



The New America School-Las Cruces
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Lenas.org

Hon. Jared Polis, Founder
Susie Kimble, President
Margarita Porter, Superintendent

New America School-Las Cruces
Governing Council
Thursday, December 14, 2023
5:00 PM

Board Members Present:

- Susie Kimble (President)
- Roberta Stathis (VP)
- Julia Rivera-Tapia (Sec)
- Jesus Lozoya
- Jessica Castro-Buelna
- **Regrets:** Oscar Juarez

Staff Present:

- Ashley Wolfel
- Jack Fitzpatrick
- Margarita Porter
- Christina Montoya

Special Guests:

- Craig Cook, Kelly Callahan

Minutes of the GC

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. The mission statement was read by Susie Kimble.
3. Quorum was reached at 5:37 pm.
4. Motion to approve the agenda as presented. Moved by Julia Rivera-Tapia and seconded by Jesus Lozoya that the agenda be accepted as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
5. Motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2023 and November 14, 2023. Moved by Jesus Lozoya and seconded by Julia Rivera-Tapia that the minutes from both meetings be accepted as presented. Votes: unanimous.
6. Ashley presented the budget reports covering the school until November 30, 2023. The finance committee had already reviewed the reports prior to the general board meeting to identify any irregularities. BARS that were presented were 00020-IB, 00021-IB, 00022-M, 00023-T, 00024-T, 00025-IB. Moved by Jesus Lozoya and seconded by Jessica Castro-Buelna that the financial reports and BARs be approved. Votes: Unanimous
7. Moved by Susie Kimble and seconded by Jesus Lozoya to accept Jessica Castro-Buelna as Secretary as Julia Rivera-Tapia resigns. Votes: unanimous
8. Moved by Jesus Lozoya and seconded by Julia Rivera-Tapia to approve all travel costs for hotel accommodations for previous Chicago trip and any travel moving forward. Votes: unanimous
9. Public input: none

Superintendent's Report

Students of the Month:

- Santiago Avalos
- Jose Chacon
- Layla Charles
- Kimberly Miller
- Jessica Martinez
- Jeremiah Self
- Evalyan Torres
- Kenneth Vasquez-Ruiz
- Ernesto Orozco

Dashboard: NM Vistas has released two data sets: 2022 and 2023. The data is compared for the two years. It indicates growth in ALL areas. The total score for NAS-LC increased from 16 to 38 points. NAS-LC is still designated a CSI school (Comprehensive Support and Improvement). Math improvement increased 3%, reading improvement increased 17%, regular attendance increased from 31% to 38%, graduation growth for 4-year rate increased 8%, 4-year grad rate increased from 23% to 45%, 5-year grad rate went from 28% to 42% and 6-year grad rate increased by 1%.

School

- Fun Friday, Dec. 8.: Social Emotional Learning cycles and Christmas crafts. Part of this work was to create the mural.
- Our count for 80-day is about 190.
- We are restructuring our master schedule to include four core class credit recovery. This is going to help students who are lacking credits and are behind on reaching their graduation date.
- Ms. Montoya applied and was awarded a cafeteria grant! We will purchase a milk refrigerator.
- Wednesday, Dec 13, we went to JPTA to recruit students.

Community

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: if you have a location that might need our students in the morning, please let me know.
- Innovation Grant Internships:
 - 1 student accepted at Select Realty, 1 waiting back on an interview that they had this week, and 1 just applied
 - 1 student accepted at Barricade Culture Shop
 - 1 student accepted at Rad Retrocade
 - 1 student interviewed at NM Dreamteam
 - 1 student has an interview this week at Cruces Creatives
 - 2 students applied to Big Brother Big Sister
 - 2 students applied to New Mexico State University Borderland and Ethnic Studies
 - 1 student about to apply to the Spa Downtown
 - 1 student about to apply to Birth Theory (Doula and birth education)
- A total of 10 students participating in the process so far!

Professional

We are looking to fill:

- Full-time security guard
- Our EA moved into the Special Ed EA position to support special ed students

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm. Next meeting will be January 11, 2024.

Signed _____ Jessica Castro-Buelna, Secretary