

# Virgin Valley City of Mesquite and Bunkerville



Second Presentation to Technical  
Advisory Committee on behalf of the  
Virgin Valley Public Schools (March 2016)

Exhibit M - CCSD Tech Adv  
Document consists of 15 pages.  
Entire exhibit provided.  
Meeting Date: 03-28-16

# National Center for Research on Rural Education at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Two Primary Studies on the Effects of Family Engagement in Rural Communities:

- (1) Family-School Connections in Rural Educational Settings: A Systematic Review of the Empirical Literature, Carol A. Semke and Susan M. Sheridan (April, 2011).
- (2) Family Engagement in Rural Schools, Amanda L. Witte and Susan M. Sheridan (June, 2011).

# Background of Mesquite/Bunkerville (aka the Virgin Valley)

- City of Mesquite

Incorporated: 1984

Population: 18,000

Population under 18: 25%

Primary Industries: Casinos, Tourism

Home to: Virgin Valley ES  
Charles A. Hughes MS  
Virgin Valley HS

# Background of Mesquite/Bunkerville (aka the Virgin Valley)

- Bunkerville Township

Population: 1,000

Population under 18: 41%

Primary industry includes farming. Almost exclusively residential/rural area bordering Mesquite's southwest limit.

Home to: Joseph L. Bowler Sr. ES



# Examples of Community Engagement

- CEAB: Meeting with principals and district officials. Mission is to provide support to school administrators.
- PTOs: Provide necessary fundraising for local schools; avenue for community engagement (Elementary School Printer Story)
- Sporting Events are Community Functions
- Teacher/Community Engagement

# Four Major Issues with Solutions

1. Unavailability of Comparable Academic Programs/Experiences when compared to schools in the Las Vegas Valley
2. Special Education
3. Collective Bargaining/Teacher Needs
4. Transportation

# Issue 1: Academics

Virgin Valley hindered by policies that make sense in Las Vegas Valley, but do not in the Virgin Valley

Ex 1: The Culinary Arts Class

Ex 2: Dual-Credit Classes

Ex 3: English Language Learners

# Issue 1: Academics

## Proposed Solutions:

- Allow community leaders to assist in vocational/technical training of students
- Allow *meaningful* communication between community leaders and school leaders
- Reduce red-tape of large Human Resources/Legal Department
- Local control over ELL education



# Issue 2: Special Education

“Numbers-based” needs assessment based on population of Las Vegas Valley has an extremely low probability of success in the Virgin Valley.

Example: Placement of Special-Needs Students

# Issue 2: Special Education

## Proposed Solutions:

- Allow for geographic placement
- Allow for age-based placement

# Issue 3: Teacher Needs

Virgin Valley Teachers are subject to collective bargaining agreements that may create professional/familial burdens

Ex 1: Professional Training

Ex 2: Healthcare

Ex 3: Teacher Recruitment

# Issue 3: Teacher Needs

## Proposed Solutions:

Allow Virgin Valley teachers to be a  
Collective Bargaining Unit.

# Issue 4: Transportation

Ineffecient transportation rules based on policies that work well in Las Vegas Valley

Ex 1: Bus Routes are based on Las Vegas Valley formulas

Ex 2: No extra funding for necessary additional travel

Ex 3: Access to special needs busses

# Issue 4: Transportation

## Proposed Solution:

Allow local control over transportation funding decisions, bus routes and access/purchasing of necessary equipment.



# Conclusion

- Virgin Valley does not have a parental engagement problem
- Virgin Valley does not have a community engagement problem
- Virgin Valley's increased involvement and control over community education will lead to statistically proven results and better opportunities for students