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## **School Board criticized for executive contracts**

### **Members told perks, benefits too costly in time of hardship**

By JAMES HAUG  
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The Clark County School District's executive staffers are treated as if they belong on Wall Street, "where perks are handed out irrespective of financial condition and performance," an administrators' union official told School Board members Thursday.

Stephen Augspurger, the executive director of the Clark County Association of School Administrators and technical-Professional Employees, wasn't the only one who voiced that opinion during a School Board meeting. Several speakers complained about what they viewed as the Clark County School Board's lack of oversight in approving two-year contract extensions that included more than \$100,000 in new perks and benefits for Charlene Green, deputy superintendent of support services; Bill Hoffman, district general counsel; Lauren Kohut-Rost, deputy superintendent of instruction; Martha Tittle, chief human resources officer; and Jeff Weiler, chief financial officer.

The new benefits come at a time of financial hardship. The district now faces a reduction in promised funding from the state, which is trying to make up a projected \$887 million revenue shortfall. In hearings before lawmakers meeting in special session this week, Clark County Superintendent Walt Ruffles testified 2,300 teachers would be laid off if he had to cut \$150 million from the district's budget.

"It's disgusting," said Henderson parent Kevinn Donovan to the School Board. "It's your duty to do your job or resign. You should all be ashamed."

Donovan has also asked the attorney general's office to investigate the district for a possible open meeting law violation for not giving the public proper notice of the contracts, which were approved at an Oct. 7 workshop.

School Board members and executive staff remained silent in the face of criticism. They gave no indication of whether they would rescind the contracts as requested.

Several speakers also questioned whether the School Board was getting accurate information from district staff.

Augspurger said Ruffles' offer to take a 10 percent salary cut -- a decrease of \$30,700 from his \$307,000 annual salary -- is not as generous as it sounds because he can still cash in as many as 20 vacation days. If he did so, his salary cut would be less than \$5,000.

Ruffles did not respond to an e-mail request for comment.

Contact reporter James Haug at [jhaug@reviewjournal.com](mailto:jhaug@reviewjournal.com) or 702-374-7917.

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