

Rio Gallinas School of Ecology and the Arts
Governing Council Meeting
Approved Minutes for
Tuesday, October 20, 2015
1107 Montezuma Street, 5:30pm

PROCEDURAL:

Meeting called to order at 5:32pm by Crystal Gallegos, Chair. Quorum declared present. Pledge of allegiance recited.

Members present: J. Emilio Aragon, Crystal Gallegos, Michael Immerman, Georgina Ortega.
(Absent: Rudy Castellano.)

Staff: Gerald Garcia, director, Karen Sickler, staff coordinator; Amanda Ortiz, Paulina Salas, Alma Rudolph, teachers. Guest: Flora Gallegos, parent.

Interim Secretary: Carol Winkel.

Approval of agenda : The agenda was approved with an addition to New Business on a motion by Mr. Immerman and seconded by Mr. Aragon.

Approval of minutes: The September 15 minutes were accepted as corrected, as moved by Mr. Aragon and seconded by Mr. Immerman.

Next regular meeting: set for November 17.

Public Comments: Ms. Ortiz described the very successful Pecos Wilderness expeditionary field trip for the K-3 students.

New Business:

School Fire (added agenda item): Ms. Salas explained about her losses from the school fire at the Socorro campus in April 2013 and the lack of coverage from NMPSIA, given that her losses were personally purchased items for the classroom rather than school property. She listed some of the very important teaching materials (book sets, posters) lost. Following discussion, Mr. Aragon said he would look into NMPSIA policies concerning fire damage and losses. It was understood that unless items are invoiced, they are not school property and therefore not covered by school insurance.

Director's Report: [See attached.] Added information: rather than PTSA, which has been dissolved, parents in individual classrooms might work together. At the PED TriAnnual meeting, the need to update the web material was pointed out. Enrollment figures in the report are correct, but they are changed from previous reporting. Reimbursement from West Las Vegas for Medicaid from April-May has been received. Student-led conferences are scheduled for Friday.

Employee Handbook: Editing of the handbook for specific Rio Gallinas purposes is underway. The Governing Council will then review it. The attorney will train employees regarding the policies and procedures in the handbook later.

Student Handbook: The handbook needs editing and revising, after which it will be circulated.

Improving Communication: Ms. Gallegos earlier reminded the Governing Council members that Rio Gallinas is now on Facebook. She suggests the teachers turn in a wish list to be included on the Facebook site and updated as needs are met.

The question of whether a teacher can serve on the Governing Council, perhaps as an ex officio member, was raised.

Elementary and Middle School updates: Concerning safety: In November the school staff will be trained on procedures such as lockdowns and other actions, working with law enforcement and LCC. Questions about ways to inform parents (which would be under the direction of law enforcement) and concerns about animals in the surrounding wilderness at LCC were raised.

Minutes for Tuesday, October 20, 1015 (continued)

Grades 4-5 experienced a successful overnight expedition to Fort Union. There will be a Halloween Carnival. Middle-school students are conducting a food drive. On a visit to the NM Behavioral Health Institute the students interacted with patients and conducted themselves very well. They will return on the 30th. The science and math books are now available for the students.

Action Items:

Review of Financial Reports: The review of financial reports, BARs 1516-0012-M, and, the Payroll & Accounts Payable Payment Vouchers for September 2015 were approved by the Council, as moved by Mr. Immerman and seconded by Ms. Ortega. There were none opposed.

Approval of the resolution authorizing a referendum for employees concerning Social Security Coverage, as well as approval of a divided vote referendum was passed on a motion by Mr. Immerman and seconded by Ms. Ortega. There were none opposed.

The Mission Statement as revised (see attached) was approved by the Council on a motion by Mr. Immerman and seconded by Ms. Ortega. There were none opposed.

Committee Reports:

PTSA (already discussed above in director's report.)

Procedures committee: membership on Governing Council to include a parent representative, as well as a student and perhaps a teacher. The school charter should be looked at for the next meeting to review procedures for Governing Council membership. Concerns about a bullying policy and perhaps a workshop for staff were expressed.

Director Evaluation committee: Mr. Immerman distributed a proposed rubric for consideration. (See attached.)

Announcements: reminder of WLV School Board regular meeting, at 6 pm, November 12. Rio Gallinas will be on the agenda.

Executive Session: Closed meeting / Executive session: The chair called the Governing Council into executive session at 7:17pm, with Mr. Aragon, Ms. Gallegos, Mr. Immerman, and Ms. Ortega present. The director Mr. Garcia was also in attendance. 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 7:31pm and that no action had been taken.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

Minutes submitted by the interim secretary, Carol Winkel.