



La Academia Dolores Huerta

"A Dual Language Charter Middle School"

MEETING MINUTES GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

January 10, 2013
6:00 p.m.

1. a) & b) Call to order established at 6:04 p.m. & roll call and establish quorum: Mr. Vasquez, Mrs. Flores-Olivas, Mrs. Arrieta, and Mr. del Plain were present. Mrs. Kiernan was absent.

c) Mr. del Plain proposed to move and amend item #6 and remove 2. a). Mr. Vasquez motioned and Mrs. Flores-Olivas second. Approved in the unanimous.

2. a) Approval of Minutes was removed and will be voted on next meeting. (see above).

3. Public Input via board member cell phone by parent concerning punishment of all students due to all students not completing homework packet sent home during Winter break. ~~Parent was upset that those who completed the packet were being punished, instead of only those who didn't complete it. Mr. del Plain also had received parent complaints. Mr. Casillas explained that the homework packet was necessary to improve students' academic performance and move them from under proficient towards proficiency. The reason why the punishment was for all students was is that if a community who flourished together they succeed and if one fails the whole group fails. The curriculum is required but needs to be aggressive to move them. Mr. Casillas also stated that all staff agreeded with this assignment. It was a win/win situation. Mr. Davis stated that a notice was sent out to parents in advance of the Winter break that these homework packets were going to be sent home and need to be completed by the student, and returned back completed. Mr. Casillas nor Mr. Davis received feedback or comments from parents; therefore, they believed that there wasn't an issue. The result was 50 out of 135 packets were turned back in as completed. Mr. Davis noted that those packets that were partially complete didn't count and were considered incomplete. Mr. Casillas said that those who completed the assignment will receive an ice cream social tomorrow (Fri., Jan 11th) and have received a pre-paid snack from the snack~~

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bar. Mr. del Plain said it's a benefit to inform school community of these positive information ahead of time, like those who completed it will receive a reward, because we always only hear negative information.

Parent on Governing Council cell phone call also asked if there was going to be Saturday School. Mr. Casillas stated that this will be on the agenda and discussed at the next Governing Council meeting. He then further stated that he doesn't know if there is a policy of a call into public input. Maybe because she is friends with some of the Governing council members she thinks she can do this. Mr. Casillas do doesn't think its best interest in the school for these calls to be made for public input and suggests we research policy and remove such call from meeting minutes. Mr. Vasquez agreed and stated in other boards that he has been on no and public input was made via call. The minutes were amended to remove that input. He concluded that it is fairness for those who are present and do appear in person be the only ones acknowledged for public input. Mr. del Plain stated we will find out, note it, and dealt with. Mr. Casillas further stated that she is also calling a personal cell phone and not using a school/public phone. Mrs. Arrieta raised the concern that if calls are permitted to be acknowledged for public input this information should be made public to ensure all parents are aware of this alternative.

4. a) Mr. Casillas said Mr. Rios, Chief Performance Office from JTI Systems, Inc. meet with staff on January 9, 2013 and discussed what is required for re-chartering. Mr. Rios will also need to meet and talk to Governing Council for 20 min.

Mr. Casillas provided an update on his facility report based on his performance evaluation and he needs to re-schedule because it's a lot of information. It can be done through an executive session.

Mr. Casillas requested putting off any research for facility until October 1, 2013, so that any meeting minute's information won't be noted. This request was based on information he obtained and observed at the re-chartering of another charter school and how the other principal applying for re-chartering was berated for not having all the re-chartering documents and data in place. Holding off on researching a facility is our best interest because we need to make sure we are re-charted and not moving into a building or getting into a lease when we don't have the re-chartering in place. Mr. del Plain would request meeting with committee

first before we put off researching facilities because we need to be re-chartered and looking for a location.

Mr. Casillas passed out a policy packet checklist that listed all the policies that need to be voted on. Mr. Casillas had nothing further and turned it over for questions.

Mr. del Plain asked Mr. Casillas how traffic was now that the lot to the south was being occupied by the car lot business. Mr. Casillas states it has been difficult and he spoke to the owner today. LADH has the option to use the easement access; however, LADH would have to pay for the gravel to lay on the easement because the owner doesn't want dust to be created from the traffic the school creates. The owner further suggested he will also have a gate installed for LADH to access the easement. Mr. Casillas stated that there would be issues if the owner doesn't open the gate or decides to not open it all of sudden. Mr. Casillas stated that his staff is very intelligent and resourceful with ideas and stated that one idea is to have staggered release times every 5 minutes after school and use the street to the north of Pizza Hut for parent pick up.

4. a) i) Gina received money for title I and Idea B and now it's coming in each month. She also received release amount for 2 quarters. She further stated that all is doing good.

Gina found an error on the school calendar that Martin Luther King Day was marked off the Monday, 14th, instead of the Monday 21st of January. She contacted the state and they said it was okay to revise and resubmit to them with the correct date of the 21st. Mr. del Plain requested a motion to observe MLK day on the 21st and move it from the 14th of January. Mr. Vasquez motioned, Mrs. Arrieta second and approved in the unanimous.

7. Mr. Rios passed out a handout to Governing Council as a guideline and tips for re-chartering. This handout was presented to educators he has spoken to. His presentation stated that there have been changes at the state level for the chartering g process. LADH will have to follow Federal and local laws to re-charter. The Governing board's function is to authorize, not the principal. There are impact areas to watch out for. In October LADH will have 30 days to complete the performance packet. There are four changes. The first is charter related the other is three are district and charter related. Mr. Rios stated, "What do you have

to do to get there?" LADH would have to decide if we are going to be under the state or LCPS. Who we decide will approve the application. Next, we need to obtain data from the classrooms. Mr. Rios stressed to LADH to be pro-active in completing the information required and ahead of the 30 days for approval. Mr. del Plain asked how much involvement will Mr. Rios be assisting LADH in the application process. Mr. Rios stressed that he would be facilitating the process and overseeing that we are completing what we need to and provide guidance. He then stated that first the Governing Council needs to block out a time to train for re-chartering. The training would be 6 hrs. on a Saturday if preferred or it can be a couple of Saturdays. Second, another meeting would need to occur just for updates, information, and questions. Mr. Casillas stated a lot of stuff wasn't and hasn't been completed in the school for the past several years and needs to be done along with staff's assistance regarding compiling information for re-chartering. Mr. Rios said he needs documentation and data to back up that LADH has a "B" grade and why they received that grade from the state. Mr. del Plain asked how many people and hours it would take to complete the re-chartering request. Mr. Rios stated approximately most of the Governing Council. Staff would assist, but we have to remember that they are busy teaching. Mr. del Plain sent a tentative date of Sat., January 26, 2013 for first training and published as work session from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., part of that time (2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) will be set for Governing Council meeting.

5. a). Mr. del Plain requested a motion to vote on each policy because we need to show state all 11 policies. He then further stated that there was a comment last meeting regarding school attendance policy. The comment was about pre-approval of number of absences (excused and unexcused) for non-school related activities. Mr. Casillas stated that he cannot give special treatment to some parents but can work with parents for those he knows parents and students that follow the policy. There were no changes to any of the policies, but only some typos to be amended if needed. Mr. Vasquez motioned to approve, vote and blanket all 11 policies in one vote. Mrs. Flores-Olivas second and all 11 policies were approved in the unanimous.

5. b) Mr. del Plain did a walk through and LADH was okay.

c) Mrs. Flores-Olivas provided information on the property formerly known as Pat Goff's on Amador. She ran through the Facility Committee checklist of what LADH is looking for in a location. All 5 out of 7 were covered. Mr. Casillas and the Governing Council decided this site wouldn't work out. Mr. Casillas stated he did a

visual and there is no place for outside activity, parking, drop off/pick up would be an issue there as well, and no room for expansion. Also, the Pat Goff building is 1-2,000 sq. ft. larger than the current LADH.

5. d) Mrs. Arrieta said she will talk to anyone about ideas for the Community Relations committee and how to get LADH marketed. Mr. Casillas wants to have a good relationship with NMSU and Dona Ana Community College so that students have access and exposure to post graduate/college resources. He and Mrs. Arrieta will meet again.

Mr. Casillas passed out admission tickets to the board for the Winter Performance on Sat., February 2nd. He also will be providing tickets to 25-30 for the performance to LCPS Board, community business members, and other charter school officials.

e) Mr. del Plain needs to discuss another policy (Internal Controls Policy), and did a review of the expenses. Everything checked out.

8. Mr. Vasquez made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Arrieta second, and approved unanimous at 7:30 p.m.