

***For Immediate Release***

**Aug. 21, 2017**

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**Superintendent and Trustee President Announce  
Superintendent's Budget Task Force**

*Local business leaders will examine CCSD budget processes as district handles budget shortfall*

**LAS VEGAS** – Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky has announced the formation of the Superintendent's Budget Task Force composed of community business leaders to assist the Clark County School District (CCSD) with its recently announced budget shortfall.

The Task Force will work with new CCSD Chief Financial Officer Jason Goudie to examine the district's current budget challenges. The district is currently closing the 2016-17 financial results but final budget amounts have not been determined.

"I appreciate that Superintendent Skorkowsky and his staff are examining ways to improve our processes," said Board of School Trustee President Deanna L. Wright. "The district is experiencing significant change through the reorganization and there are some challenging issues which need to be addressed. We want to assure our students, families, employees and the community that we are doing everything we can to implement best budgeting practices, and we are thankful that the business community is willing to help us improve."

Skorkowsky said he recently hired Goudie because of his experience turning around difficult budget situations for the Tropicana Las Vegas and the M Resort.

"I have asked our new Chief Financial Officer to use his vast experience in working with corporate finances to change the way we budget our funds, and to be transparent with me and the Trustees about any problem he finds," Skorkowsky said.

Skorkowsky said that Goudie and the Task Force will approach the CCSD budget with a private sector perspective and address the challenges of managing the district budget given uncertain funding revenues and increasing employee costs.

“With the reorganization of the district currently underway, we need to change the way we operate, including the way we bargain contracts with our employee associations, and improve the planning process for unanticipated costs when they occur. We’ll present this report to the Trustees and to the public in order to provide a better understanding and more transparent way to assist in the decision making at the school level. More detailed information will assist the School Operational Teams and the Principals in making better decisions for their students,” Skorkowsky said.

As the district was closing out its financial reports for the 2016-17 school year, the ending general fund balance was short of expectations primarily as a result of lower-than-expected funding from the State, rising employee costs due to arbitration judgments, and other expenses that exceeded estimates. Trustees will consider possible budget cuts at the Aug. 24 Board meeting.

“The Clark County School District is currently experiencing a significant budget shortfall, and I appreciate that district leadership has reached out to community business leaders to ask for our advice and input,” said Glenn Christenson, chair of the Community Implementation Council, which oversees the CCSD reorganization, former chair of the Governor’s SAGE Commission, and co-chair of the Superintendent’s Return on Investment committee. “As we continue to implement the reorganization of the CCSD Achieves initiative, we may find other challenges. This task force is the right thing to do.”

Members of the task force will include:

- Lola Brooks, CCSD Board of School Trustee member
- Jason Goudie, CCSD Chief Financial Officer
- Glenn Christenson, Chair of the Community Implementation Council and Managing Director of Velstand Investments, LLC
- Curt Anderson, Co-founder of Fair, Anderson & Langerman
- Verence Flores, Community Implementation Council member, CPA and Senior Accountant at Fair, Anderson & Langerman
- Rose McKinney-James, Managing Principal at McKinney-James and Associates and Energy Works LLC
- Frank Woodbeck, Vice Chancellor, Workforce Development, Nevada System of Higher Education
- Ryan Woodward, Community Implementation Council member and Area Manager/Senior Vice President at JP Morgan Chase

The Superintendent's Task Force will meet periodically over the coming weeks to understand the CCSD budgeting process and discuss challenges within the budget. They will produce a document for Skorkowsky that examines:

- What caused the current budget challenges that CCSD is experiencing, as well as any other challenges related to the budget process.
- Recommendations on updates/improvements to the CCSD budget processes, especially as the district works to change its budget to comply with the reorganization required under Assembly Bill 469.

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