



Dolores Huerta

“A Dual Language Charter Middle School”

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REGULAR GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 6:00pm

1) Call to Order

Dr. Spencer Herrera, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and asked for a roll call.

Ms. Jennifer Allen, Treasurer: Present

Ms. Elena Hinderlich, Vice-Chair: Present

Dr. Spencer Herrera, Chair: Present

Ms. Clara Lopez, Member, Absent

Ms. Norma Martinez-Arrieta, Member: Present

Ms. Patty Montoya, Secretary: Present

2) Roll call and establish quorum

Totals: Present (5); Absent (1). Let the record show that a quorum of members is present and this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Administration/Staff Present: Dr. Octavio Casillas, Head Administrator; Mirna Rodriguez, Business Specialist; Jose Tena, LADH Teacher; Chris Bardey, LADH Teacher; Andy Duran, LADH Teacher

Public Present: Bonnie Rios, Dr. Christopher Adams, Williams Davis

3) Approval of Agenda

Dr. Herrera initiated discussion of any needed agenda revisions. The following revisions/corrections were noted:

- Move New Business Discussion Items Only: 5) Principal’s Report, 6) Committee Reports, and 7) Closed Session to before Action Items.
- Correct date on Item 5b) Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 1 to October 15.

Ms. Martinez-Arrieta motioned to approve the agenda with above noted revisions and was seconded by Ms. Allen. Total votes: (5) in favor, (0) opposed. Motion was approved in the unanimous.

4) Open forum-Public Input*

Public comments and observations regarding education policy and governance issues, as well as the strategic planning, are heard at this time. Time limit per presenter may be imposed by Chair.

Mr. Chris Bardey, LADH Teacher: would like to see if the governing council could on a quarterly basis potentially recognize a LADH student who has come a long way academically. He mentioned that a student is usually selected in staff meetings to be recognized as the Student of the Month, but would like to see if these students could possibly also be recognized at a regular governing council meeting. Mr. Bardey asked if the council agreed to do this, would it be possible to retroactively recognize the Students of the Month that were selected for August and September? He believes that by recognizing the students, we could possibly increase parent involvement and becoming more involved in the council meetings. Ms. Martinez-Arrieta explained that the council already has a student award in place called “Average to Mighty” that is usually awarded on a quarterly basis. Students are usually awarded a small prize such as movie passes or a gift certificate to local food establishment. Mr. Bardey

thought it might be a good idea to change the name of the award and/or possibly combine the two awards. Dr. Herrera advised Mr. Bardey the council would discuss a possible award name change and possibly have a governing council fundraiser to pay for the award. Ms. Allen thanked Mr. Bardey for bringing this very important topic to our attention.

Mr. Andy Duran, LADH Teacher: advised council members he is the teacher currently in charge of overseeing the LADH Student Council organization. He mentioned the students have been busy putting together some amazing events such as raising funds through a CARE program to promote Childhood Cancer Awareness (was held during the month of September), Pie in a (Teacher's) Face fundraiser (to be held during the month of October), and will also be building the LADH Haunted House the West End Art Depot. The Haunted House will be run on 10/24 and 10/31 and will be accepting donations. Any funds collected will partly donated and the rest to help defer any costs associated with building the haunted house. Ms. Martinez-Arrieta thanked Mr. Duran for having a successful year in overseeing the LADH Student Council organization and promoting student involvement.

Mr. Jose Tena, LADH Teacher: invited council members to the "Dia de los Muertos" reception that will be held at LADH on 10/31 from 10 am to 1 pm. Several parents will be donating posole for attendees to enjoy as they remember the loved ones they have lost. He also advised members that the LADH Ballet Folklorico and Mariachi groups would be performing on 10/30 at the Coalition of Charter Schools conference that is being held in Albuquerque, NM.

NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY – NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

5) Principal's Report

Mr. Casillas provided a Principal's Report (please see attached). Please note the following highlights:

- **Under Upcoming Events**
 - Supporting Parents: Mr. Casillas extended a special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Allen and to Ms. Keziah Sanchez for serving as chaperones and volunteering to drive students all the way to Albuquerque for the students to perform.
- **Under Other News**
 - Aztec Newsletter: Mr. Casillas extended a special thank you to Ms. Bonnie Rios for her outstanding work on the Aztec Newsletter. Ms. Rios (who signed up for public input) invited GC members to read through the newsletter if they hadn't already done so, and provide her with any ideas and/or content she could add to the newsletter.
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6) Committee Reports

- **La Academia Dolores Huerta School Foundation (LADHSF):** Dr. Adams provided a brief update on the LADH Foundation. He stated they are currently working obtaining the Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN). They are currently about \$150 short of the \$900 required in order to submit the 1023 federal application they are required to submit in order to incorporate. Due to a recent member stepping down from the board, they have dropped down to three members and are actively seeking new members. They would like to at least acquire 5-7 members to sit on the board. He assured the board they are currently a cohesive team and are doing well in creating a solid foundation in the near future.
- **Building/Facilities Steering Committee:** Mr. Davis advised council members that the committee has made some progress and will continue to push forward to acquire a new school building/property in the near future. LADH has never been closer to acquiring a new school as they currently are at this point. He mentioned LADH has about six options in order to acquire the school/building:
 - **Option A:** Ideally, the school works the current who is currently willing to put up the money to help us build while we work on acquiring the funds elsewhere to pay the investor back. For example, the USDA grants we are currently trying to acquire.
 - **Option B:** The school decides to find another investor who is willing to put up the money and/or property to allow the school to build.
 - **Option C:** LADH doesn't do anything until the USDA grant is approved and issues the funds. This would mean we would have to wait at least another year in order to start construction.

- **Option D:** This option would mean for the school to get on the next bond question and allow voters to either approve or disapprove a tax levy to acquire the funds. If the levy is approved, we would have to wait at least three years in order to receive the SB-9 funds to begin construction.
- **Option E:** LADH would follow the application process through Public Schools Facilities Authority (PSFA) to acquire state funding. In this manner, PSFA would provide 70% of the funds and LADH would have to come up with the other 30% to begin construction. Mr. Davis stated that currently LADH is listed as the 5th or 6th worst school in the state the highest ranking in the Las Cruces Public School (LCPS) school district with building deficiencies.
- **Option F:** Since the property we are currently looking at is out in the county, we could also try to get on the county bond ballot to acquire funding.

- **Finance/Audit Committee**

- **Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Allen stated that the recent audit she conducted had gone well except for a minor glitch in the system. Ms. Rodriguez stated that they had received a written confirmation from the APTA Fund program used for our financials that the glitch has been corrected. Mr. Casillas stated that the auditors were very impressed with Ms. Rodriguez's organization of school documents and bookkeeping skills.

- 7) **Closed Session:** To discuss personnel matters relating to any individual employee, including hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, resignation, or investigation of complaints or charges against an employee. [10-15-1(H)(2) NMSA 1978]

Dr. Herrera extended a special invitation to Mr. Casillas and Mr. Davis to convene into closed session with the governing council. Motion to convene into closed session was made by Ms. Martinez-Arrieta and seconded by Ms. Hinderlich. Total votes: (5) in favor, (0) opposed. Motion was approved in the unanimous. Members convened into closed session at 7:05 pm.

No action was taken during closed session.

Motion to reconvene from closed session was made by Ms. Martinez-Arrieta and seconded by Ms. Hinderlich. Total votes: (5) in favor, (0) opposed. Motion was approved in the unanimous. Members reconvened from closed session at 8:16 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

8) **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

- a. September 10, 2015: Regular Governing Council Meeting
- b. October 15, 2015: Special Governing Council Meeting

Dr. Herrera initiated review of the above noted minutes. No revisions were noted.

Motion to approve September 10, 2015 and October 15, 2015 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Allen and seconded by Ms. Hinderlich. Total votes: (5) in favor, (0) opposed. Motion was approved in the unanimous.

9) **Approval to Increase Substitute Teacher Pay Rate**

Mr. Casillas explained that LADH currently pays \$70 per day for substitute teachers. He would like to increase the pay to \$80 in order to recruit substitute teachers. Ms. Rodriguez stated there have been times where 2-4 regular teachers are out at a conference or professional development event, and they have had a hard time to enough substitute teachers to cover classes. Mr. Casillas mentioned that LCPS currently pays \$9.65/hour for the first 60 days. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed that increasing the substitute teacher pay rate would not significantly impact the operational budget.

Motion to approve to increase the substitute teacher pay rate to \$80 was made by Ms. Martinez-Arrieta and seconded by Ms. Allen. Total votes: (5) in favor, (0) opposed. Motion was approved in the unanimous.

10) Review and Approval of Architectural Plans for New School Building

Motion to approve architectural plans for new school building was made by Ms. Hinderlich and seconded by Ms. Allen. Total votes: (5) in favor, (0) opposed. Motion was approved in the unanimous.

11) Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Ms. Martinez-Arrieta and seconded by Ms. Allen. Total votes: (5) in favor, (0) opposed. Motion was approved in the unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Patty G. Montoya
GC Secretary

Approval Date: _____

**Any individual attending a board meeting may sign in to participate in the Public Input section of the Agenda, if any. Such persons may speak on any item after the individual is recognized by the President of the Board and introduces himself/herself at the podium. The Governing Council of La Academia Dolores Huerta will not take action on any item presented under Public Input, until an opportunity to do so is afforded. La Academia Dolores Huerta will provide an interpreter for the Hearing Impaired and simultaneous Spanish translation upon request. Requests should be submitted to the chancellor's office three days prior to the meeting.*