

For Immediate Release

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CCSD Board of School Trustees meeting recap

Superintendent provides report on listening tour, and Board approves employee agreements

Board Agenda Item 5.05 – Superintendent report on listening tour and 90-day entry plan

Clark County School District (CCSD) Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara provided the Board of School Trustees with highlights of his 90-day entry plan, including a summary of his listening tour with community, staff and students.

The superintendent reported that he participated in 125 community meetings and events, attended by more than 4,660 people. In addition to his community visits, the superintendent also toured more than 100 schools and departments.

During his visits, Jara said he learned that:

- All means ALL and that every student deserves access to a rich and rigorous education and a quality teacher.
- That CCSD needs to improve teaching and learning conditions.
- That CCSD must build public trust.
- That CCSD must focus on the safety and security of our schools.

The presentation can be found [here](#):

Jara also updated the Board on progress he has made on the Focus Goals and First-Year Indicators he outlined in his 90-day entry plan, which focused on:

- Student Achievement
- Human Capital
- Efficient Operations and Finance
- Central Office Efficiencies
- Organizational Capacity and Alignment

“I get really excited about where we are headed,” Jara said. “I believe that in five years, if all adults in our community work together, we will not have any One- or Two-Star schools.”

Board Agenda Item 5.02 – Ratification of the 2018-19 Collectively Bargained Agreement between CCSD and the Education Support Employees Association

and

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Board Agenda Item 5.04 – Ratification of the 2017-19 Collectively Bargained Agreement between CCSD and the Clark County Association of School Administrators and Professional – Technical Employees.

Trustees voted 6-0 to approve items 5.02 and 5.04 regarding the ratification of contracts with employee bargaining groups. Recently, Trustees, Jara, and the leaders of all the employee associations announced that employee compensation for the 2018-19 school year has been negotiated with all five of the district's employee bargaining groups.

"This unprecedented effort allows for CCSD and its employee groups to put aside ongoing compensation negotiations, stabilize CCSD's budget for the 2018-19 school year, and unite CCSD and its employee groups as we approach a critical legislative session," said Board of Trustees President Deanna Wright.

"One of my main priorities as superintendent is to improve working relationships with all employee groups. I'm excited to join the School Board of Trustees as we partner with all our employee unions to discuss funding for CCSD during the 2019 Legislative session to increase student achievement," Jara said. "The announcement ensures that we can move toward the legislative session as one team, with one goal -- and that is to make CCSD the number one choice for students."

Board Agenda Item 5.06 – Employee Agreement: General Counsel

The Board of School Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the hiring of Eleissa Lavelle as CCSD's new General Counsel.

Lavelle has been a practicing attorney in Nevada since 1997. She has operated her own practice as well as working for national construction firms. Lavelle is also an adjunct professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law, and she has been a member of the CCSD Bond Oversight Committee since 2010, serving as chair for the past two and a half years.

Following the motion to hire Lavelle, several Trustees and Jara expressed their appreciation for the skills that she will bring to her new position and for Lavelle's volunteer work, including her leadership position on the District's Bond Oversight Committee.

Board Agenda Item 4.01 – 4.03 Naming of School Facilities

The Board of School Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the naming of three new schools to be constructed after receiving recommendations from the School Name Committee.

All three of the new namesakes were lifelong educators who had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of CCSD students.

The school names selected are:

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- Sandra B. Abston Elementary School
- Earl N. Jenkins Elementary School
- Helen Anderson Toland Elementary School

Abston began her career with CCSD as a teacher in 1989 and eventually became a principal at Kathy L. Batterman Elementary School from 2005 - 2014. Batterman was one of the highest performing schools in the district, and its students spoke 37 different languages. Her contributions in making her school high achieving, while serving such a diverse population, were some of the key reasons for her selection as a CCSD school namesake.

Jenkins began working as a teacher at Frank F. Garside Middle School from 1965 - 1975 before transferring to Bonanza High School, where he taught government classes until his retirement in 1991. The combination of his unique personality and his drive to help students learn through methods such as traveling with them to Washington D.C. to personally experience the realm of politics made him a popular and effective teacher. His efforts are now being honored with his selection as a CCSD school namesake.

Toland has spent her life breaking barriers and helping children. Toland became the first African American female principal hired in CCSD, serving at Kit Carson Elementary School and Robert E. Lake Elementary School. In addition to her tireless efforts as a teacher and principal, Toland was known for her fundraising efforts that would help send and keep young people in school, both in Las Vegas and South Africa. For her efforts going above and beyond, Toland is now being honored with her selection as a CCSD school namesake.

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