

POLICY FEE

Board of Education Las Cruces Public Schools

Related Entries: FEE-R
Responsible Office: Superintendent

SCHOOL SITE SELECTION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to collaboratively select sites for future schools that provide a safe and conducive environment for the instructional program and the learning process.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. It is the belief of the Board of Education that a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between and among the Las Cruces Public Schools, the City of Las Cruces, and Doña Ana County shall be developed and periodically updated, in order to provide a perspective from which to approach the selection of future school sites. Because schools are pivotal hubs of a community, said MOU shall codify the policies, procedures, regulations, and/or codes, of the involved entities in order to create a common vision of how future schools shall be incorporated into neighborhoods and addressed through strategic planning and/or master plans.
- B. When the District determines that a new school is necessary, it is the Board's belief that the school site will be selected through an open process that involves community stakeholders' input. Because the location of future schools and their associated facilities impact the community as a whole, the City and County shall be involved with the recommendation for selection of future sites.

III. DEFINITIONS

1. "City" means the City of Las Cruces, a governmental entity.
2. "County" means the County of Doña Ana, a governmental entity.
3. "SSSAC" means the School Site Selection Advisory Committee.

IV. PROCESS

- A. The Board of Education has the sole authority for acquiring, leasing or disposing of District property. [§ 22-5-4.D, NMSA 1978].
- B. The Superintendent shall bring forth recommendations to the Board for location of future school sites, whether through acceptance of a gift, lease, lease-purchase, or acquiring through a state-approved agreement, trade, swap, purchase or by other means.

- C. School site selection is affected by many factors including, but not limited to, health and safety, location, environment, size, cost and impact to neighborhoods. The basis upon which a site(s) is recommended shall be through a process that integrates the study, consideration and incorporation of these and other factors. Site selection must also weigh those characteristics that may adversely affect the choice for a future school.
- D. When a future school is needed, the Superintendent shall organize a School Site Selection Advisory Committee (SSSAC) to provide feedback, expertise and ultimately, a recommendation(s) to the Superintendent for a future location.
- E. When organizing the SSSAC, the Superintendent shall ensure the membership:
 - a. includes one member of the Board of Education, as selected by the Board President;
 - b. includes a minimum of two community residents;
 - c. includes members of the joint school siting committee as established through the most recent MOU with the City and County;
 - d. includes LCPS, County and City specialists who shall provide technical expertise.
- F. The Superintendent may include additional members to the Committee from other entities (such as New Mexico State University, Bureau of Land Management), if deemed necessary to the process.
- G. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be the committee chairperson who will provide regular updates to the School Board and to the joint school siting committee.
- H. When determining a recommendation(s) for a school site, the SSSAC committee shall:
 - a. abide by the terms of the most recent joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that exists between the Las Cruces Public Schools, the City of Las Cruces and the County of Doña Ana with regard to the cooperative selection of future school sites;
 - b. work toward a collaborative use of resources.
 - c. make their recommendation(s) available to the public.
- I. At the conclusion of its work, the SSSAC will send its recommendation(s) for a future school site to the Superintendent. He/she will then provide

additional considerations, if any, and prepare the final recommendation(s) to the Board of Education for consideration.

- J. A public comment period should be incorporated into the site selection process.
- K. The final responsibility for selection of a school site rests solely with the Board of Education.
- L. The Superintendent shall promulgate regulations for the enforcement of this Policy.

V. REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Maria A. Flores

Board of Education, President

April 14, 2015

Date Approved

History: New Policy, 04.14.15

Legal Reference: § 22-5-4.D, NMSA 1978