

**LOS LUNAS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Vickers called the Los Lunas Schools Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

He welcomed the incoming board members, those who were participating in the board meeting in person and those watching the board meeting via livestream on YouTube. Mr. Vickers added that, as a reminder, the link to the meeting was on the District's webpage, under the Board of Education page. He added that the streaming would run through the end of the meeting, and, in the event there was a disruption in the audio portion, he would pause the meeting until it was reestablished.

(Board Titles reflect reorganization - ksw)

LLS BOE Members Present: Dr. Michelle Osowski, President
Monica Otero, Vice President
Justin Talley, Secretary
Bruce Bennett, Member
P. David Vickers, Member

Administrators Present: Dr. Ryan Kettler, Superintendent
Susan Chavez, Chief Student Services Officer
Andrew Saiz, Chief Personnel Officer
Sandy Traczyk, Chief Finance Officer
Jessica Montano, Interim Chief Academic Officer
Miranda Baca, Dir. of Finance
Cathy Chavez, Dir. of Special Programs
Suzanne Chavez, Dir. of Professional Learning Innovations
Mary McGowan, Dir. of Special Education
Karla Dow, Dir. of Assessment Innovations & Accountability
Desi Garcia, Dir. of Safety & Security
Mike Good, Dir. of Network Operations

1. CALL TO ORDER

(Continued)

Administrators Present:

Jacqueline Kelly-Romero, Dir. of Special Projects
Tiffany McMinn, Dir. of Maintenance/Construction
Michelle Romero, Dir. of Purchasing
Dr. Natalie Saiz, Dir. of Support Services
Elena Trodden, Dir. of Language Learning Innovations
Carlos Castillo, Business Office Supervisor
Clair Toledo, Principal, Century High School
Eric Tiger, Principal, Los Lunas High School
Albert Aragon, Principal, Valencia High School
Dr. Nimrah Marquez, Principal, Los Lunas Middle School
Joann Carter, Principal, Valencia Middle School
Lisa Begay, Principal, Ann Parish Elementary
Deanna Herrera, Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary
Diedra Martinez, Principal, Desert View Elementary
Teri Gough, Principal, Katherine Gallegos Elementary
Matthew Pendrak, Principal Los Lunas Elementary
Catharine Campbell, Principal, Raymond Gabaldon Elementary
Amy Viramontes, Principal, Peralta Elementary
Venessa Tregembo, Principal, Sundance Elementary
Monica Rivera, Principal, Tomé Elementary
Paul Carder, Asst. Principal, Valencia High School
Jennifer Otero, Asst. Principal, Valencia High School
Chelsey Servantes, Asst. Principal, Valencia High School
Michaela Coffin, Asst. Principal, Valencia Middle School
Adam Hulskamp, Asst. Principal, Bosque Farms Elementary
Sara Graf, Asst. Principal, Desert View Elementary
Katherine Trujillo, Asst. Principal, Katherine Gallegos Elementary
Cassandra Johnson-Passeno, Asst. Principal, Los Lunas Elem.
Pam Golliehair, Asst. Principal, Raymond Gabaldon Elementary
Melissa Lowther, Asst. Principal, Sundance Elementary
Sheresa Jaramillo, Asst. Principal, Valencia Elementary

Others Present:

Felina Martinez, Valencia County News Bulletin
MaryAnn Chavez, NEA-Los Lunas
Approximately twenty-five (25) additional individuals were in attendance.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING

Mr. Vickers asked Dr. Kettler to announce the meeting. Dr. Kettler 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

Mr. Vickers asked Tina Garcia, recent President of the Board, to lead the audience in the Pledge.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Vickers asked Dr. Kettler if there were any changes or deletions to the agenda. Dr. Kettler stated he did not have any changes.

Mr. Vickers called for a motion regarding the approval of the agenda. Mr. Bennett moved, and Ms. Otero seconded, to approve the agenda as submitted

Mr. Vickers asked if there was any discussion before he called for a vote.

There being none, Mr. Vickers called for a vote with the following results: Michelle Osowski – yes; Monica Otero – yes; Bruce Bennett - yes; Justin Talley – yes; and P. David Vickers – yes. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed: 5/0.

5. BOARD REORGANIZATION

Mr. Vickers announced that would lead them to Item #5. BOARD REORGANIZATION.

Mr. Vickers stated that the next order of business was the election of officers. Once the President was elected that person will take over the meeting. He said he did just want to mention, as they proceeded to the nomination election of a President that, as Ms. Garcia could verify, it was a very time-consuming job, so whoever was interested in that job, to just know there was quite a time commitment in dealing with the superintendent and other duties the President had.

A. Election of Officers

i. President

Mr. Vickers called for a nomination for Board President.

Mr. Bennett nominated himself to serve as Board President. Mr. Vickers seconded the nomination.

Mr. Vickers stated he had a nomination by Mr. Bennett and a second by himself. He asked if there was any discussion.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Vickers called for a vote with the following results: Michelle Osowski – no; Monica Otero – no; Bruce Bennett - yes; Justin Talley – no; and P. David Vickers – yes. Motion failed: 3/2.

Mr. Vickers stated he would entertain another motion for Board President.

Ms. Otero nominated Dr. Osowski to serve as Board President. Mr. Talley seconded the nomination.

Mr. Vickers stated Ms. Otero had nominated Dr. Osowski, and there was a second by Mr. Talley. Mr. Vickers asked if there was any discussion.

5. BOARD REORGANIZATION (Continued)

A. Election of Officers

i. President

There being no further discussion, Mr. Vickers called for a vote with the following results: Michelle Osowski – yes; Monica Otero – yes; Bruce Bennett - no; Justin Talley – yes; and P. David Vickers – no. Motion passed: 3/2.

Mr. Vickers stated that Dr. Osowski was the Board President. He congratulated her, and said they would then swap seats. Dr. Osowski thanked him.

The board members took a moment to switch places and Dr. Osowski took over running the meeting.

ii. Vice President

Dr. Osowski stated that she would stand for a nomination for the office of Board Vice President.

Mr. Talley nominated Monica Otero to serve as Board Vice President. Ms. Otero seconded the motion.

Dr. Osowski asked if there was any discussion. There being none, she called for a vote with the following results: Justin Talley – yes; Bruce Bennett yes; P. David Vickers – yes; Monica Otero – yes; and Michelle Osowski – yes. Motion passed: 5/0.

5. BOARD REORGANIZATION (Continued)

A. Election of Officers (Continued)

iii. Secretary

Dr. Osowski said she would stand for a nomination for the office of Board Secretary.

Dr. Osowski nominated Justin Talley to serve as Board Secretary. Ms. Otero seconded the motion.

Dr. Osowski asked if there was any discussion. There being none, she called for a vote with the following results: Justin Talley – yes; Bruce Bennett yes; P. David Vickers – yes; Monica Otero – yes; and Michelle Osowski – yes. Motion passed: 5/0.

B. Appointment to Finance and Audit Committees

Dr. Osowski stated that one of the duties of the Board President was to appoint two individuals to serve on the Finance Committee and on the Audit Committee. They did not have an opportunity to really and formerly discuss who might have an interest in serving on the Finance Committee, so she would ask then if there were any members on the Board who had an interest in serving on the Finance Committee.

Mr. Bennett stated that he would. Dr. Osowski thanked him, and asked if there was anyone else. Dr. Osowski stated that she would also be willing to serve on the Finance Committee, so she was appointing Mr. Bennett and herself to serve on the Finance Committee.

Dr. Osowski stated that they were then on the Audit Committee.

Mr. Vickers stated that he had served on that committee for two years and he would be happy to serve again.

5. BOARD REORGANIZATION (Continued)

B. Appointment to Finance and Audit Committees (Continued)

Mr. Osowski thanked Mr. Vickers. She then asked if she had anybody who expressed interest on serving for the Audit Committee.

At the inquiry from the Executive Assistant, Dr. Osowski stated that the Chair of the Finance Committee would be Mr. Bennett.

Dr. Osowski said that they were back to the Audit Committee. She asked if anybody present on the Board of Education that would be interested in serving on the Audit Committee.

Mr. Bennett stated that if no one else did, he would.

Dr. Osowski thanked Mr. Bennett. She said it was her pleasure to appoint Mr. Vickers and Mr. Bennett to the Audit Committee. She told Mr. Vickers that he would Chair, please, and thanked very much.

6. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 24-001: Board of Education Scholarship

Dr. Osowski stated that brought them their next item on the agenda, Item # 6 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 24-001: Board of Education Scholarship.

Dr. Osowski said she would stand for a motion regarding the approval of the resolution. Mr. Bennett moved, and Ms. Otero seconded, to approve Item #6. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 24-001: Board of Education Scholarship.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS (Continued)

Dr. Osowski stated that before she called for a motion to adjourn, she was going to ask - so she apologized to Mrs. Wolfe - but added she was going to go off her wonderfully crafted script for all of them, and noted that she (Mrs. Wolfe) was already giving her the glare at meeting number one. She then asked if any of the new members would like to say anything before they adjourned the meeting.

Dr. Osowski then asked Ms. Otero if she had anything that she would like to say or any public comment she would like to make. Ms. Otero thanked everyone for allowing her to be there. She was glad to be there.

Dr. Osowski asked Mr. Talley if he would like to make any comments at that time. Mr. Talley stated that he wanted to thank everyone who was serving on the Board for their time and dedication. He looked forward to working with each of them and he hoped they could bring vast, positive change to the schools.

Dr. Osowski thanked them, then said she had a few comments to make. First of all, it was National Law Enforcement Day and she would like to thank the women and men who provided security across this district, in this village, the county and the state. They valued their service and she wanted to thank them for their continued dedication to their chosen profession.

Second of all, she wanted to congratulate a student, Jalin Holland. He was recently named New Mexico's best basketball player across the entire state. That was quite an honor this young man brought to this district. The Valencia County News Bulletin described Mr. Holland as a Swiss army knife in basketball shorts, which was pretty creative if they wanted to think about that for just a moment.

Also in the gallery, and she wanted to thank him for being there, was Mr. Larry Padilla who was named the 2022-2023 New Mexico Cross-Country Coach of the Year and that was his second or third time being named as Coach of the Year. He coached all three of her sons and so they had amazing talent in this district.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS (Continued)

Dr. Osowski said that she would also like to thank, as she looked out in the gallery, their attendance that night. They were there to support any one of them or all of them, they were blessed to have them there. She was joined by her absolutely incredible husband of 29 years, their oldest son Matthew and his amazing wife Bernadette, and virtually, by her mom, and their youngest son, Colton, his wife Emily, and their newest grandson named after her husband and father, John Thaddeus. Their sons, all graduates of Los Lunas Schools, were the original inspiration for my journey that began in the classroom, and continued with this role. They were why she chose education, it was for our children, her children then and your children now. That was why she served. That was why they all served and that was why they chose education.

Also present, were fierce and resilient policy advocates, their forever friends that they considered family, a collection of legacy educators that she was fortunate enough to learn from and serve with, and now could call them her friend.

In many ways, each of them had inspired her and she thanked them for being with her and for continuing to be with her. She knew Judge Chavez had left, but she did remember their first encounter - he and she. She was an Athletic Director and he was a newly hired football coach. She would say that there was some swearing from both of them at that time, but it might not have been as pleasant as that night. She was pleased, however, that he was there. It was a full circle and it had been very surreal to have him in her life.

Dr. Osowski said she had done a little bit of light reading over the weekend. It began with the New Mexico State Statutes Annotate Chapter 22 - there about 962 pages if they wanted to read along with a book club - to refresh her memory of the Legislature's finding on purpose of educational reforms, which admittedly was at the beginning of Chapter Two, so they didn't have to go very deep.

Dr. Osowski stated that, philosophically, she agreed with the legislature on those points, and yes, she would take that moment to point out where the legislature was in error.

First and foremost, where they agreed.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS (Continued)

The legislature acknowledged that teachers and administrators played a key role in any reform efforts and acknowledged their importance in the educational process. On that point, she agreed with and appreciated the Legislators' sentiments. Each employee in the district had chosen to be in their role and willingly accepted their responsibilities, and she was appreciative that they had chosen Los Lunas Schools. She thanked them for their continued commitment to the students of Los Lunas.

Dr. Osowski stated that the Legislature continued to go on to say that teachers should be treated like any other professional and that was where she took exception with the Legislature. Educators were not like any other professionals. Other professionals were critical to our economy and national security, but may not be responsible of the success of the next generation. Without educators, they would not have those other professionals, so maybe not in her immediate responsibility in this role, she would work to correct that misconception of the Legislature.

The same section of Statute stressed the importance of systemically evaluating instructional improvements in student progress. She knew that she would press to know the data, thoroughly, so they could best establish effective policies that ensured student academic and social successes, given the plethora of evidence they had, but had yet to read and apply. Maybe not very subtle, Dr. Kettler and Cabinet, but that was a hint. She looked forward to coming to the board meetings where she would receive better information than she already knew with the purpose of making informed decisions that meet the stakeholders' needs and benefits of our students, first and foremost, for all of their stakeholders.

That same section of the Statute also called for increasing parental involvement. In order to truly accomplish reform, they most certainly could improve in that arena, and they would. It would be her focus to change the paradigm with parents, not associated with the district making up the small voice in making key decisions. She would be reaching out to many of them for their voluntary participation and their obvious answer was yes.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS (Continued)

To Misters Vickers and Bennett, Dr. Osowski stated she looked forward to working with both of them and learning from them. To Mr. Talley and Ms. Otero, Dr. Osowski said she looked forward to learning and growing with them. She was sure they could all commit to coming to those meetings well prepared in the topics in hand, with the intention of service over self-interest.

Dr. Osowski stated that, finally, they were the policy setting for the Los Lunas School System, properly and legally recognized in the Village of Los Lunas. They were not a political entity. They were not there to promote any one agenda other than what was best possible solution for their stakeholders, with the most important stakeholders being the academic and college or career preparation successes for their students.

Their role was to supervise and evaluate the superintendent, work closely with him, as he steered this ship called the Los Lunas Schools and the 9,000 students who were enrolled. She strongly and fiercely supported Dr. Kettler and she looked forward to the opportunity to work with him very closely.

Those were their swim lanes. They evaluated and they set policy. They were clearly defined in Statute and they were nonnegotiable. What else was nonnegotiable was the requirement for ethical conduct and those expectations they would meet because they could not ethically or financially tolerate anything else.

In that spirit, maintaining the highest ethical standards and working for the benefit of their stakeholders, she was honored to join the people who came before her, to continue the work they started, or the work they needed to start. She wanted to confirm that she would ask many questions. She would rise to the occasion, and she would make them proud.

With that, she said the meeting was adjourned. Dr. Osowski was reminded that she needed to call for a motion to adjourn.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Osowski called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Talley moved that they adjourn the meeting and eat some cake. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Dr. Osowski called for a vote with the following results: : P. David Vickers – yes; Monica Otero – yes; Bruce Bennett - yes; Justin Talley – yes; and Michelle Osowski – yes. Motion to adjourn passed: 5-0.

Dr. Osowski stated that she would like to invite the audience to join them. They had a wonderful dessert bar compliments of the staff, then thanked them, and invited the audience to please stay with them and enjoy.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Approved this 23rd day of January 2023.

Dr. Michelle Osowski, Board President

Justin Talley, Board Secretary

ksw