



ALMA D'ARTE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Governance Council Minutes

Regular Meeting, August 19, 2019 6:00 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS

| Gene Elliott | Casilda Provencio | Carolyn Williams | Godfrey Crane | Stephen Aquino

I. Introduction

- A. Call to Order – President G. Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- B. Roll Call of Members – All members are present.
- C. Approval of Agenda – C. Williams moved and S. Aquino seconded a motion to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously
- D. Approval of Minutes – G. Elliott reported that there are no minutes ready for approval at this meeting. Minutes from the past several meetings not yet approved are still being transcribed and should be ready for the next regular meeting.
- E. Announcements – None

II. Public Comment – None

IV. Current Business

- A. Closed Executive Session – C. Provencio moved and C. Williams seconded to go into Closed Executive Session to discuss pending litigation relating to the PEC's June 25, 2019, Notice of Breach. All non-members except Dr. Lere were excused from the room.
- B. Return from Closed Session -- G. Crane moved and C. Provencio seconded that the Executive Session end and the Council return to open meeting and non-members be invited to return.
- C. Meeting with Public Education Commission on August 22, 2019 – G. Elliott said that Dr. Lere, Attorney Patty Matthews and he will attend the PEC meeting to learn their response to materials our administration previously sent to them in response to the Notice of Breach. When asked to speculate on action the PEC might take, G. Elliott reported that there were only three options: one is that they could say that the new program descriptions adequately address their concerns and vote to return us to regular status or they could still ask us to make adjustments. D. Lere said the third option was that the case could go to a charter revocation hearing. He also said that we just do not know which way they will go. We can only wait to see.
- D. Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement – G. Elliott reported that negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement with the Alma unit of NEA-NM have concluded and that the agreement is before the GC for approval. He asked if any of the three members of the faculty negotiating team in attendance had any comment. All said not. He pointed out the process went very smoothly due the two excellent guidance from Ramon Padilla, chairman of the faculty team. G. Crane moved and C. Williams seconded a motion to approve the contract as presented to the council. Approval was unanimous.
- E. Approval of OMA Resolution – According to G. Elliott, the Alma GC needs to annually approve a standard resolution agreeing to abide by the terms and conditions of the NM Open Meetings Act. He stated that the resolution approved earlier apparently did not reach the Attorney General's office, so we must pass a resolution and submit it to the AG immediately. C. Williams moved to approve the annual OMA resolution as presented by the Attorney General. Second by C. Provencio. There was no discussion and the motion passed without objection.

F. Website Renovation Status Report – S. Aquino reported that the overhaul of the Alma website was just about complete and would go up in the next few days. He invited everyone to visit the site as soon as it goes live. He described the improvements that have been made and suggested that GC agendas and minutes can now be easily posted for public notice. He presented a Power Point display of the site contents and expressed thanks for the consultant, Paul Guzman, who helped with the overhaul. G. Elliott thanked Steve for his time, energy and leadership in completing a task that has been needed for a long time.

G. New Student Welcome Committee Report -- G. Elliott reported that the efforts planned for student recruiting were progressing on target. He showed a final dummy of the mailer to be sent to LCPS 9th and 10th graders. The mailer is being produced and mailed to the LCPS database by Go Direct Marketing Services of El Paso and should be in the mail sometime in the next few days. D. Lere reported that R. Padilla and Marlene Diaz have had success in attracting back several students who departed Alma at the end of the last school year. A planned ice cream social was cancelled after start of school activities made it impractical. D. Lere also reported that several new students had enrolled bringing the current enrollment to 140 students. He said that R. Padilla also attracted back two former students who planned to enroll in LCPS. He invited them to attend Alma for the week before LCPS classes start and if they don't like their experience here they would still have time to enroll at LCPS.

IV. Past Business

A. Monthly Administration Report

1. Start of School Report – D. Lere expressed hope that the enrollment would be at least 150 students by the 40th day count on September 25. He said the physical plant is doing well because LCPS' Bobby Stout has been super responsive to requests such as striping the parking lot and repairing an air conditioning unit. There will be several staff trainings in the coming days. For example, this week there will be a session on safety and Dr. Lonergan has already done a training on faculty roles in providing special education services. D. Lere said that there would be sessions on CPR and on ELL presented by LCPS personnel very soon.

2. Staff Changes – Two new faculty members have been hired for Special Ed: Dr. Lonergan and Adam Lucero, a veteran teacher with great credentials. Also hired was Marcus Wells who teaches upper division math classes. Veteran teacher Rueben Ruiz will teach ELL and is dedicated to accurately documenting services provided. There will soon be another opening to fill because Laura Verploegh is leaving for a kindergarten position in Artesia. Due to new Federal regulations we are needing to modify our Chinese language instruction. Our instructor's visa is through NMSU, so going forward, our students will have to enroll in dual credit classes at NMSU to receive instruction in Chinese language.

3. School Calendar 2019-2020 -- D. Lere pointed out that there are no changes to the calendar published earlier and that after the Labor Day holiday school will be pretty solid until Fall Break in mid-October.

B. Monthly Financial Report

1. Financial Report – G. Elliott introduced Randy Frye, Alma's new business manager, who is employed by K12 Accounting, our business management contractor. He asked Randy to tell the group a little about himself. He summarized a distinguished career that most recently included retirement from the NMSU Foundation. He asked for the normal order of items presented the monthly report. He was told that approval of Budget Adjustment Requests usually came first. So he asked for approval of only one BAR tonight – No. -0001-

1B for Instructional Materials in the amount of \$13,870. G. Crane moved approval of the BAR. Second by C. Provencio. Approval was unanimous. R. Frye then presented the financial packet prepared in the interim by Rebekah Runyan, K12 Accounting owner. He reviewed the contents and asked for questions. G. Crane, GC treasurer, said the finance committee had a "lightning" meeting prior to the GC meeting and recommended that the GC accept the report as presented. C. Williams moved acceptance of the report and the related check register and schedule of accounts paid. Second by G. Crane. Motion passed without objection

V. Future Business

Strategic Planning Schedule – G. Elliott said that due to the lateness of the hour, this item would be placed on a future agenda. There was no objection.

VI. Next Meeting Agenda Items – None

VII. Adjournment – G. Crane moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:43 pm. Seconded by C. Williams. Approval was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Williams
Secretary