

New America School-Las Cruces

Governing Council

Thursday, January 16, 2020

5:00 PM

207 S. Main

Las Cruces. NM

Board Members Present: Susie Kimble (President), Fernando Macias (Vice-President), Martha Valdez (Secretary/Treasurer)

Regrets: Oscar Juarez, Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski

Staff Present: Margarita Porter, Craig Cook, Kyle Hunt, Dom DiFelice, Christina Montoya

Minutes of the GC

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Susie Kimble
2. Matt Pahl, Richard Romero and Sue Griffith were on the line to discuss updates on the legislative session vis a vis NAS. The lobbyists have met with legislators on many occasions to advocate for our specific needs namely adult education and small school size. A total of 281 bills have been filed requesting some of the \$790M of new money. Bill 88 sponsored by Trujillo asks for \$3M to go to adult education and \$7M for incarcerated students. She has been asked by our lobbyists to change the wording of the bill to include NAS students. Bill 89 is specific to Gordon Bernell ~ \$2M. Senate bill 112 provides \$3M/yr. to higher ed. to flow to charter schools at approximately \$6K per student. HB 47 deals with small school size. The good news is that a proposed bill would offer schools \$250 per half credit earned by adult students. There is also industry certification money available as well as \$1000 per adult student who graduate. All this money would be paid to schools after successfully completion by students. There is a strong possibility that many of these bills will be combined into one bill that will address the adult issue.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. The mission statement was read by Susie Kimble
5. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Martha Valdez that the agenda be approved as amended. Votes: Unanimous.
6. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Martha Valdez that the minutes of December 19, 2019 be approved. Votes: Unanimous.
7. The finance committee met prior to the meeting to discuss the financial reports ending December 31st 2019. Kyle Hunt reviewed the various aspects of the reports to the GC. There is \$1.6 M available under the revenue stream. Approximately \$475,000 is still unencumbered. No issues with outstanding PO's. There is \$585K in unrestricted cash available and \$797.5K restricted cash. The activity account shows \$4,100 available. No BARs were presented.
8. The Pesticide Policy was last approved in 2013. Changes were made by our attorney Susan Fox. Parents and students are alerted when pesticides will be used on school grounds. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Martha Valdez that the Pesticide Policy be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
9. The school's administrator's contract was reviewed. It was recommended that Susan Fox and Craig Cook work to incorporate changes discussed. In particular, comp time will be tracked (use it or lose) and unused vacation days will be paid out except for five days that will carry forward. The contract will come back in May for discussion and approval. Moved by Martha Valdez and seconded by Fernando Macias that the proposed changes be brought back to the May GC meeting. Votes: Unanimous.
10. The appraised value of the building is \$3.3M. There have discussions of a 6% or 8% loan after a \$500,000 down payment. The down payment would come from the restricted cash account. Amortizing the loan over 20-30 years would result in significant savings to the annual lease payments. The lease reimbursement from the state would continue with a possible 20% reduction from current levels. Further talks are scheduled.

11. The principal presented a chart showing 2 year growth of students on the Access test. During two years 25 students were counted. Overall growth was 3.3 vs 3.0 from the previous year.

12. Principal's Report:

School

- Charter School Division Visit: today: January 16th
- Student count: 211, (40 day: 197, 80 day: 181, 8% decrease)
- CLR: Culturally and Linguistically Responsive team. January 30, February 25-26th. If you can join me, please let me know.
- LCPS: extended contract. For teachers, going from 183 to 193 with an additional \$3,000. Students will go from 176 to 186. I will be discussing it with my staff with students in mind.
- Capital Outlay: requested: \$40k Promethean boards, \$35k 3-D computers, \$35k Chromebooks

Community

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, 9-1130 community service, lunch at Jake's and movie. Just Mercy will begin at 1230. Our confirmed sites: Habitat for Humanity, Camp Hope, Salvation Army, Keep LC Beautiful (3 locations), La Casa and Gospel Rescue Mission. Sun News interviewed a student and me on the 14th.

Professional

- Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe: January 25-27. I will not be attending this year.
- PED Forum on the 23rd and PPE: January 28, 29,
- CLR Training: Jan. 30.
- New hires: English night: Susan Martin, Security: Jaime Padilla, custodian/food services: Aylin Ibanez

13. No GC development training this evening.

14. Adjournment 6:45 pm

15. Next Meeting February 20, 2020

Signed _____

Martha Valdez, Secretary