

## **New America School-Las Cruces**

Governing Council

Thursday, June 25, 2020

5:00 PM

207 S. Main

Las Cruces. NM

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

**Regrets:** Oscar Juarez, Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski

**Staff Present:** Margarita Porter, Craig Cook, Mike Vigil II, Dom DiFelice, Christine Montoya, Veronica Gonzalez, Kyle Hunt

**Special Guest:** Kelly Callahan, T Fitzpatrick, Gena Trujillo, Crystal Bridges, S. Baker, F. Gutierrez

### **Minutes of the GC**

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm by Susie Kimble
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. The mission statement was read by Susie Kimble
4. Moved by Martha Valdez and seconded by Fernando Macias that the agenda be adopted as amended. Votes: Unanimous.
5. Public Input: The chair greeted the guests present and asked if they wished to make comments or ask questions.
6. Moved by Martha Valdez and seconded by Fernando Macias that the minutes of May 14, 2020 be approved. Votes: Unanimous.
7. There were a number of changes to the Employee Handbook as revised by staff and Susan Fox. In particular Superintendent/Principal to be inserted, unspent vacation up to 10 days for the Sup/Principal, and it was noted Susan Fox would also provide a Covid-19 appendum. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Martha Valdez that the Employee Handbook be approved as amended. Votes: Unanimous.
8. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Martha Valdez that Part-Time Resolution 2020-06-25-01 be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
9. Kyle Hunt presented the FY2020-2021 budget. There were to changes since the last budget that was approved in April 2020. No action was required; however, it was noted that the 4% salary increase to all staff would be contingent on appropriated funds from the state and that the increase be no lower than 1%.
10. The Finance Committee met prior to the GC meeting to discuss the financial reports ending May 30, 2020. No unexpended surprises in any of the various reports. With changes to GASB that are effective this year, we can no longer hold activity funds without budgeting them through PED's activity fund number. BAR #17 is for cash carried over from the previous fiscal year in activity funds, and BAR #18 recognizes the revenue for our activities this year. Moved by Martha Valdez and seconded by Fernando Macias that BARs 17 and 18 be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
11. Facility Update: Craig Cook and Kyle Hunt discussed the progress on the lease-purchase of the school building. An offer of \$3.77M from FYI was received that was in line with the appraised value. It was for 20 years at 8% with an \$800,000 down payment. The school will counter with \$600,000 down payment and 8% over 25 years amortization.
12. There was some discussion with the Superintendent contract. It was suggested that the term go to June 30, 2023 (subject to charter renewal), a minimum base salary of \$120, 996.56 subject to annual salary increases to staff (as noted in the FY2020-2021 budget). Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Martha Valdez that the Superintendent contract be approves as discussed. Votes: Unanimous.
13. The approved school calendar will need to be modified based on feedback from the learning community and alignment with LCPS. Several scenarios were discussed on re-entry of students subject to Covid-19 guidelines. It is still too early to finalize the calendar. Moved by Martha Valdez

and seconded by Fernando Macias that the Superintendent be given authority to modify the school calendar subject to further discussions with the school's community. Votes: Unanimous.

14. The Board and staff recognized Dominic for his contributions during the past 10 years working with the school.
15. This month's dashboard highlighted passing rates for Math, Science, English, and Social Studies classes. The discrepancies with several teachers were noted with some concern. Margarita will probe further into these low passing rates.
16. Superintendent report:
  - Total of 49 graduates
  - Re-entry plans discussed
  - CARES grant for \$45,000
  - Plexi-glass for the office, masks for students, and 15 standalone hand sanitizer stations
  - Looking for graduation options
17. Kelly Callahan discussed training hours submitted, school report submitted to the PEC, a need for a new MOU and special thanks to Dom.
18. Adjournment 6:46 pm
19. Next Meeting TBD

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Martha Valdez, Secretary