



The New America School-Las Cruces
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Las Cruces, NM 88001
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Lcnas.org

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

New America School-Las Cruces
Special Meeting
Governing Council
Thursday, February 13, 2025
5:00 PM

Board Members Present:

- Susie Kimble (President)
- Roberta Stathis (VP)
- Oscar Juarez
- Cecilia Hernandez

Regrets:

- Dae Romero
- Jessica Castro-Buelna (Sec)

Staff Present:

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

- **Special Guests:** Craig Cook

Public input: Nathan Paz and Angel Hernandez, both staff members shared their requests for staff incentives/retention stipends for next year.

Minutes of the GC

1. Quorum was reached at 5:10pm.
2. Pledge of America was recited.
3. The mission statement was read by Susie Kimble.
4. Moved by Roberta Stathis and seconded by Cecilia Hernandez to approve the agenda as presented. Votes: unanimous.
5. Moved by Roberta Stathis and seconded by Oscar Juarez to approve the minutes of January 9, 2025 as presented. Votes: unanimous.
6. Ashley presented the budget reports covering the school until January 31, 2025. The finance committee had already reviewed the reports prior to the general board meeting to identify any irregularities. BARs 00016-I, 00017-I, 00018-I, 00020-I, 00021-D, 00022-D, 00023-I, 00024-I, 00024-I, 00025-I, and 00026-I were presented. Moved by Cecilia Hernandez and seconded by Oscar Juarez to accept the financial reports and BARs as presented. Votes: unanimous.
7. Ms. Porter explained the PEC mini-grant and its limitations on the use of the \$10,000. A plan will be devised to increase SAT participation. Moved by Oscar Juarez and seconded by seconded by Cecilia Hernandez to accept the PEC grant of \$10,000 to be used as presented. Votes: unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

Students of the Month

Rene Ascarate
Nevaeh Barajas
Phoenix House
Maya Martinez
Junior Pons

Aiden Owens
Marquez Rivera
Omar Ruiz
Christopher Sanchez
Ariana Vasquez

Dashboard

- CSI Site Visit: results on Next Steps.
 - Seven staff members are willing to have an independent study class to help students recover credits. On February 17, we will have a meeting to set those expectations. These classes will move about 14 more students to meet their graduation year. If students complete their plan, we are aiming for 75% of our students to graduate with their cohort.
- CSD: There is only one area that NAS needs to correct to be at “meets standard.” This is the Equity Council. We have moved forward with conversations with two staff members and how we can resolve this issue. We have until May to correct it.

School

- 120-day count is February 12. We have 220 students enrolled.
- Be Pro Be Proud bus/semi. On February 6th, the WorkForce Semi was on our campus. Students were able to be a part of the virtual career experience.
- The PEC \$10,000 mini-grant was awarded. We are finding it difficult to use the money on gift cards as the grant written and approved. We are working with Ashley to make sure we don't get an audit finding.
- Ten of our students traveled to Santa Fe from February 2-4. Our students lobbied to support a bill to support paid internships and a raise for teachers.
- February 13, our metal detector was installed. Training involved all of the front office staff. I have been in communication with SFox regarding our search and seizure procedures. It is outline in the student handbook already. However, has we move forward there might be some adjustments.
- LEADERSHIP TEAM: Topics: graduation requirements: selecting two electives and moving forward with a school-wide system to monitor students in attendance, behavior and course success.

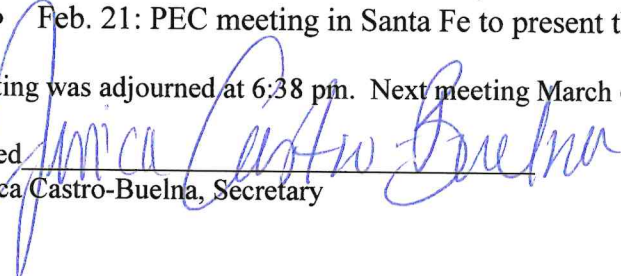
Community

- 70 students participated in the event this year. We cleaned Main, Church, and Water Streets, and City Hall. The Boys and Girls Club brought their picnic tables for us to refinish. Camp Hope and Gospel rescue mission also put our students to work in their pantries. Bubba's hosted our event. The movie we watched was Hidden Figures.

Professional

- Feb. 10: Ms. Porter was recognized in the Roundhouse as Charter School Leader of the Year.
- Feb. 11: Ms. Montoya was in Gadsden ISD for professional development in evaluations.
- Feb 17-19 for Lloyd. School Safety Summit
- Feb. 21: PEC meeting in Santa Fe to present the Improvement Plan.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm. Next meeting March 6, 2025.

Signed 
Jessica Castro-Buelna, Secretary