

# CUBA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
CHRISTINE MONTOYA, President  
PAMELA CAYADITTO, Vice-President  
VIVIAN KEETSO, Secretary  
TAYLOR PINTO, Member  
DIANNA MAESTAS, Member



**ADMINISTRATION**  
KIRK HARTOM, Superintendent  
RAMONA LYON, Federal Programs Director  
RHIANNON CHAVEZ, Finance Director  
AL MADERA, High School Principal  
LYNN VASQUEZ, Mid School Principal  
SHIRLEY HURFORD, Elementary Principal

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## Minutes of Special School Board Meeting February 25, 2015

5:30 PM

CIDS Board Room

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1. **Call to Order:** President, Christine Montoya called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** President Christine Montoya led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call:** Christine Montoya asked Vivian Keetso to do a roll call. President Christine Montoya – Present. Member Pamela Cayaditto – Present. Secretary Vivian Keetso – Present. Member Taylor Pinto – Arrived at 5:38 pm. Member Dianna Maestas - Present.
4. **\*Approval of Agenda:** Christine Montoya called for approval of the agenda as presented. Dianna Maestas made a motion to approve and Pamela Cayaditto seconded the motion. The motion carried.
5. **Public Comment:**

**Laura Saucedo**, CISD Special Education Coordinator – Ms. Saucedo stated that she is a long time CISD staff member and wishes to express her support for Superintendent Hartom. She cited the frequent turnover in administration as a cause of problems within the district. She also stated that Mr. Hartom is consistent and personable to staff, parents, as well as students. He displays strong leadership qualities.

**Shirley Hurford**, Elementary Principal – Ms. Hurford informed the Board that one reason she accepted the position at CISD was because Superintendent Hartom supported her philosophy of education. He is approachable and she feels the district is making progress on changes. She stated that any momentum gained in the past year would be lost with a change in administration.

**Theresa Linney**, CISD Special Education Teacher – Ms. Linney told the Board that she supports Superintendent Hartom's continued employment with the district because she knows he is here for the students. During the past year she has experienced his support during the death of a family member as well as his daily support for her as a staff member. He displays a friendly and caring demeanor in the way he handles problems within the district. He supported and encouraged staff members while they worked to obtain National Board Certification. Ms. Linney stated that the district needs continuity of leadership and if mistakes have been made during his tenure, she requested that everyone involved learn from the mistakes, together.

**MaryAnn Ga**, High School Teacher – Ms. Ga stated she has been working in the district for four years and has experienced transitions of a constant changing administration. Mr. Hartom has been a support and encouragement for the Teacher-Leader Group. He is personable and respectful to students and staff. He assists in quality professional development and encourages all to be the best for the students.

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**Heather Lucero**, parent, CISD Aquatics Coordinator, Cheerleader Coach – Ms. Lucero informed the Board that she has been in the district for the past ten years and has experienced at least six superintendents during that time. During the time Mr. Hartom has been with the district she has observed growth and stability.

**Patrick Harris**, Middle School Teacher – Mr. Harris informed the Board that he has been with the district for a very short time and compared with the school district he worked with previously, this one runs efficiently. He said his experience with Superintendent Hartom thus far has been positive because he is a good listener and is approachable.

**Stephanie Ortega**, Elementary Teacher – Ms. Ortega stated that she is experiencing her second year of teaching in the district and would like to speak in support of Superintendent Hartom. She said she finds him consistently supportive, friendly, and approachable.

**Alex Ortega**, UNM Health Sciences – Mr. Ortega spoke in support of the superintendent. He stated that his connections with the school district through UNM Health Sciences, Step Into Cuba, and Nacimiento Medical Foundation have shown that Mr. Hartom supports the initiatives for fitness and health within the district and the community.

**Lynn Vasquez**, Middle School Principal – Ms. Vasquez first of all relayed a message to the Board in support of Superintendent Hartom from Diana Irwin, Sandoval County Juvenile Justice. Ms. Irwin wrote that Mr. Hartom's commitment to the students has been apparent in working to establish programs within the district.

Ms. Vasquez stated that her decision to come work in the district was driven by the fact that she grew up in poverty and observed students here dealing with some of the same issues and conditions in which she grew up. She said she and Mr. Hartom don't always agree on everything but they discuss it and arrive at a decision that is best for the students. She asked for stability for the district and stated that goals are beginning to be realized.

**Sam Smelser**, previous Board member, district substitute teacher – Mr. Smelser stated that he has seen a number of superintendents rotate through the district. Consequently, as a result, things go uncompleted and he would like to see the "revolving door" stop.

**Jacob Martinez**, CISD Transportation Director – Mr. Martinez spoke in support of the renewal of the superintendent's contract. Mr. Martinez paralleled life relationship commitments to the commitment it takes to build a successful school district. He stated that stability and commitment of administration leads to prolific academic achievements. He said he would like to see a commitment to Mr. Hartom as a great educational leader.

#### 6. **Executive Session: Pursuant to Section 10.15.1 (H)(2)NMSA 1978, the Board reserves the right to go into executive session:**

Superintendent's Contract – President Christine Montoya called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss limited personnel issues, specifically the superintendent's contract. Pamela Cayaditto made a motion to go into executive session and the motion was seconded by Dianna Maestas. The motion carried. Roll call: President Christine Montoya – present; Vice President Pamela Cayaditto – Present; Vivian Keetso – Present; Taylor Pinto – Present; Dianna Maestas – Present. Executive session began at 6:00 pm.

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The Board returned from executive session at 7:28 pm. Ms. Christine Montoya stated that only limited personnel matters had been discussed in executive session. She then called for a motion to return to regular session. Pamela Cayaditto made a motion and Dianna Maestas seconded the motion. The motion carried. Roll call was taken. President Christine Montoya – present; Vice President Pamela Cayaditto – Present; Vivian Keetso – Present; Taylor Pinto – Present; Dianna Maestas – Present.

7. **Vote on Superintendent Contract:** Christine Montoya did a roll call vote to renew Superintendent Kirk Hartom's contract for one year. Vivian Keetso – Yes; Pamela Cayaditto – Yes; Dianna Maestas – No; Taylor Pinto – No; Christine Montoya – Yes.

The vote to renew the superintendent's contract for one year was 3 to 2 for a 1-year contract renewal. Ms. Montoya called for a motion to approve. A motion was made by Pamela Cayaditto and seconded by Dianna Maestas. The motion carried.

8. **Closing:**

**8.1 Next Regular Board Meeting, March 18, 2015, CISD Board Room:** Ms. Montoya reminded the Board of the next regular meeting on March 18, 2015, 5:30 pm, at the CISD Board Room.

**8.2 \*Adjournment:** Mrs. Christine Montoya called for a motion to adjourn the special meeting. Ms. Dianna Maestas made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Pamela Cayaditto seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned a 7:31 pm.

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Pamela Cayaditto, Vice President

ATTEST

  
Vivian Keetso, Secretary

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