needed
- Common Formative Assessments – timely to address any issues
- Data Walls
- Proficiency Maps
- Administrative Walkthroughs
- I-Station assessments in the beginning, mid, and end of year
- Monthly progress monitoring in I-Station

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

### **B. School Report: Tomé Elementary, Alicia Blaakman-Abney, Principal (Continued)**

- RTI – three-week cycles every Tuesday-Thursday
- Professional Development on Student Engagement with APE

Ms. Blaakman-Abney and Ms. Rivera gave an overview of the results of TE's PARCC Math tests, benchmark data, three-year comparison data, Vmath Benchmark Data, as well as, the TransMath Benchmark Data.

They then discussed their plan to address the math achievement results, which included the following:

- Focus on Tier 1 Instruction: enVision math curriculum with integrity
- Professional Learning Coach models and supports
- Math Leaders training
- Math Small Groups
- Common Formative Assessments to immediately correct issues
- Data Wall
- Proficiency maps

- Administrative Walkthroughs
- I-Station assessments in the beginning, mid, and end of year
- Monthly progress monitoring in I-Station
- RTI three-week cycles every Tuesday-Thursday
- Professional Development on Student Engagement with APE

Ms. Blaakman-Abney and Ms. Rivera reported that some of the challenges they faced at TE included:

- Crucial turnover in staff including:
  - Leadership
  - Teaching staff
  - Rebuilding year
- Prioritizing the following initiatives:
  - Apple Connect
  - Model PLC
  - RTI

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

### **B. School Report: Tomé Elementary, Alicia Blaakman-Abney, Principal (Continued)**

Ms. Blaakman-Abney and Ms. Rivera reported that some of Tomé's many victories included:

- TE became a Model PLC School
- TE became HRS level 3
- TE began and has continued the RTI Process
- Working with National Apple Leaders and District Tech Coaches
- Apple Connect Capstone Project: Balloon Fiesta Oct 2018
- Antonio Barrio presented at the National Apple Leading and Learning Conference Nov. 2018
- Apple certified staff = 18!
- Collaborating with VHS / APE
- Sarah Schuhl and Dr. Cruz Trainings

Ms. Blaakman-Abney and Ms. Rivera chose the following items to showcase from Tomé Elementary:

- TE's Balloon Fiesta Project!

- Fall Festival
- I Can for Kinder
- Renaissance Assemblies
- Character Counts / Caught Being Good
- VHS Student Leaders reading to students
- Santa / book giveaway
- Winter Festival
- Farm Unit for Pre-K

Discussion ensued regarding the following areas: the school grade was not reflective of the progress of proficiency data. Ms. Sanders attempt to have the school grade changed, but the PED would not do so. Further discussion ensued regarding the turnover in staff and administration and the rebuilding that it entailed; dual language classrooms; mobility rate, changes to testing, and their continued progress. Ms. Blaakman-Abney, Ms. Rivera and their staff were commended for their efforts, and commitment to their students and community.

## **9. DISCUSSION REGARDING STREAMING OF BOARD MEETINGS**

Mr. Otero stated that Board had discussed various ways to reach out to the public, and had looked at different ways to increase attendance at board meetings. Mr. Campanella had broached the subject again, so he added it to the agenda for Board discussion. Mr. Otero noted that several other Districts and entities were utilizing streaming of their meetings to allow individuals who could not attend in person to be able to follow meetings.

Mr. Campanella stated that school board meetings were not the most exciting for people, and unless their school was presenting, or a sport or activity was being acknowledged, attendance at meetings was minimal. He added that he felt that there was a lot of misinformation and miscommunication that occurred regarding what was said or done at meetings, and he felt that streaming them would allow people to watch the meetings at their convenience, would increase transparency, and it would deter misinformation. He wasn't sure of the logistics in the process, but would like for Ms. Sanders and her staff to look into it.

Ms. C'Moya said she agreed that board meetings were not very glamorous, and that attendance was minimal at budget discussions and in general, unless a school or activity was being recognized. She felt that streaming was an excellent idea, and that it would allow the public to hear about the amazing things that were going on in the schools and district as a whole. Ms. C'Moya added that perhaps there could be a mechanism for learning to include student video production groups.

Mr. Smith stated that he felt streaming the meetings was a tremendous idea, and he felt it would increase transparency, and would decrease misinformation that was often posted on social media sites. The public would be able to get the actual information that was discussed at the meetings.

Mr. Moody said he concurred with their comments. He added that he agreed that it might be a great learning experience for students, and would provide a great service for people who were unable to attend the meetings in person.

Mr. Otero noted that several other Districts and entities were utilizing streaming of their meetings to allow individuals who could not attend meetings in person to be able to follow what was going on in the District.

## **9. DISCUSSION REGARDING STREAMING OF BOARD MEETINGS (Continued)**

He said he too felt that it would provide an avenue to increase transparency, provide another mechanism for the public to obtain firsthand information, and cut down on innuendos and misinformation. He asked Ms. Sanders if she and her staff had looked into the capabilities and logistics of providing streaming.

Ms. Sanders reported that she, Ms. Cieremans, and Mr. Good had a discussion on the capabilities of streaming, but had not yet explored the other pieces that would go into it. She added that they would go forward with the research of best practices utilized by other Districts and entities. Further they would determine the cost of the needed equipment and its installation, the funding source for the project, the logistics of doing the streaming, inclusive of legal disclaimers, posting to the Web, whether policies and procedures needed to be expanded and/or developed, the use of students, personnel to do the streaming, along with other items associated with starting the process.

Mr. Otero announced that the item was for discussion only; no action was needed or warranted at that time. He asked that Ms. Sanders and her staff bring the item back to a future agenda as an action item once the information she had mentioned was in place.

**10. APPROVAL OF FINANCE ITEM (Needed Prior To February 26, 2019 Board Meeting): Approval of Donation from Apple Inc. for Beats Overhead Headphones for LLE, APE, and TE (Approved by Consent)**

**11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS**

Mr. Otero 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.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS (Continued)**

He then announced the following meetings:

- February 19, 2019 Finance Committee Meeting 4:30 pm CO Conference Room
- February 19, 2019 Board Work Session ~5:00 pm CO Board Room Topics: Peralta Elementary Project and Possible Land Purchase (*Quorum in Attendance*)  
*Start Time Pending End of Finance Committee Meeting*
- February 21-23, 2019 NMSBA Board Member Institute Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe, NM 309 W San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, NM (*Quorum in Attendance*)
- February 21, 2019 Board Work Session ~7:00 pm Eldorado Hotel 309 W San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, NM Topic: Board Training Regarding Board/Superintendent Relations and Empowerment (*Quorum in Attendance*)
- February 26, 2019 Regular Board Meeting CO Board Room 6:00 pm

**12. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION: Closed Executive Session Regarding Limited Personnel Matters: Specifically, Review of Superintendent's Contract Extension and Salary {Pursuant to 10-15-1 H (2) NMSA 1978}**

**Mr. Campanella moved, and Ms. C'Moya seconded, to go into Closed Executive Session for Discussion Regarding Limited Personnel Matters: Specifically, Review of Superintendent's Contract Extension and Salary. {Pursuant to 10-15-1 H (2) NMSA 1978} There being no further discussion, Mr. Otero called for a roll call vote with the following results: Brandon Campanella - yes; Milo W Moody - yes; Sonya C'Moya – yes; Bryan C. Smith – yes; and Frank A. Otero – yes. Motion passed.**

### **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board went into Closed Executive Session at 6:43 pm.

Mr. Otero called for a motion to go back into Regular Session.

**Ms. C Moya moved, and Mr. Campanella seconded, to go back into Regular Session. There being no further discussion, Mr. Otero called for a roll call vote with the following results: Brandon Campanella - yes; Milo W. Moody - yes; Sonya C'Moya – yes; Bryan C. Smith – yes; and Frank A. Otero – yes. Motion passed.**

### **REGULAR SESSION**

The Board went back into Regular Session at 7:18 pm.

Mr. Otero announced that the Board had gone into Closed Executive Session for Discussion Regarding Limited Personnel Matters: Specifically, Review of Superintendent's Contract Extension and Salary {Pursuant to 10-15-1 H (2) NMSA 1978} No other topics were discussed, nor was any action taken during Closed Executive Session.

## **13. ACTION AS NEEDED REGARDING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Smith stated the Ms. Sanders was serving the first year of a three-contract contract. He added that next November there was going to be a school board election, which was unique in that all five of the board seats were up. Given the uniqueness of the election, they were not sure what the Board dynamics would look like next January. At that time, Ms. Sanders would

still have a year and half left on her contract. The Board had discussed it, and felt that they should leave it to the sitting Board to be able to give an extension to her existing contract. With that being said, he wished to make a motion.

**13. ACTION AS NEEDED REGARDING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION (Continued)**

**Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Campanella seconded, to approve the contract for Superintendent Sanders as follows: no additional time would be added at that time to the Superintendent's current contract, which ran through June 30, 2021. The Superintendent's current salary amount would be increased by 7% and, should a cost of living increase be given to all other employees, her contract amount would be increased by that percentage as well.**

A brief discussion ensued regarding the motion and second to clarify that the 7% increase would begin with the next pay period. Ms. Sanders thanked the Board for mentioning that she had said that she would only accept a cost of living increase if the rest of the staff were given the same.

**Mr. Smith and Mr. Campanella amended the original motion and second to include that the pay increase would be effective with the new pay period. Mr. Smith further moved and Mr. Campanella seconded, that the Board President be authorized to finalize the details of the contract.**

Ms. C'Moya stated that she wanted Ms. Sanders to know that they truly valued and appreciated all she had accomplished up to this point. She added that there were still 28 months left on the superintendent's current contract and that she had no doubt that Ms. Sanders and her staff would continue to accomplish amazing things. Not knowing what the results of the election would be, they wanted to ensure stability, and still allow time for any new board members to have the opportunity to work with Ms. Sanders prior to making a decision about an extension.

Mr. Otero stated that the PED only allowed a Board to give a superintendent a three-year contract and that's what they had done last year. He added that he wanted to make it clear that

they were making a business decision and that it was not a reflection on her performance.

**13. ACTION AS NEEDED REGARDING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION(Continued)**

With a board election coming up in eight months for all five seats, they had no way of knowing what the outcome would be. He himself had left at one point, but had since returned. They simply had no way of knowing what would occur. Because one of the duties of the Board was to employ the Superintendent, they didn't feel they should infringe on that right should there be a turnover, and another group take over. The Board felt that the additional year that was already in place Ms. Sanders' contract would ensure continuity during any board transition, and would allow any new board members the opportunity to work with Ms. Sanders and make a decision on an extension past 2021.

Mr. Otero stated that with that being said, he wanted to make it clear that all five board members were in total agreement that Ms. Sanders had done an excellent job, and they wanted to show a clear vote of confidence for her by raising her salary. They knew that the 7% salary increase that was suggested was still below what some other superintendents had made here. They wanted to set her salary and evaluate her on merit, not by playing games with the use of incentives. The Board members felt that the administration, teachers, and staff looked up to Ms. Sanders, and that she had demonstrated her commitment to keeping our District one of the top school districts in the state. He added that Ms. Sanders had refused to take a pay raise in the past unless all other employees were able to do so, and she had made it clear that she would not accept a cost of living increase in the future unless all employees were given one. Mr. Otero reiterated that the Board had full confidence in Ms. Sanders and in her ability to lead the District.

Ms. Sanders thanked the Board for their comments. She added that this Board had been very supportive of what had been done and that she and her staff would continue to work hard for the kids in the district. Ms. Sanders said that she and her administration would fight tooth and nail for their kids and staff because they were the heart of the community. She added that she could not do her job without them or the Board. Ms. Sanders said she truly appreciated their generosity, and she knew that the Board knew, and was supportive of, the dedication, hard work and commitment of everyone and everything that was being done in the District on behalf of the students.

### **13. ACTION AS NEEDED REGARDING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**(Continued)**

Ms. Sanders said she understood their decision about an extension was a business decision only due to the uncertainty of the election, and that their decision was in no way a reflection of the wonderful things going on in the District.

**There being no further discussion, Mr. Otero called for a roll call vote with the following results: Brandon Campanella - yes; Milo W. Moody - yes; Sonya C'Moya – yes; Bryan C. Smith – yes; and Frank A. Otero – yes. Motion passed.**

### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Campanella moved, and Mr. Moody seconded, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion, Mr. Otero called for a roll call vote with the following results: Brandon Campanella - yes; Milo W. Moody - yes; Sonya C'Moya – yes; Bryan C. Smith – yes; and Frank A. Otero – yes. Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

**Approved this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.**

**Frank A. Otero, Board President  
Sonya C'Moya, Board Secretary**