

New America School-Las Cruces

Governing Council

Thursday, April 12, 2018

5:00 PM

207 S. Main

Las Cruces NM

Board Members Present: Susie Kimble (President), Martha Valdez (Secretary), Fernando Macias, Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski (Treasurer), Toby Rue (Vice-President)

Regrets: Oscar Juarez

Staff Present: Margarita Porter, Dominic DiFelice, Christina Montoya, G. Harley, J. Graves, Kyle Hunt, Veronica Gonzales

Guest: Megan Shannon (CSD)

Minutes of the GC

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Susie Kimble
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. The mission statement was read by Susie Kimble
4. The following students were presented student of the month awards.
 - Jesus Prieto, 15
 - Jovan Gonzalez, 16
 - Keila Aguilera, 17
 - Kirsten Angeli, 22
 - Diana Baca Guerrero, 23
 - Victoria Perez, 33
5. The following teachers received exemplary/highly effective awards from the PED
 - Christy Jo Serna, E
 - Tommy Esparza, HE
 - Dawn Catanach, HE
 - Lorynn Guerrero, HE
 - Laura Carrion, HE
6. Margarita also acknowledged her assistant principal Christina Montoya.
7. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Toby Rue that the agenda be approved as amended (move item #5 to the top of the agenda). Votes: Unanimous.
8. The chair indicated that this was the first of three public hearings to discuss the 2018-19 draft school budget. She introduced Toby Rue and Kyle Hunt to highlight the draft budget. After a brief introduction from Toby, Kyle provided the following summary. He discussed the challenges we are facing this budget season including the 1.8% SEG increase, the state mandated 2.5% average pay increase for both instructional and non-instructional staff, and other rising/expected costs next year such as the expected increase in employee benefits, reduction in lease assistance, and other line items in the budget. There were several questions from the audience that both Toby and Kyle addressed.
9. Moved by Martha Valdez and seconded by Fernando Macias that the minutes of March 15, 2018 be approved. Votes: Unanimous.
10. There was considerable discussion regarding hiring a lobbyist(s) to address critical issues for the school. These include: over 21 funding, small school size and developing a fair alternative accountability framework. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Martha Valdez that the GC give authority to Fernando Macias and Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski to interview and hire a lobbyist(s) for the school with a cap of \$5,000 up to July 1, 2018. Votes: Unanimous.

11. Based on feedback from the public hearing the GC discussed at some length issues arising from the public hearing. No definitive action was taken at this time but the finance committee will consider the discussion as part of reviewing the draft budget for its second iteration.
12. Kyle presented the 03/31/2018 financial reports to both the finance committee before the meeting and the GC during the regularly scheduled monthly open meeting. There was one BAR presented to the GC, an increase in Title II for the final allocation from PED for FY18. The unrestricted cash balance at the end of 3/31/18 was \$553,724.28. There was clarification that the NMPSIA premiums for all employees (not dependent on plan) are split on an 80/20 basis.
Moved by Toby Rue and seconded by Martha Valdez that the financial report be accepted and BAR # 0023I be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
13. Margarita and Susie outlined some of the changes to GC membership that have been made by the PED. GC training dates were also announced.
14. This month's dashboard indicated results of the incentive program the school has piloted to reduce student absences. Data would indicate it has reduced absenteeism. The principal was asked to analyze the data by quarters for 2018-19 for all subjects.
15. Highlights from the principal report
 - PARCC preparation and incentives
 - Upcoming parent surveys
 - NMSU volunteers in the classrooms
 - Voter registration
 - Performance of school mariachi band
 - Principal to be interviewed for PPE
 - New interviews for Kellogg's grant coordinator
16. Public Input: There was a lengthy discussion by staff present regarding salary issues. Stipends, incentives and higher stipends for MA degrees were discussed.
17. Adjournment 7:32 pm

Next Meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday May 10, 2018 at New America School 207 S. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Signed _____
Martha Valdez, Secretary