

New America School-Las Cruces

Governing Council

Thursday, February 17, 2022

5:00 PM

207 S. Main

Las Cruces. NM

Board Members Present: Susie Kimble (President), Fernando Macias (Vice-President), Martha Valdez (Secretary/Treasurer), Oscar Juarez, Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski, Roberta Stathis

Regrets:

Staff Present: Margarita Porter, Ashley Wolfel, Jack Fitzpatrick, Christina Montoya, Lorynn Guerrero,

Special Guest: Kelly Callahan, Craig Cook

Minutes of the GC

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
 2. The mission statement was read by Susie Kimble.
- Students of the Month were recognized both online or in-person.
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|----------------------|-------------------|
| Cristian Acosta | Gabriela Martinez |
| Shastine Baney | Jamilex Ponce |
| Carmen Carrion | Ruby Renteria |
| Fernando De La Torre | Gilberto Sanchez |
3. Public input: Ms. Guerrero would like for the GC to consider the mask policy to maintain masks for students who are unvaccinated. For all others, they may be indoors without a mask.
 4. Quorum was reached at 5:36 pm.
 5. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Roberta Stathis that the agenda be accepted as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
 6. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski, that the minutes of January 27, 2022 be approved. Votes: Unanimous.
 7. Ashley presented the budget reports covering the school until 1/31/2022 and BARs 0030-M, 0031-I, 0032-I, 0033-I, to the finance committee. The finance committee had already reviewed the reports prior to the general board meeting to identify any irregularities. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Oscar Juarez that the financial report and BAR be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
 8. Discussion about the zoning for cannabis within 300 feet of the school. No proper notice was given in a written or electronic form. The notice was seen in a published newspaper. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Roberta Stathis that the Board President and Superintendent be empowered to communicate to the Zoning Department the opposition to any waiver of 300ft of the required distance of a school. Votes in favor: 5, Abstaining; 1
 9. Discussion about incentives for student to be vaccinated was tabled until the special meeting to gather more information about gift cards and cash payments.
 10. Board training: Kelly Callahan informed the board that they earned .5 hours of CLR training due to the Black Education Act in the staff handbook. The Superintendent will complete the evaluation in the next few weeks. Kelly will be on campus to complete more training.
 11. Renewal update: None. No set date for the negotiations. The Facilities Master Plan is 75% complete.
 12. Superintendent report:
 - NAS-LC has begun the Near Peer Grant. We hired 8 students and 4 will be on the list for August. The grant is for two years.
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on Feb. 11. A survey was included to ask parents for their input regarding extra learning days, start of school, electives.
 - Meeting with Mr. Ramos and the LCPS team was on February 17 regarding SpacePort money.

- ACCESS testing is happening right now. This is the required test to indicate how our students are acquiring English.
- Contact was made with the fine arts teachers at La Academia to continue those programs here. Our mariachi program dwindled and is no longer. We would like to rebuild it and bring ballet folklórico.
- Attendance: As a staff, we are going to have interventions for our students. We are going to begin with seniors who are not passing their courses.

Community

- NAS is making an impact- even to schools in Albuquerque. A charter school reached out to learn about the process.
- On Saturday, 1/29, NAS and all charter schools were out on the Plaza. There was a great turnout. We hope to do this again in the spring.
- CYFD will be providing support to student about healthy relationships.

Professional

- NAS-LC, Alma and Las Montanas are in conversations about joining forces to ask PED for money to support Equity Council. We would like to contract with an independent contractor to support these conversations.
- Mr. Sillas and Ms. Reyes will be completing their PED professional development on CLR.
- New Covid Schoolkit was released. This document has all of the new guidelines for Covid.
- PMG, Covid company. They are working with the PED. They will be on campus at NAS-LC on Mondays and Wednesday to provide rapid response Covid results. "Test to Stay" is the current slogan. A child will need to test 1, 3, 5, 7 days of exposure. If negative, they can stay in school. This goes for staff also.
- NAS-LC received 18K for the Near Peer Grant. This grant will employ 8 students to be tutors at either elementary/middle school. Ms. Medina is the coordinator. She will begin to advertise, interview and place students. The potential sites are Central and Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy.
- Graduation will be a summer event, after summer school.

Community

- Recruitment efforts are going on with the other charter school. On January 29 at the Farmer's Market from 9:30-12.
- MLK Day was a success. We had 60 students participate in 5 locations.

Professional

- Panelist for discussing practices that can be supported using ESSER funds.
- Podcast participant with Ms. Guerrero. The topic was adult funding.

Masks: there will be a special meeting on Monday, February 21 at 2pm to vote on the mask policy.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm. Next general meeting is March 17, 2022 at 5pm.

Signed _____
Martha Valdez, Secretary