# W. Mack Lyon Middle School

## Autonomous Precinct (School)

Assembly Bill 469 NRS Chapter 388G - Alternative School Management NRS 388G.500 - Legislative Findings and Declaration (Organization of Large School Districts)

# **Movement**

(2015 Legislative Session) Break-up large district Reorganize large district

# Intent of Reorg AB 469 Sec. 2 a-d

"...provides greater autonomy to school principals in making decisions, which includes allocating funds for programs or services the principal believes will improve *student achievement* or realize *greater efficiencies* at the school level."

# SOT

Each school will implement a School Organizational Team to assist the principal in making important decisions impacting the school

Teachers, Support Staff, Parents, Community Members, and Students

# Syrissa Jolley

Lyon's SOT Chair

Successes and Challenges

"Experiences"

# **Goals of Presentation**

Policies & Regs: "New Wine in Old Bottles"

Rural Equity: Disproportionate Costs!

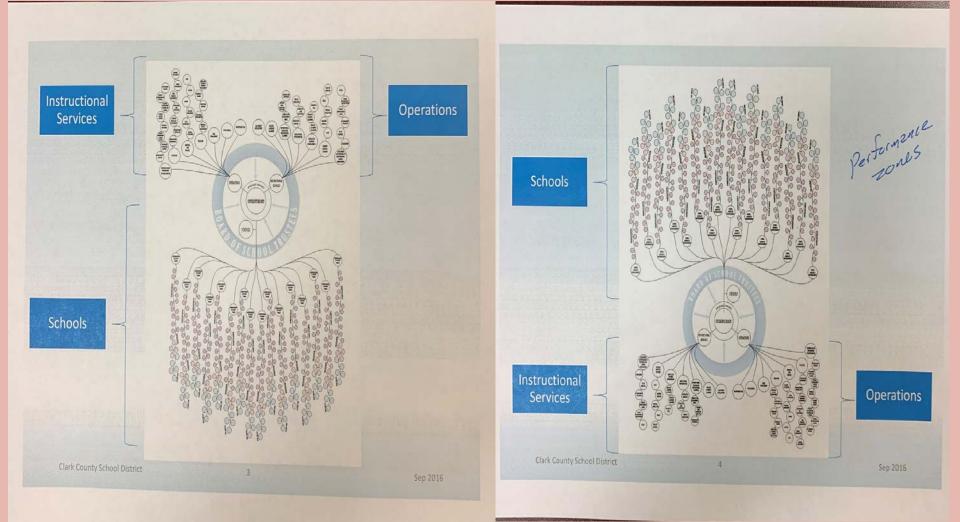
Purchasing: The Illusion of Control and Discretion

Carry Forward: Year-End & Authority to Select Staff

### Implementation Challenge

"New wine in old bottles"

September 2016 Superintendent Presentation: Middle School Principals



# Slide 11: Existing CCSD Policies and Regulations

**Red Flag** 

I raised my hand

#### **Early Detection**

NV Board of Education created Community Implementation Council (CIC)

"However, Nevada Revised Statutes and CCSD policies don't necessarily support site-based funding decisions. The shift in culture may necessitate a change to CCSD regulations..."

#### "New Wine in Old Bottles"

#### AB 469 Sec. 41: 1-2

"...the provisions of this section prevail, take precedence..."

#### What is needed?

Analysis & Alignment of Current Policies and Regulations

### **Rural Equity**

## **Disproportionate Costs!**

Rural vs Urban

- Additional teachers needed beyond enrollment
  - Comparable course offerings
  - No access to charter, magnet, or other specialty schools.
- Additional Funding: Remote location from central services

# **How to Protect Rural Schools?**

#### AB469: Section 19.3

"...must ensure that any specialty school or rural school that exists on the effective date of this act [FY2017] or before the school district becomes a large school district continues to receive not less than the proportionally larger amount of money that was used to fund the specialty school or rural school before those dates."

#### **Red Flag**

W. Mack Lyon MS immediately lost proportional funding FY18...

#### FY17-19 Fall Enrollment, Spring Projections & Beyond

- FY17 Fall: Enrollment +8 additional teachers [Law in Place]
- FY18 Spring Projection: Enrollment +6 additional teachers
- FY18 Fall: Enrollment +7 (After weeks of letters & meetings)
- FY19 Spring Projection: Enrollment +6 additional teachers
- FY19 Fall & Beyond: Enrollment +6 additional teachers

#### **Question to Central**

How can Lyon MS be proportional [% above per-pupil average in FY18] if funding for two teacher positions vanished?

#### FY17 Proportionality [Law in place]

Percentage above average per pupil

#### Lyon MS: 36.91%

Once per-pupil is truly implemented by CCSD and, if 19.3 is not adhered to, rural schools will be substantially hurt. Rural schools cost more money! Hence 19.3.

**Rural Equity: Disproportionate Costs!** 

What is needed?

State review CCSD's *interpretation* and *compliance* of 19.3.

#### Authority for Purchasing of Equipment, Services, and Supplies Available from the District by Schools

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 388G.140, #2

"Money shall be deemed allocated to a local school precinct pursuant to NRS 388G.660 only when the money is included in the portion of the budget for the local school precinct over which the local school precinct has control and discretion with respect to the manner in which the money is used."

### **Improvement Funds**

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#### The Illusion of Control and Discretion

March 12, 2021: Email Response by Deputy Chief Financial Officer to MVHS SOT's rejection of two service level agreements (SLAs):

"I don't think there is an **opt out option**. SLAs are calculated as a **district wide expense**, then assessed per pupil to each school. Once actuals are completed at the end of the year, if refunds aren't used it will reflect as carryover for FY22"

#### Negotiating SLA Agreements

Early attempts by Lyon SOT to *negotiate (modify)* Service Level Agreements

- Utilities and Trash Disposal
  - Pay our own bills.
  - Utilities management
- Met with Author (CFO) in December 2018
  - *Referenced future*: No negotiation or agreement took place.

## Negotiating SLA Agreements Energy Management Systems

January, February 2019

- Emails to Key Individuals
  - *Early planning phase* of **HVAC Project** at Lyon MS
  - SLA Author: 2/21/19 Email: Ends conversations. *Reference to future*.
  - Today, nearly complete with HVAC Project at Lyon
    - <u>No</u> shared control of energy management system

### Negotiating SLA Agreements Landscaping/Gardener & SLA

**Current Experience** 

Virgin Valley and Moapa Valley are both without a gardener.

- Centrally, without precinct input, negotiating with outside contractors.
- No negotiating of Landscape SLAs with 8 schools.
  - Requested to negotiate any agreement in the future.
- To date, not resolved.

#### Purchasing of Equipment, Services, and Supplies

#### Experiences

- **ELA SpringBoard**: Purchasing instructional materials.
- Verizon Bill: Site-based. Now centralized & late.
- **Go Guardian**: Site-based. *Now centralized*. Less effective and responsive.
- **Google Admin**: Site-based. *Now centralized*. Less effective and responsive.
- Amazon: Site-based. Nearly became centralized.
- Math textbooks purchased *centrally*.

## Purchasing of Central Services Lack of Transparency with Accounting Software

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#### Purchasing: The Illusion of Control and Discretion

#### What is needed?

#### Independent Review and Analysis of Financial Processes

Actual Implementation of SLAs

#### Carry Forward: Year-End Balance

**Challenge**: The best time to purchase a staff unit or save a teacher is during Spring Staffing for the next school year.

#### What is needed?

A process to add a portion of current year's carry forward funds to the Spring Budget.

#### Authority to Select Staff

**Challenge**: The authority to interview and select staff is fundamental.

One of the best methods to improve education is to hire well and have the authority to not hire.

What is needed?

No forced placements.

#### Intent of Reorg

#### AB 469 Sec. 2 a-d

"When more decision-making is transferred from central services in large school districts to the site-based administrators, teachers, and other staff and parents and legal guardians of pupils in each local school precinct, the State's system of public schools is better structured to educate efficiently, effectively and successfully..."

#### Policies & Regs: "New Wine in Old Bottles"

*What is needed?* Analysis & Alignment of Current Policies and Regulations

#### Rural Equity: Disproportionate Costs!

#### What is needed?

State review CCSD's *interpretation* and *compliance* of 19.3.

#### Purchasing: The Illusion of Control and Discretion What is needed?

Independent Review and Analysis of Financial Processes Actual Implementation of SLAs

#### Carry Forward: Year-End & Authority to Select Staff

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A process to add a portion of current year's carry forward funds to the Spring Budget. No forced placements.