

MINUTES

FINAL

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING of MARCH 13, 2020

Present: A.J. Sandoval, Hannah Wecks, Margaret Flores-Begay, Jamie Crockett, David Peck

Members Absent: Max Higgs (emergency trip), Christa Osborn

Other Present: Wayne Sherwood, Director; Harry Browne, Business Manager; Mark Cantrell, teacher; Sterling Wecks, student; and Michael Peterson, parent

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Hannah moved and Dave seconded approval of the February minutes. These were approved unanimously.

Public Input: Michael Peterson spoke about the MS City of Rocks trip. They received the letter home two weeks in advance, and he was glad for that advance notice. The letter suggested there would be a decision about having meat or not. He understands from Mr. Sherwood that the students voted for no meat, but his son was not able to vote, so it appears not all students could vote. His son was very upset at this decision and how it was taken.

Mark Cantrell responded to these comments. He said there actually was not a vote; the decision was taken by him and Maia only. They decided not to serve meat for reasons of food safety. Health code is difficult to follow with middle schoolers out in the field. Mark understands how that could be upsetting for certain students. Students were allowed to bring their own meat-based snacks such as jerky (and they did). Perhaps we should develop and distribute a menu prior to our trips.

Mr. Peterson volunteered information from the NMDOH regarding the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Student Council report: Sterling Wecks gave the report. Students who qualified (wrote an essay, etc.) were able to go to the United World College annual conference in Montezuma, NM. Council has had to replace a few members for failing to show up four times in a row. The junior trip was canceled, but who cares? All of school is now canceled! The Gender & Sexuality Alliance has launched a healthy breakfast program at the HS. Apples, pistachios, Cuties, etc. Pretty affordable. Rhiannon Farley has expressed concern (as have "many, many students," Sterling said) about school culture. How do we bring back the Aldo vibe?

Staff report: Mark said the MS just returned from the City of Rocks trip. He's feeling excited and proud about what's happening at the MS. Fewer injuries, very little drama, strong school culture. The staff put the 8th graders in charge of teaching on this trip. The 8th graders also helped plan food, learned how to do lesson planning from the teachers themselves. Doing this transformed the entire trip.

Business Manager's Report: The GC members reviewed and asked questions about February's check register report, which Harry answered. Harry described BARs 13, 14, and 15, each involving an increase in available funding. Harry then gave a brief preview of some budget issues that he anticipates for the FY21 budget, including a projected increase in enrollment of approximately 10 students, another decrease in our Teacher Cost Index as the phase-in of the new, Tier-based system proceeds, and another decrease in our Small School Adjustment funding, as the phase-out of that funding source proceeds.

Committees – SAC didn't meet.

The SHAC report was given by Jaime. Sugary drink ban is in effect. Snack cart that Sterling mentioned had a great first week, she said. Coronavirus precautions were discussed.

Curriculum. Wayne reported that charter renewal contract was the big subject of discussion. Mission-specific goals are the big question in that big discussion. Another topic was a requiring a fourth-year of science. One advantage of this could be keeping more seniors on campus.

Facilities. Wayne reported that he spoke with Fowler Bros. about the playground proposed for the future drop-off area at Ritch Hall. They estimated under \$10K for the job. Next week a contractor will be removing the dividers in the downstairs classrooms.

Nominating. Dave Peck has delivered his resignation. This is his last meeting. A HUGE THANKS to Dave!! Hannah mentioned Frances Vasquez as a possibility.

Development. Dave Chandler said there are a number of fundraising/grant projects underway. He focused on a planning grant we received to study becoming a Community School. He distributed a handout about the Four Pillars of Community Schools. Expanded and Enriched Learning Time & Opportunities; Collaborative Leadership and Practices; Active Family and Community Engagement (this is the area in which Dave feels we have the most opportunity for growth); and Integrated Student Supports. The Guv would like to see schools take this on. Dave thinks the big grant would be for three years. He thinks after that time we would be expected (maybe just encouraged) to keep going with the programs but to fund them with our own budget.

Dave also spoke about the Work-Based Learning Initiative. Now 13 districts and 16 schools are part of our efforts. Alli Heneghan is in charge of that this semester.

We should hear soon from the ECMC Foundation about a grant to enhance our dual-enrolled learners. \$50K per year for two years.

Risk Management. Wayne reported on the agonized meetings leading up to the decision to cancel the Junior trip to Mexico. Now the trip would have had to have been canceled anyway. Talked about possible need to do online classes – that, too, is now irrelevant. Bart Brown was looking into Aldo using dormant Zoom licenses from WNMU. Catalina is going to train teachers in using Google Classroom. Again, it's not clear we need to discuss that.

Director's Report: Grades are due March 25. They will be posted on PowerSchool. We don't use paper reports. Charter contract negotiations – everything must be submitted by April 1. We'll need a GC

meeting after April 13. We will meet with the PEC in Las Cruces on April 13. If all goes according to plan, all paperwork will be completed by May 1.

Next GC meeting scheduled for April 16 at the Middle School at 5:30.

Action Items:

All three BARs passed unanimously.

We interrupted our previously scheduled GC meeting for an important announcement from the Public Education Department. Here's the gist:

There will be a statewide school closure for three weeks beginning March 16. School will restart April 6. We can leave school food services operating; USDA will reimburse 100% of costs for schools with at least 50% FRL. How to handle paying non-contract employees? Looking at providing behavioral health services to students with behavioral health IEPs. Looking at leaving school-based health centers open; working with DOH on that. Online classes will NOT be considered part of the school year. All districts will make the time up at the end of the school year.

*Approved and finalized on April 10, 2020
by Christa Osborn - G.C. Secretary*

