



EL COLEGIO

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024

- I. Call to order**
 - A. The meeting was called to order at 5:12pm by Tony Aarts (Chair).
- II. Welcome and Roll Call**
 - A. Board members present: Tony Aarts (Chair), Kent Fordyce (Treasurer), Tamara Ramirez-Torres (Teacher), Dr. Elizabeth Sumida Huaman (Community), Madelaine Cahuas (Community)
 - B. Board members absent: Ann Zukoski (Vice Chair),
 - C. Staff and guests in attendance: Katie Aviña (Ex-Officio), Landon Nelson (Dean of Operations), Stephanie Anderson (Designs 4 Learning), Nubia Esparza (Academia Cesar Chavez),
- III. Approval of Agenda**
 - A. Tony moves to amend the agenda to move item VII to letter B under item V for the April 17, 2024 board meeting. Kent seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
 - B. Tamara moves to approve the amended agenda. Kent seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Tamara moves to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2024 board meeting. Kent seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
- V. Finance Committee**
 - A. March Financial Statement
 1. Stephanie from DFL shares that ADM is based on 94 students instead of 96. So far spent 62% of the budget. There was a draw today for the Title funds which will be reflected in the next statement. Balance is current in the negative, but will change once the Title funds are drawn and included in the next update.
 - a) Kent shares that there should not be any concerns about the negative balance as we are still waiting for funds to be reimbursed and that our ADM is close to the 96 budgeted.
 2. Kent moves to accept the March Financial Statement. Tamara seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
 - B. Financial Service Provider Proposal FY25
 1. Ms. Katie shares that in February that she and Ms. Norma were reviewing the financial service providers for both schools: CSBM and DFL. After more discussions, while CSBM staff is great, DFL is a more economic option who is better versed on MDE requirements, especially with regard to the upcoming merger. DFL

would also manage both schools' building companies. There are still some things that need to be flushed out. Ms. Katie and Ms. Norma recommended that we contract with DFL.

2. Kent moves that we engage with DFL for financial services and audit support. Madelaine seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Plan of Merger with Academia Cesar Chavez

- A. Tony and Ms. Katie share that the articles of merger are what needs to be voted on and that the merger proposal is just an informative document. Tony asks if there are any questions.
- B. Kent shares that he is excited about the opportunity and that it is going to help push the mission forward.
- C. Tamara shares that after watching the documentary today, once the community is also able to watch it, the push is going to be bigger and much more community support.
- D. Ms. Katie wants to acknowledge the work that Mx. Raquel and Mrs. Rosales spent working through the document and preparing it to present to the boards in addition to the work that the ACC/EC board members who have spent so many Saturdays working on this proposal.
- E. Tony states that this can be a historical document given the release of the documentary in that this can help guide future schools.
- F. Ms. Katie states that this merger is unique in that we will remain two campuses under one district and allow each campus to keep their identities. She also shares that the bylaws are included and have outlined how the boards will merge and additional information on how terms will work.
- G. Dr. Eli asks about potential needs that will need to be continuously addressed through the process or how best for the board to continue supporting the administration, staff, faculty, and students.
 1. Ms. Katie indicates that some issues have been dealt with as they came along in addition to keeping the day-to-day actions moving forward. Kent states that some of the collaboration that can be seen immediately is how the release of the documentary that Ms. Norma and Ms. Katie saw the need to have our own event to truly invite supporters of both schools to discuss the documentary. Ms. Katie also states that once we work through the merger, it will allow for a more rich discussion of what the plans will look like in 3 to 5 years. We are also working with NewPublica, a PR firm, to help flush out how to discuss this with the community.
 2. Dr. Eli asks if it's possible to include a recurring agenda item regarding the merger transition that would allow everyone to reflect and what might be needed along the way.
 3. Mr. Landon asks that the board continue to provide transparency and that the community is aware of the changes that are coming because of how important EC is to the community locally.
 4. Tony states that he thinks that there will be several recurring agenda items and make it more systematized to lean on.

5. Madelaine states that while some of these points are important, the values are shared between both boards and schools and the other pieces of concern are things that can be worked through together. What has been done so far to ensure this?
 - a) Ms. Katie states that both campuses have been informed, have received the same emails, and have held staff meetings.
6. Tamara motions that the El Colegio Charter School Board of Directors approve the Plan of Merger. Kent seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

VII. Executive Director Update

A. Fundraising Update

1. School Based Mental Health - Federal Grant process is moving and will be submitted next week
2. Minneapolis Parks and Rec Grant for the Climbing Club
3. UnidosUS grant - *Pioneras in STEM* grant submitted
4. Grant total - \$21785
5. Total Grants Raised - \$146,002
6. Senior Trip & Celebrations - are about half way through their goal (\$3,400)

B. Other Updates

1. Current Enrollment: 106 students; ADM: 97
2. College Planning Night with families and students was hosted March 21st
 - a) Lots of questions regarding the new FAFSA

C. Academic Update:

1. Ms. Katie shared with the board the honors numbers for students. 78.5% of students attained 67% or more credits attempted.
2. MCA testing will begin next week.
3. Currently looking at a potential date for the senior presentations. Ms. Katie will update once everything has been finalized.
4. New Padres Comprometidos cohort is starting!

VIII. Updates to-from ACC Board of Directors

- A. This will be an area where additional logistics will be shared for the remainder of the year until the newly formed board begins their work.

IX. Announcements

A. Documentary Screening Events:

1. Wednesday, April 17th at 7 PM, St. Anthony Main
2. Thursday, April 18th at 8:30 AM, TPT St. Paul
3. Friday, April 19th at 12:00 PM, St. Anthony Main
 - a) Reception after the film
4. Tuesday, April 23rd at 8:00 PM on PBS/TPT Channel 2
5. Wednesday, April 24th available online for streaming
6. Thursday, May 9th, during Padres Comprometidos session

B. Parent Teacher Conferences

1. Thursday, May 2nd 4:30-7:00 pm and Friday, May 3rd 9:00 am-12:00 pm

X. Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 5:00 PM

XI. Public Comment

- A. No public comment submitted.

XII. Meeting Adjourned at 6:46pm.

Board Secretary *Elizabeth Sumida Huaman* Date: 05/27/2024
Elizabeth Sumida Huaman (May 27, 2024 08:31 CDT)