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Rio Gallinas School of Ecology and the Arts
Governing Council Meeting
Final Minutes for
Tuesday, December 15, 2015
1107 Montezuma Street, 5:30pm

PROCEDURAL:

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm by Crystal Gallegos, Chair. Quorum declared present. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

Interim Secretary: Carol Winkel.

Agenda : The agenda was accepted as presented.

Minutes: The November 17th minutes were approved, as moved by Mr. Castellano and seconded by Ms. Gallegos.

Next regular meeting: set for January 19, 2016, to be held at the West Las Vegas School Board Room.

Public Comments: There were none.

Action Items:

Financial Report: The financial report was reviewed and the Payroll & Accounts Payable Payment Vouchers for November 2015 accepted, as moved by Mr. Castellano and seconded by Mr. Aragon. Acceptance of both the Employee Handbook and the Student Handbook was tabled by consensus until they could be revised and then reviewed by the relevant parties.

The Cyber-Bullying Policy was tabled by consensus for further review.

The Anti-Bullying Policy was approved in a motion made by Mr. Aragon and seconded by Mr. Castellano.

The Open Meeting Notice Resolution was approved in a motion correcting the regular meeting time (third Thursday of the month) made by Mr. Aragon and seconded by Mr. Castellano.

Reports:

Food Services update: Attempts to have the food service provided by the LCC cafeteria are at a standstill; currently Summit (WLV) will continue to provide food service for the second semester. Other possibilities were discussed, focusing on use of a kitchen in order for food to be prepared by Rio staff.

Elementary and Middle School update concerning discipline: The director reported that appropriate procedures have been followed. The Middle School culture is improving.

NMPSIA report: Mr. Aragon reported that insurance policies will not cover loss of materials provided by teachers; possibly a policy that encourages teachers to inventory donated material would prevent the lack of coverage for teachers' school-related personal items.

Website update: Governing Council members should keep the administrative assistant informed of changes or additions needed on the school website.

Minutes for December 15, 2015 (cont.)

Charter Renewal: The letter stating the intention to renew that is due January 2 needs to be completed and then checked for editing.. Further discussion of renewal was held during Mr. Castellano's report (see below).

Director's Report: [See attached.] Winter sports are being organized for January and February. The teacher evaluations covering Domains 1 and 4 (prep and training) have been completed; the other two domains will be evaluated by the PED. Teachers have the opportunity to respond to the evaluations. An important state-wide meeting of all eighteen Priority Schools was held; West Las Vegas was one of the few that sent no administrative support to accompany the Rio Gallinas representatives.

Committee Reports:

The report from the Director's Evaluation Committee's chair brought up questions for deeper consideration as part of looking at the director's role over the three-year contract: the purpose of Rio Gallinas as a charter school and how it is different from "regular" public schools; other possible directions forward for Rio Gallinas; the need for grants to allow for more or special programs to develop (like the Grow-Dome); the Rio Gallinas culture and environment; whether ideas came from teachers and staff or were simply presented top-down. A question as to whether substitute teachers were willing to come to Rio was answered by the director that there has been no problem, especially if the need for substitutes is known in advance. West Las Vegas provided its director evaluation rubric, but City Schools has not forwarded its form.

The chair of the Community Committee was not present, so the report was tabled.

Procedures Committee: representation by teachers and students on the Governing Council is still being sought. The two teachers on the committee are actively contributing.

Governing Council Committee to formulate expectations had no report.

Finance Committee report: Ms. Gallegos meets regularly with West Las Vegas as scheduled and would appreciate another member to serve with her.

Future Business:

The Governing Council Retreat will be held January 9th, tentatively at the Teacher Education Center. Issues concerning the charter renewal will be discussed.

School Reach is an effective means of communication with families.

Training for the two Governing Council members still needing certification is being looked into by the director.

Executive Session: The chair called the Governing Council into executive session at 7:28pm, with Mr. Aragon, Mr. Castellano, and Ms. Gallegos 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 7:38pm and that no action had been taken.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Minutes submitted by the interim secretary, Carol Winkel.