

**New Mexico School for the Arts (NMSA)  
Parent Association  
NMSA-PA**

**Meeting Minutes**

January 5, 2013

**I. Call to order**

President, Cathy Weber called to order the regular meeting of the NMSA-PA at 11:09 am on January 5, at the school's location.

**II. Sign Roll Call Sheet**

Roll Call Sheet

Those in attendance were asked to sign in. According to the sign in sheet, the following persons were present:

Cathy Weber	Sherry Garcia	Nancy Bowman
Tammy Orr	John King	Soledad King
Chriss O'Neill	Leonora Lorenzo	Shelley Robinson
Joey A. Chavez	Charles Hoy	Jake Cohen
Lois Harvie	Wanicha Burapa	Susan Steinman
Christi Hield	Cindy Montoya	Megan Stavrowsky

**III. Introductions**

Introductions were completed.

**IV. Distribution of minutes from December Meeting**

To save time, the draft minutes are sent to those providing a readable email address next to their name on the sign in sheet or are available before the meeting by emailing any one of the following individuals, Cathy Weber, Chriss O'Neill ([chrissoneill@gmail.com](mailto:chrissoneill@gmail.com)) or Sherry Garcia ([sherry\\_711@msn.com](mailto:sherry_711@msn.com)). A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting. Approval of minutes is at the end of the meeting to give everyone a chance to read them.

**V. Review, Additions and Approval of the Agenda**

A report on Christmas Eve Parking Lot was added to the agenda.

**VI. Assign a Timekeeper**

President Weber acted as timekeeper. NOTE: Congratulations to Cindy Montoya were expressed by the group for her recent recognition as Principal of the year by the NM Charter School Association.

**VII. Treasurer's Report**

A question was asked about the balance sheet regarding whether music concert proceeds come into the Parent Association account. There was a discussion that all funds are collected and distributed according to the needs/budgets that are established for each department.

Chriss O'Neill reviewed the additions and reductions to the account balance as provided in a printed report. A balance of \$18,242.09 is reported in the printed balance sheet dated December 19, 2012.

## **VIII. Old Business**

- a. Ticket Sales for School Performances/Event Update: Leonora Lorenzo reported that she talked to Riis, Cindy and Natalia regarding this matter. For now, sales will continue through the Lensic due to school resource limitations. The Lensic does charge a fee but in exchange they charge a very low fee to use their facility for Art Spring. An in-house solution for selling tickets is being worked on such as instituting web-based ticket sales that would utilize a shopping cart on the NMSA website. Music concert tickets were sold ourselves last time because the Lensic needs a two-week notice.

## **IX. New business:** No New Business for this meeting

## **X. Officer/Committee/Task Force Reports and Updates**

### **a. Parent Fund Raising Events:**

- Leonora Lorenzo presented information regarding a Dessert Theater and that she has sent a message to freshman and sophomore theater parents asking them to be involved in this. The event will be a comedy this year written by Mr. Chavez called "Gun Shy". Save the date of Saturday February 23. REQUEST: Anyone with connections to restaurants to obtain donated desserts is asked to check to see if the restaurants would be willing to donate and let Leonora know. Someone noted that one of the music student's mother works in the whole foods bakery and that might be a source of desserts. There will also be a raffle and donations are needed.
- Joey Chavez reported that \$653.00 was raised parking cars on Christmas Eve. They had 5 parents and six students who worked the event. Thanks to them for their time on Christmas Eve!

- b. **Student Social Events Committee:** Nancy Bowman reported that the coffeehouse was a success. Students performed on the floor instead of the stage. There was participation by different departments and there were more parents than students this time. Students were very professional and were reminded that this is important because anyone could attend including talent scouts. There was a discussion about timing of these events which was thoroughly debated. The next one is Friday before Spring break. Wanicha announced that the Children's Museum is a venue for performing to children. If NMSA would like to develop that relationship she will let them know. Charles Hoy noted that his wife had worked on a documentary film about a symphonic group that shows up on a plaza and performs impromptu and the reaction of onlookers to this type of event. Something NMSA could consider for students.

- c. **Yearbook Update:** Megan Stravrowsky reported that Judy showed the kids how to build ads and they were so excited. The yearbook students are selling advertisements now until February 1; and forms are available today. They can be business ads or ads from parents to their students. The forms are also on the website. They meet on Thursdays from 4:30-6 and welcome any students to stop in. ACTION ITEM: If we have any pictures from events, please upload them to the website or send them to: nmsayearbook1@gmail.com. Get your kids to order yearbooks. They will have a table at all events to pre sell yearbooks.

**NOTE:** Charles Hoy let the PA know that he and Judy had met with Riis regarding fund raising and on branding for NMSA events.

## **XI. Administration/Staff Reports**

- a) **Arts Exchange Day 12/3/12 Debrief:** Mr. Chavez reviewed the events and noted that the students were very impressed about the free food that was available thanks parents for providing the food. He noted that they found out it was possible to have everyone have lunch in time provided but they do not have a large enough place for everyone to have lunch together. He sought feedback from facilitators and teachers about the event. He notes the feedback verbatim so that it is “their” feedback. One comment was that by the end of the day everyone had talked and they said they “got” the movie. Some other ideas he got for next time are to provide name tags; allow teachers who want to lead to have the opportunity; a half hour break out is too short and 90 minutes would be better; take attendance all day and let everyone know that the event is mandatory. Because of the success and the feedback they are planning another exchange day in March. It may not be the whole day and he will talk to the academic faculty about how it should work as well. He is looking at bringing in a performer he recently saw who does a “one man show” called “I Am Dirt”. It does a good job of covering bullying, gender, substance abuse and other topics relevant to students. He will be asking the NMSA-PA for funding to help pay for this performer as well as writing a grant for funding. Ms. Montoya announced that Mr. Chavez had received international recognition for the event and that a good school culture is a huge effort that Mr. Chavez has spearheaded.
- b) **NOTE:** Departmental Parent Liaison Report were moved up to allow Principal Montoya time to provide information at the end.
- Dance: Shelley Robinson presented that the dancers had been invited to perform at Los Alamos High School. They were really appreciated and demonstrated outstanding professionalism and passion...especially since this was right before exams. Winter dances are 1/18-20 at James A. Little Theater. Adam and parents have a fund raising idea for next year. It will be something along the lines of “So You Think You Can Dance”. They believe they can get famous people to participate as well as “famous” people from the community. The dance students will choreograph the pieces and then the “star” will have two sessions to practice and then perform.
  - Theater was already presented earlier by Nancy Bowman.
  - Music: Jake Cohen reminded the group about All State starting on January 9 at Popejoy at UNM. Performances are on Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup> if you are looking for tickets. Although students already auditioned to be at All State, they have another audition to be seated. NMSA has 32 students accepted to All State. All State is a wonderful opportunity for the students to work with world famous mentors. There was a discussion about how much time students will be given to catch up on homework. They will be given up to three days from their final performance.
  - Visual Arts: Christina Gonzales will have an exhibition of her art work at the end of the month. There was a discussion about whether the advertising that was done about BIRCH in the newspaper was worthwhile. We did not ask how people found out about the event so we don’t know but most of the people who attended were parents, friends of parents and our donors. A parent walked around downtown and placed flyers on the bulletin board at the Palace of the Governors. The venue was a little difficult to find. Christi suggested that we reach out to the concierges at hotels and have them come to a complimentary event to get an idea of the quality of the performances of NMSA and they can tell hotel guests about NMSA events. Another idea was to create a volunteer function for parents to make sure that NMSA dates are on various community and state calendars. All ideas are welcome and desired. ACTION: Tom Osgood is completing a report about BIRCH, so people with questions might want to talk to him.

- A discussion ensued regarding other fund raising ideas or questions. Wanicha asked about the license plate sales. The answer was that Cathy Tari was coordinating that effort with Development and Natalia. Another person asked about selling T-shirts for next year. If someone would like to coordinate a T-shirt fund raiser, that would be great. It was noted that there are some hoodies left that could be sold.

Principal's Report: Cindy Montoya presented:

- Junior free periods: NMSA is testing the waters of letting seniors have a free period. It requires that students have a 3.0 gpa; parents provide permission; and they have no honor court infractions and no D's or F's in any classes. There is some danger of being off campus but students wanted it and they have earned it, so if they have free period (and they can register for 5 classes instead of 6) so that they do have a free period, they sign out. They must go off campus if they sign out. Only 5 or 6 seniors have asked for a free period. Juniors will not be given this same option.
- Master schedule: NMSA wants to reduce workload for students and one option being considered is combining humanities courses in junior year (like English and history). In senior year art history to all disciplines since they need art history to graduate or English 4 would be world and art history combination...a yearlong linked class. Principal Montoya has been working with Cecile on next year's master schedule since September. They are looking into how to add a movement class. This might have to be in the "0" hour. Already they have a math lab and Spanish assistance during "0" hour. There was discussion about a Zumba class, yoga/body awareness and exploration of a school-wide choir or vocal class for actors, acting for non-majors. Creative suggestions are possibly holding a six-week course on Saturdays.
- Snow delay messages: NMSA is no longer tied to the Santa Fe Public Schools schedule, however, parents from Albuquerque have requested that students stay on the train when there is bad weather. There is always someone at the school on snow days to let students who arrive from a distance into the school. NMSA gets good information about the condition of streets in Santa Fe from St. Michael's school and if there is a closure it probably will be before SFPS calls it. Right now information goes out to students and parents in a multitude of methods, website; all three television stations, automated system and iContacts, etc.
- Parent feedback on daily/weekly schedule: NMSA is one school and academic and artistic staff work together to create success. Therefore, teachers and administrative staff are working on same due dates and they will debrief on the 16<sup>th</sup> on how it worked and what needs to change. They may need to create sacred time around finals but they held juries and portfolio reviews one week ahead of finals this time. If the student has a class or classes with no finals, they do not need to come but the art class may be meeting. They encourage students not to over schedule themselves but this isn't always the case. The suggestion is to say "yes" to the best and no to the rest. They asked ninth grade students and they liked the ninth grade academy so much they want a tenth grade academy, so this is being worked on.

## **XII. Departmental Parent Liaison Reports**

These reports were given above during Administration/staff Reports.

## **XIII. Additional Agenda Items:**

Already covered elsewhere.

**XIV. Set Future Agenda Items:**

- a. Riis Gonzales will address the Parent's Association regarding: New Building location and NMSA Development.

**XV. Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2012**

The minutes were approved unanimously (minor typographical changes submitted by Chriss O'Neill).

**XVI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Saturday February 2, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

**XVII. Adjournment**

President Weber adjourned the meeting at 12:41 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Sherry Garcia, Secretary