



The New America School-Las Cruces  
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Lcnas.org

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

**New America School-Las Cruces**  
Governing Council  
Thursday, May 9, 2024  
5:00 PM

**Board Members Present:**

- Susie Kimble (President)
- Roberta Stathis (VP)
- Jessica Castro-Buelna (Sec)
- Jesus Lozoya

**Regrets:**

- Oscar Juarez,

**Staff Present:**

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

**Special Guests:**

- Craig Cook

Public input: Tommy Esparza spoke to the Board acknowledging their generosity and work they do for our school. He also recognized the work of the administration and staff.

**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 5:20 pm.
4. The Budget was discussed by Ashley Wolfel.
5. Moved by Jessica Castro-Buelna and seconded by Roberta Stathis that the agenda be accepted as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
6. Moved by Jesus Lozoya and seconded by Jessica Castro-Buelna that the minutes from the general meeting on April 11 ,2024 be accepted as presented. Votes: unanimous.
7. Ashley presented the budget reports covering the school until April 30, 2024. The finance committee had already reviewed the reports prior to the general board meeting to identify any irregularities. BARS that were presented were 00052-I, 00053-I. The salary schedule was presented and the 3% raise was explained. Moved by Roberta Stathis and seconded by Jessica Castro-Buelna that the financial reports and BARs, salary schedule and 2024-25 budget be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous
8. Moved by Roberta Stathis and seconded by Jessica Castro-Buelna to approve for the Superintendent and the Business Manager to enter and submit any final Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) on behalf of the school to maintain budgetary compliance for audit and other regulatory purposes. This process will only be completed with the understanding that the BARs will not impact actual cash and will solely address budgetary compliance. In addition, any BARs submitted as allowed under this approval will be brought before the GC at the next open meeting with review and detailed explanation. Votes: Unanimous

9. The Corrective Action Plan was presented with the 2 audit findings. Moved by Jessica Castro-Buelna and seconded by Jesus Lozoya to accept the CAP as presented. Votes: unanimous.
10. Moved by Roberta Stathis and seconded by Jesus Lozoya to accept the Vigil Group PSA as presented. Votes: unanimous.
11. Moved by Roberta Stathis and seconded by Jesus Lozoya to accept the Charter Law Office PSA as presented. Votes: unanimous.
12. Moved by Jessica Castro-Buelna and seconded by Jesus Lozoya to accept Title I, II and III as presented. Votes: unanimous.
13. Moved by Roberta Stathis and seconded by Jesus Lozoya to allow the higher hotel costs for GC/school travel to the National Charter School Conference in Boston. Votes: aye: 3, abstain: 1.

#### Superintendent's Report

##### **Students of the Month**

Ethan Aguirre  
Liam Baney  
Jesus Chacon  
Karla Gomez  
Jordan Salas  
Tristan Santana  
Liliana Sosa

##### **Dashboard**

Graduation Profile. 79 surveys were returned. They were from community members, non-profits, staff, students, parents.

##### **School**

- May 17<sup>th</sup> prom. 6pm-10pm. We have food donations from Roberto's. We also have donations from Walmart.
- Innovation Grant was submitted on May 3. We requested \$182,000 for next year. This money will be used for our Graduation Specialist, our nighttime teacher salary and \$20,000 for student stipends.
- Seniors: 56. On Friday, we went over each student and their progress toward graduation. We are having hard conversations with students. They must be done with all of their coursework and PASSING by June 25.
- Staff: our staff will opt to the 158-day calendar if possible. There will be another hearing on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The hearing is in Curry County.

##### **Community**

- Soroptomist Club: the Dream It, Be It Conference was on April 20. Seven students participated.
- Select Realty(Raul Telles) sponsored two student interns. They both received full scholarships to continue with obtaining their real estate licenses.
- On Saturday, May 4, 2024, NAS hosted an intro presentation to NM College in Espanola. We made a commitment to hosting a teacher resident for the year 2024-25. If it goes through, then we would have a resident teacher. We are waiting for next steps.

##### **Professional**

- Ms. Porter was in a training May 6-7. Personal leave on May 13, 14, 20 and 21.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm. Next meeting will be June 20, 2024.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Jessica Castro-Buelna, Secretary