



EL COLEGIO

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 15th, 2023

I. Call to order

A. The meeting was called to order at 17:13 by Tony Aarts (Chair)

II. Welcome and Roll Call

A. Board members present: Tony Aarts (Chair), Kent Fordyce (Treasurer), Tamara Ramirez-Torres (Teacher), Ann Zukoski (Vice Chair), Dr. Elizabeth Sumida Huaman (Treasurer).

B. Staff and guests in attendance: Katie Aviña (Ex-Officio), Landon Nelson (Dean of Operations), Kevin Fitton (DFL), Kristin Robert (Pillsbury United Community) and Jim Eichten (MMKR)

III. Approval of Agenda

A. Tamara makes a motion to approve the agenda for March 15th, 2023 with moving the Governance Committee ahead of the Executive Director Update. Kent seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Ann moves to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2023, board meeting. Tamara seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

V. Finance Committee

A. Kevin Fitton from Designs for Learning updates the board that the revised budget is being worked on and is expected to be presented during the April meeting.

B. Kevin Fitton updated the board that as of February 28th, 2023 El Colegio has received 54% of its current budgeted amount and has expended 58% of its current budgeted expense. El Colegio ended February 2023 with a negative balance of \$49,927. El Colegio's total cash balance at the end of February 2023 was a total of \$271,166. Kent reminded the board that on paper it shows negative because of the need to move more funds, the books aren't accurate for projected end of year fiscal fund balance.

C. Kent made a motion to accept the February Financials. Ann seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

- D. Jim Eichten presented the board with the FY22 Audit. There were two findings based on their testing of the School's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations. One of which is Minnesota Statute 118A.03 requiring that if a School's deposits exceed federal deposit insurance coverage, excess deposits must be covered by corporate surety bonds or collateral that has a market value of at least 110 percent of such excess. The school was unaware, and this happened due to the Propel Loan. The second finding was 2 of the 40 disbursements selected for testing were not paid within the 35 days after receipt of the goods or services. The School's General Fund ended 2022 with a total fund balance of \$330,504, an increase of \$329,127 from the prior year, and \$255,481 more than projected in the budget. For the School, the total fund balance as a percentage was 16.3 percent at the end of 2022.

VI. Governance Committee Update

- A. Ann presented the Executive Director Emergency Succession Plan and informed the board the updates that were made reflected current staffing.
- B. Ann motions to approve the Executive Director Emergency Succession Plan. Kent seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
- C. Tony informed the board it was time to renew the IOWA Designation which is for Minnesota Department of Education reporting purposes.
- D. Ann motions to approve Katie as the IOWA Designee for El Colegio. Tamara seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Executive Director Update

- A. Katie updated the board that current student enrollment was at 89 of which 78% are identified for English language support, 15% have Individual Educational Plans with 4 Sped Evaluations in process and 4% of students are experiencing homelessness. Katie also updated attendance overall at 84% and 88% during Q3. She also updated the Board that WIDA Testing was wrapping up and that MCA, MAP and ACT testing will take place after spring break. She updated the board that the school was still in process with hiring a science teacher and immigration requested more information and it was provided and expedited the night before the board meeting. She also updated the board that Ms. Jessica, one of the Student Engagement Specialists is moving to another state and submitted her resignation. Katie updated the board that the strategic planning committee has met and discussed how El Colegio can continue to grow and also how to develop our indigenous language program.

She shared that the Academic Committee continued the discussion from the month prior reviewing contract goals and discussed how we can look at the data differently. Today with the Regional Center of Excellence the discussion was focused on how to create a plan for a data drive with teaching on how to use MAP and F&P to inform their teaching. We also discussed having students take MAP reading in Spanish as another tool to review their data.

Katie provided an update on recent school events: El Colegio was present at the Capitol for Ethnic Studies Day, and one of El Colegio students testified two different times. El Colegio also submitted a letter of support for the PUC's legislative work to improve educational outcomes and accountability. Ms. Katie attended the UnidosUS Capitol Days in D.C. and also was in D.C. again for the National Alliance for Charter School Leaders of Color Collaborative meeting and met with senators and congresspeople to not only share the Alliance's push for Charter School Grant funding but also needs for us here in Minnesota.

Q3 family conferences were held and we had 48 families in attendance compared to Q3 2022 at 44 in attendance. During the conferences UnidosMN had a table sharing information about Ethnic Studies for All and HACER had a table sharing information about long term covid effects. We also had CUCH clinic provide vaccinations and about 28 folks were vaccinated Thursday evening of conferences.

El Colegio also recently held celebrations and handed out honor roll certificates for Q2 and 29% of our students received honors of 3.0 or above. Katie updated the board that Mira Mi Corazon raised a total of \$4,370 and that current donations for FY23 is at \$9,395. A grant was recently submitted for UnidosUS Lideres STEM Entrepreneurship Summer Program for \$10,000.

VIII. Announcements

1. Friday, March 24th, 2023: Quarter 3 Ends
2. Monday, March 27th - Thursday, March 30th: Spring Interim
3. Friday, March 31st: Record Keeping Day
4. Monday, April 3rd - Friday, April 7th: Spring Break

IX. Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 at 5:00 PM

X. Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 15th, 2023 at 5:00 PM

XI. Public Comment

XII. Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm

Approved 5.1.2023

Board Secretary Elizabeth Sumida Huaman Date: May 2, 2023
Elizabeth Sumida Huaman (May 2, 2023 14:22 CDT)