



Minutes of the

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

5:00 pm

ABQ Charter Academy

405 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Council Members Present: Dr. Rhonda Seidenwurm, President; Dr. Evalynne Hunemuller, Vice President; John Rodarte, Secretary

Council Members Not Present: Jacob Kennedy, Treasurer; Dr. Emily Salazar, Member

Guests: Erik Bose, ABQCA Executive Director; Curt Szarek, ABQCA Business Manager; Amy Roble, ABQCA Principal; Deb Moya, ABQCA Asst. Principal/Special Services Dir.

Minutes: Andrea Kepple, ABQCA Executive Assistant

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:58 pm by President Rhonda Seidenwurm.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of November 17, 2015 Agenda

Evalynne Hunemuller made a motion to approve the agenda. John Rodarte seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of October 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Not all of the Council Members were present at the October meeting. The majority of those that were there were not in attendance at this meeting. Mr. Rodarte made a motion to **approve the minutes provisionally**, until the rest of the Council that was present at the October meeting could approve them. Dr. Hunemuller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Teacher Stipends Policy

The Council asked for clarification of the policy. The understanding was that the recent salary increases that were approved were made with the intention of ending the need for stipends. Amy Roble explained that this policy covers stipends that we have not had before. The TESOL Endorsement stipend is also half of what APS recommends, since our salaries are higher. We currently only have one teacher that this would affect. Teachers pay for these endorsements and certifications out of pocket and the benefits go right back to the students; thus, justifying giving teachers a stipend. Dr. Hunemuller



stated that she would approve the policy if a statement was added that the Governing Council will be notified when these stipends are awarded. The Council Members agreed. Ms. Roble stated that the policy will be amended to include Governing Council notification.

Dr. Hunemuller made a motion to approve the Teacher Stipend Policy. Mr. Rodarte seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION

1. Finance Committee Report/Business Manager Report – Curt Szarek, Jacob Kennedy

The October, 2015 Check Register, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, and Combining Balance Sheet were sent out electronically to the Council prior to the meeting. Hard copies were also included in the meeting packets.

- Mr. Szarek stated that he recently learned that APS' Title I office is not aware of when charter schools submit BARs. He is not sure of when this started happening or if the same is true with other departments so he will notify them when any are approved by the council and submitted through OBMS.
- Mr. Szarek called attention to the October Balance Sheet to point out that despite loaning money to Flowthrough Funds pending reimbursement, the school still maintains a strong Operational Cash position of \$658K. He added that through the Request for Reimbursement (RfR) process we have received \$93K from APS to date and Federal and State grant funds will continue to be spent. Mr. Szarek reiterated that since prior year growth units contributed to our strong Cash position, the plan is to end the fiscal year with Operational Cash being as close to what we started with.
- Mr. Szarek shared that while most of the items reflected in the October check register are considered "business as usual" there were some exceptions:
 - \$20,408 payment to Backbone Communications for our new 3-D zSpace lab
 - \$7,765 progress payment to CliftonLarsonAllen for our annual audit
- Mr. Szarek covered the salient points of the minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting held October 23rd which were included in the Council's packets. He pointed out that this is the first year all schools districts and charters will have to recognize their respective share of the projected ERB pension liability. As such, we (along with every other entity who needs to report this) will likely show a significant Unrestricted Deficit in our government-wide financial statements.
- Mr. Szarek stated that if there are any items needing clarification on anything that is presented during the meetings he is always available to answer any questions or concerns.

2. Executive Director Report – Erik Bose

A copy of the Executive Director's report was included in the Council Member packets.

- Students
 - We have one more graduate as of today, for a total of 30
 - Total students as of today: 276
 - We will hold one more enrollment day before the 80 Day Count of December 1st



- PARCC Results
 - Only 50 of our 300 students took the test so our results are not a good representation of our school
 - Students can opt out of testing for 16 different reasons; two (2) major ones for our students are age (19+ can opt out) and for being at least half way through a PARCC tested subject at the time of testing
- We will have a curriculum presentation at the December meeting, to include a tour of our new 3-D zSpace lab
- **Dr. Seidenwurm will contact Dr. Salazar** about attending the “Children’s Law Institute” for their board member training hours; **Mr. Bose will find out if it can be approved**
- YDI partnership for daycare
 - We are still in the planning stages
 - This would help our students who have children with daycare and also offer a vocational program in the child care arena
 - Enhances our holistic school model
 - ABQCA would pay the rent on the Jackson Wink space next door and YDI would cover all of the operational and accreditation fees
 - After surveying our students, we know that at least 40 of them are parents
 - Debra Baca (YDI) did a mailing to over 200 of YDI’s clients telling them about our school; some of them have already been coming in to register or visit
- Job Corps
 - JC has been enrolling students at Gordon Bernell Charter High School now, instead of Great Academy
 - We have about 60 current JC students
 - We will need to pick up our furniture but we currently don’t have room for it and don’t want to jeopardize the JC students that still come here
- Building
 - The last of the security requirements (safety blinds) has been completed
 - Some maintenance/cleaning will happen over the winter break
- Staff
 - Two staff members are leaving: Martha Files, Front Desk Manager and Shelly Cherrin, Social Worker/College and Career Transition; we will look to fill Ms. Cherrin’s position with someone from CES, hopefully as an FTE
 - Last week’s staff Professional Development day was a training on iPad equipment and was very successful

3. Data Discussion – provided by Sandy Roth

- Council was provided with a report on “Mission-Specific Indicators as Specified in 2014-15 Performance Framework Data from 2015 Graduates” which focused on three (3) measurable, outcome-based school goals:
 - Transform 75 students per year from high school drop-outs to high school graduates
 - In 2015 ABQCA had 108 graduates
 - Improve students’ literacy skills by at least two (2) grade levels



- In 2015 ABQCA's average reading gain among graduates was 3.2 grade levels
- Improve students' numeracy skills by at least two (2) grade levels
 - In 2015 ABQCA's average math gain among graduates was 2.5 grade levels
- Notes:
 - The anomaly among Students with Disabilities is most likely due to that particular set of students being motivated learners; once put into a classroom alongside regular education students, the bar to excel gets set higher
 - Our students show great growth but still graduate at an 8th/9th grade level
- Mr. Rodarte stated that it is good to have evidence of the good work that we do here and thanked Ms. Roth for the data

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next meeting will be held on December 15, 2015
2. Preliminary legislation – may introduce four (4) new bills affecting charter schools that sound punitive; Mr. Bose is attending session Friday to get more information
3. Mr. Szarek stated that a Risk Advisory regarding School Personnel Act Compliance was issued from the NM Office of the State Auditor; he will send all a link to the advisory ([http://www.saonm.org/media/uploads/Risk Advisory - School Personnel Act.pdf](http://www.saonm.org/media/uploads/Risk_Advisory_-_School_Personnel_Act.pdf))
4. Ms. Roble announced that she will be taking classes Tuesday and Thursday nights and will miss GC meetings from January through April; **Mr. Bose to decide** if he wants to have meetings in her absence or reschedule them. If he chooses to reschedule, Dr. Seidenwurm will discuss changing dates/times of the meetings with the Council; to be further discussed at December's meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Dr. Hunemuller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rodarte seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Seidenwurm adjourned the meeting at 5:52 pm.