

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

Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2014 *Approved*

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 11:03 am.

II. Sign Roll Call Sheet

Roll of attendees: Renée Martínez, Sue McDonald, Will McDonald, Christina Yamshiro, Tammy Orr, Geron Spray, Charles Hoy, Jake Cohen, Sarah Ashkin, Mawgie Alley, Warren Steinman, Susan Steinman, Peter Kaufman, Olga Torres-Reid, Shelley Robinson, John King, Joey Chavez and David Sandoval.

III. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves. Christina Yamishiro introduced herself as the school business manager. She offered to provide financial information of interest to the PA. David Sandoval suggested Christina provide an overview of the school budget and rules related to spending at the December 2014 PA meeting.

IV. Approval of September 6, 2014 PA Meeting Minutes

This topic was placed at the end of the agenda to allow for some time to review before a vote.

A motion was made by Sue McDonald to approve the NMSA PA September 6 2014 Meeting Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mawgie Alley. The motion carried with unanimous consent.

V. Review, Additions and Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with no new additions.

VI. Assign a Timekeeper

Joey Chavez acted as timekeeper.

VII. President's Report

David Sandoval expressed interest in understanding how the Arts Institute allocates budget across the Arts departments. David attended a choir performance last week at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel near Santa Fe Prep. He mentioned that the school may purchase an acoustic backdrop to allow choir performances to be held at the school instead of paying for space. The PA supply inventory is in good shape.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Shelley Robinson reported that there has been no revenue or spending activity since the last PA meeting. The current checking account balance is \$9,000. A quarterly payment from Smith's is due in October. A \$2,500 expense item is pending for the school year 2013-2014 yearbook.

IX. Administration Report

- Joey Chavez reported that the Back to School Night saw lower attendance than past years.
- An agreement has been made with Whole Foods to donate 5% of receipts on the Wednesday prior to the Thanksgiving to the school. NMSA will hold performances at the stores in return. Parent volunteers will be needed on both days from 8 am and 5 pm and in two hour shifts.
- Preparation for a school accreditation process governed by Advanced Education will start soon. An onsite visit is planned for March 2015.

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- NMSA Art Department chairs will receive the Arts School Network's Distinguished School Award in Denver later in October. The award recognizes the school for the breadth and depth of its arts curriculum.
- The school is offering academic help to students with D and F grades at this time in the year. A mandatory study hall is required for some students, starting at 8:30 a.m. One parent asked if the assistance can be provided after school as an option. Further discussion of this item was moved to the New Business item later on the agenda.

X. Department Liaisons Reports

Music Department - A parent liaison has yet to be confirmed.

An orchestra concert is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Chapel, starting at 7 pm.

Theater Department - The Shakespeare Project performances are scheduled for October 9, 10 and 11 at 7 pm in the NMSA Large Rehearsal Hall. This same performance will travel to Artesia's Ocotillo Theater on October 16 and 17 as an outreach event. A grant was given for the outreach event by the county. The Department will also perform Lilian Hellman's The Childrens Hour on October 30, 31 and November 1 at Warehouse 21.

Dance Department - A site specific program with a water theme is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12 at the Water History Park, across from Christo Rey Church. Two performances are planned for each day, one at 4 pm and the next at 5:30 pm.

Visual Arts Department - The Ghost Ranch trip went well and parent volunteers were available to drive and chaperone.

XI. Old Business

Family Directory - No report was given. The project is assumed to be in process with the parent volunteers.

T shirt Fundraiser - The parent lead on this project was not at the meeting to give a status report.

Yearbook - A meeting was held with Phil Baca who will lead this project this year. 9 students attended the meeting and 4-5 parents have volunteered to provide support. Mr. Baca has two children attending the school and has prior experience developing yearbooks for Pepperdine University and Santa Fe High School. The Yearbook for school year 2013-2014 should be ready for the students this month.

XII. New Business

Geron Spray requested funds from the PA to purchase 55 copies of *To Kill a Mockingbird* for his 9th and 10th grade English students. He feels strongly that this book is essential reaching for high school students.

John King made a motion to approve the allocation of \$275 to purchase 55 copies of the book, To Kill a Mockingbird. Jake Cohen seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Sarah Ashkin, faculty in the Dance Department, asked the PA to consider funding support for an outreach

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project in February. The dance company plans to take their Winter Dance performance to Albuquerque's NDI Highland Theater during the first weekend of February. Additional funds, in the \$1,500 range, are needed for overnight lodging, transportation and food.

Various options for funding events across art departments and using donations received at outreach events to reimburse the PA were offered. David Sandoval stated that he will speak with Riis Gonzales on this matter. Charles Hoy mentioned that an amendment to the PA by-laws was established last year which should be considered in the discussion.

David Sandoval asked Sarah Ashkin to attend the PA meeting in November to formally request the funds.

A motion was made by Shelley Robinson to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Renée Martínez seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Parent Concerns - David Sandoval will bring the concern about scheduling mandatory study hall attendance in the morning before school to the Site Committee. A parent concern was raised about teacher support of students who need extra time to complete assignments due to overnight school trips, late rehearsals and performances, college visits and auditions. David Sandoval and Joey Chavez noted that it is school policy to give students extra time to turn in assignments in these situations.

XIII. Next Meeting

November 1st, at 11:00.

XIV. Adjournment

President, David Sandoval adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Renée Martínez, PA Secretary