

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

**Meeting Minutes**

February 2, 2013

**I. Call to order**

President, Cathy Weber called to order the regular meeting of the NMSA-PA at 11:00 am on February 2, 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	Chriss O'Neill
Tammy Orr	John King	Shelley Robinson
Joey A. Chavez	Leonora Lorenzo	Jake Cohen
Lois Harvie	Tom Osgood	Gretchen Johnson
Christi Hield	Wanicha Burapa	Christina Yamashiro
Steven Marble	Christi Schackel	Riis Gonzales

**III. Introductions**

Introductions were completed.

**IV. Distribution of minutes from January 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**

Item on Culture by Joey Chavez was added to 11 b.

**VI. Assign a Timekeeper**

President Weber acted as timekeeper.

**VII. Treasurer's Report**

Chriss O'Neill reviewed the additions and reductions to the account balance as provided in a printed report. Chriss indicated that she would provide a new balance sheet showing \$17,947.78 as the reported as of January 24, 2013.

Christina Yamashiro, NMSA Business Manager provided information regarding contact with a vendor that there is a bill from 2012 that remains unpaid for services rendered in the amount of \$1,160.33. It appears that a parent contracted for services outside of the auspices of the Parent Association and NMSA for an event but that the bill was not paid. Christina requests that the PA pay the vendor for service rendered while the matter is researched for other means to resolve the matter. There was much discussion, motions, amended motions and the outcome was the following actions:

- Motion: Christi Schackel moved that the NMSA-PA pay the vendor the amount of \$1,160.33 or a lesser amount be negotiated or negotiate the entire amount as a donation to the school for advertisement in the yearbook. Follow up to be provided at the next meeting. Steven Marble seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Christi Schackel, Shelley Robinson and Christina Yamashiro will speak to the vendor about this matter.
- Internal Controls in the form of by-laws for the NMSA-PA will be developed that address who can commit the association to costs; separation of duties regarding money handling; requirements to go through the NMSA-PA or the Principal for all fund raising or other events.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

#### **IX. New business:**

- a. Volunteer to draft by-laws for Parent Association: Sherry Garcia volunteered to draft by-laws with the caveat that creating and adopting by-laws will be successful only if there is a means to enforce them. A draft will be available in the next one to two months with a goal of implementation by June. Christina Yamashiro offered to provide input.
- b. Music Department Request for Funds: Christi Hield presented information regarding the school choir and their need for appropriate dress for performances in that they are representing the school which could be a means for recruitment of students. They have identified inexpensive uniforms for \$1,700.00 which would stay with the school for future choir members. There was discussion about other means to raise the funds for the uniforms but an important performance is less than a month away. MOTION: Christi Schackel moved that the NMSA-PA pay \$1,700 for the uniforms with understanding that the music committee will

implement effort to replace these funds. Wanicha Burapa seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Departmental Parent Liaison Reports were postponed to allow Riis Gonzales time to present prior to another commitment.

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

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

Dessert Theater: Leonara Lorenzo indicated that tickets are available for this event by contacting her. She is also working with parent volunteers. All this information is in the newsletter. The event is in concert with a play written by Mr. Chavez. 7:00 p.m. is dessert followed at 8:00 by the play.

##### **b. Student Social Events Committee:** Chriss O'Neill informed the PA regarding the winter ball to be held on February 8 at the school by the Student Council. All information in the newsletter. Tickets are \$10 and parents are requested to bring snacks (non peanuts) to the school on Friday morning. A signup sheet was passed around. In addition on February 4 there will be a 4 Arts Tournament with games. Prom planning starts in mid February with updates to come.

##### **c. Yearbook Update:** Chriss O'Neill reported for Megan that forms went out for yearbook advertisements and reminded everyone to order their yearbooks. \$356 was provided by the PA for expenses related to the yearbook.

##### **d. PR Report:** No PR report.

##### **e. Residential/Out of Town Committee Report:** No report.

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

##### a) **Art Institute Update:** Riis Gonzales, Director presented important information about the Art Institute. He stated that none of this could be done without everyone's contribution and he feels good about being part of this team.

##### a) **Statistics:** Each student receives 400 hours of supervised master art training each year. Assuming four years at the school, by the time students graduate, this is 1600 hours. This is compared to an average of 1,000 hours as an undergraduate in college and colleges are taking note of this.

There have been 160 applicants to NMSA for the coming year with only 40-50 slots available meaning that more than 100 kids must be turned away. NMSA doesn't look at grades or ability to pay but are brought in based on their talent and their passion. NOTE: Riis recognized Chriss O'Neill for her contribution to the number of students who are seeking entry to the school.

##### b) **Fundraising:** The goal for this year is to raise \$1.4 million for all the needs related to operating the Art Institute. To this point \$1.1 has been raised in pledges and gifts. There are a few more months to go and it all starts over in July. (See 2012-2013 NMSA-Art Institute

Funding Sources Chart provided.) This is not the best situation for the school because if any of this amount doesn't come through, it literally means that something has to be cut. NMSA is working with Senator Nancy Rodriguez and Representative Lucky Varela to sponsor a bill that would change the a previous funding bill for NMSA that would end the charter for asking for additional needed funding for the school.

Riis reviewed other schools in the state that educate students across the state like NMSA (NMMI, NMSD, NMSVH for example) that receive \$10-\$15 million per year to operate although their enrollments are decreasing each year. NMMI charges \$11-15,000 tuition annually for students who wish to attend. NMSA is three years old and has a 96% graduation rate. Our SAT and ACT scores are above the national average. Parent involvement is the key.

- c) Legislative Briefing/Permanent Campus: Parents can help by thanking Senator Rodriguez and Representative Varela for their support. No bills have yet been heard by the Education Committee. Riis will inform us if help is needed on the bill when it is heard.

There were many questions and discussion regarding how the SEG funding is only for the academic portion of the school and not for the arts portion of the school. How NMSA gets funding from the State and why the original law to fund the school needs to be amended. There was discussion about funding and teacher certification for the arts programs versus talented experts in the arts becoming certified and that Cindy has an evaluation program for all teachers for the academic and the arts programs of the school.

Regarding the school building, they have looked at 18 different sites and they have \$7 million dollars in donations for capital. \$14 million is needed if NMSA builds. They are looking into all options including partnering with SFPS and this is a primary focus for the Board. There is no definitive answer yet and there are many issues to consider including location for students riding the train and space for performances within the school and dorm space, for example. The current lease is through 2014 and there has already been negotiation for a one year extension. 20 students applied this year that need dorm space. The current charter can have 300 students but this building can only accommodate 210.

In response to a question about auditions, the parent association was informed that all 160 students who have applied will be auditioned.

- b) **Culture:** Joey Chavez notified the parent association that the next Culture Day is scheduled for March 28, one half day in the afternoon. John Morello

(sp?) a one man show called "I Am Dirt" has been scheduled. Mr. Chavez is seeking \$750.00 from the Arts in the Schools and will ask the PA to contribute \$750.00 for this speaker at next month's meeting.

- c) **Principal's Report:** No Principal's report was provided.
- d) **Admissions:** Chriss O'Neill requested volunteers to assist with upcoming auditions and portfolio reviews. Signup sheets were passed around.

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

- a. Dance: No new information due to lack of time.
- b. Theater: Already provided above under Fund Raising.
- c. Music: Jake reminded everyone to come to the music recital on February 14. See the newsletter.
- d. Visual Arts: No new information due to lack of time.

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

Already covered in item 11, Joey Chavez, Culture.

## **XIV. Set Future Agenda Items:**

- a. By laws.

## **XV. Approval of Minutes from January, 2013**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **XVI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Saturday March 2, 2013. There was discussion that the April meeting conflicts with Easter weekend. At the March meeting, we will vote whether to have the April meeting on March 30.

## **XVII. Adjournment**

President Weber adjourned the meeting at 12:33 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Sherry Garcia, Secretary