

New America School-Las Cruces

Governing Council

Thursday, February 11, 2016,

5:00 PM

207 S. Main

Las Cruces NM

Board Members Present: Susie Kimble (Vice-President), Toby Rue, Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski (Treasurer), John Munoz (President)

Regrets: Martha Valdez (Secretary)

Staff Present: Dominic DiFelice, Margarita Porter, Craig Cook, Veronica Gonzalez, Mike Vigil II

Minutes of the GC

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:06.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. The mission statement was read by Susie Kimble.
4. Students of the months were introduced. If parents/relatives were in attendance they were introduced. Students answered questions from the GC members. The following students received awards:
 - Isai Torres
 - Reyna Ruiz
 - Cesar Moncada
 - Joanna Hernandez
 - Liz Villa
 - Andres Gonzalez
 - Jesica Rodriquez

In addition, Mr. Wiburg who has volunteered in the resource center was introduced and thanked for his contributions.

5. The consent agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.
6. The principal reviewed a number of policies up for renewal. These policies have previously been vetted by Council attorney. A number of changes were suggested by the GC: inserting “perceived” in the bullying policy, modifying the notification letter in the pesticide policy and including date for renewal for all policies. Revised versions will be available for the GC. Moved by Susie Kimble and seconded by Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski that all policies be approved with the edits suggested. Votes: Unanimous. Further moved by Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski and seconded by Toby Rue that policies be reviewed every three years except when required. Also, that the attendance policy be reviewed annually. Votes: Unanimous.
7. Each board member requires 5 hours of training annually. Three options for the GC were outlined. It was decided the majority would attend a customized training session provided by Matthews-Fox at a time mutually agreed to. April 8 and March 4th were suggested. These dates will be checked out with the trainers to determine a fit.
8. Mike Vigil II presented the financial reports ending January 31, 2016. He noted that the finance committee met prior to the GC meeting to review the reports in detail. Revenues were reported as being received as normal with a large distribution for HB-33 of a little

over \$46.5k. Expenditures remained largely the same with only one large overage for concurrent licenses out of the instructional fund which was mentioned with the last month's reports. It was explained that all overages should be able to be covered by the school's growth adjustment which the PED has indicated will be released at the end of February. Also, the school should expect to see award letters for carryovers for all its federal funds over the next few weeks and BARs will need to be presented at March's meeting. Revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately \$26k resulting in a bank balance to the GL of \$916,840.33. The activity account reconciled at \$5,083.35. It was mentioned that the budget process for FY16-17 would begin in the coming weeks. Craig Cook added that during the budget process, those involved will be tasked with creating a balanced budget without utilizing projected cash carryover. Cook also mentioned the possibility of federal Title I funds being withheld if the school did not achieve 95% participation in PARCC testing in accordance with what the PED had communicated earlier in the day to charter school leaders. Mike introduced BAR #0012I to increase projected revenue in the Food Service fund based on revenues received to date. BAR #0013IB was introduced as a new grant for food service equipment. This grant was secured by Mr. Roberto Lozano with the intention of a food warmer for the food service program. Moved by Susie Kimble and seconded by Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski that the two BARs be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous.

9. This month's dashboard compared last year and this year data on attendance, passing rates in the core subjects and discipline stats.
10. Principal report:
 - 80th day count= 284, 120th day count=312
 - A Serve It Up club formed to provide community service
 - The school visited La Academia middle school to recruit grade 9s
 - 20 graduates in December
 - 72 potential graduates for May
 - Anti-bullying meeting with DAC CAB
 - Susie Kimble and Margarita in Santa Fe for Las Cruces Day
 - Principal attending NWEA conference in Baltimore in March
 - An excellent flyer outlining over 21 program distributed
 - John Munoz indicated a \$10,000 contract with Domonic Silva was agreed to for lobbying services. A scope of work including frequent updates was part of the renewal.
11. Craig provided a brief update on the FMP. He also indicated that with the passage of the mill levies the school will receive approximately \$185,000 per year for the next six years. These dollars are restricted in usage.
12. Public Input: None.
13. Adjournment 6:34 pm

Next Meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at New America School 207 S. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Signed _____
Martha Valdez, Secretary