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Rio Gallinas School of Ecology and the Arts  
Governing Council Meeting Final Minutes for  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016  
West Las Vegas Board Room  
179 Bridge Street, 5:30pm

### **PROCEDURAL:**

Meeting called to order at 5:39pm by Crystal Gallegos, Chair. Quorum declared present. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Members present: J. Emilio Aragon, Rudy Castellano, Crystal Gallegos, Georgina Ortega.  
Absent: Michael Immerman. Also present: Leroy Benavidez, WLV Liaison. Staff: Gerald Garcia, director.

Interim Secretary: Carol Winkel.

Agenda : The agenda was amended to include an announcement. Amendment approved on a motion by Ms. Ortega and seconded by Mr. Castellano.. The amended agenda was approved on a motion by Mr. Aragon and seconded by Mr. Castellano.

Minutes: The minutes for the regular meeting on December 15, 2015, and the emergency meeting on December 23, 2015, were approved as moved by Mr. Castellano and seconded by Ms. Ortega.

Next regular meeting: set for February 16, 2016, to be held at the West Las Vegas Board Room.

**Public Comments:** There were none.

### **Action Items:**

Financial Report: The financial report was reviewed. The purchase of twenty computers (wireless) for the K-5 school was noted. Questions concerning the Luna Community College utility bill were discussed (anticipating the report below). The Payroll & Accounts Payable Payment Vouchers for December 2015, and Bars 1516-0020-M, 1516-0021-M, 1516-0022-T, and 1516-0023-T were approved, as moved by Mr. Castellano and seconded by Ms. Ortega. The issue of delayed reimbursements for special education services was discussed; a suggestion was made that future contracts include shorter billing deadlines.

The Cyber-Bullying Policy was tabled by consensus until February.

Contract and charter renewal work: The proposal for charter renewal preparation from the Synergy Group was approved on a motion by Mr. Aragon and seconded by Ms. Ortega. Discussion on other matters included the ongoing review of the bylaws and possible charter school training for next year. Mr. Benavidez commended Rio Gallinas for the improved school grade, from F to almost a C as pointed out by the director.

### **Reports:**

Food Services update: Much discussion ensued regarding possible lunch arrangements, with no resolution.

## Minutes for January 19, 2016 (cont.)

Elementary and Middle School update: Winter sports starts. Testing is underway. A question concerning the teachers' use of creative time and hands-on activities was answered by recalling the teachers' planning at the beginning of the school year concerning explorations in the community.

Luna Update: Already partially covered. There will be a new lease agreement based on enrollment for the Luna board and President Sanchez to review. Lease payments are quarterly.

Website update: Council members should review the information and keep Mr. Mike updated.

Charter Renewal: already discussed. Policies and timeline will be presented.

Director's Report: See attached. WLV Superintendent Parson has received the letter of intent. Teachers on growth plans are working on them. They have been evaluated in the categories the director is responsible for. The outside evaluator will conduct the rest. The director evaluates the non-certified staff.

### **Committee Reports:**

Director's Evaluation Committee continues to meet and expects to present a report in February. Evaluation of the director will be completed then.

Community Committee: A trip to the legislature is planned for January 28, involving students from area middle schools accompanied by Ms. Ortega. A schedule conflict with Rio's winter sports was noted.

Procedures Committee: Will present a report soon.

Governing Council Committee: A report from November 4 has been presented.

### **Future Business:**

The next Governing Council retreat will be held April 16th, 8am-noon at the HU Teacher Education Center in the Curriculum Library.

The updated bylaws will be voted on in February.

Discussion and voting on the Employee Handbook will take place at the February meeting, and on the Student Handbook at the March meeting.

Training for the two Governing Council members still needing certification is available March 2-3.

Improving Communications: problems should be brought to the Governing Council chair.

General discussion of possibilities for grants.

### **Announcements/Information:**

Mr. Rock Ulibarri has planned an opportunity for students to visit the Legislature on January 28 (already discussed).

**Executive Session:** The chair called the Governing Council into executive session at 7:11, with Mr. Aragon, Mr. Castellano, Mrs. Gallegos, Ms. Ortega and Ms. Rachael Lang present. The director Mr. Garcia was also in attendance for part of the session. Pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 H (2), tort claim and limited personnel issues were discussed. The chair announced the return to open session at 8:06pm and that no action had been taken.

**Adjournment:** We reviewed the items to be included at next meeting which include Evaluation of the Administrator, Employee Handbook and By-law update. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm

Minutes submitted by the interim secretary, Carol Winkel.