

# New Mexico School for the Arts (NMSA) - Parent Association (PA) Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2014 \*Approved\*

## **I. Call to order**

President, David Sandoval called to order the regular meeting of the NMSA-PA at 11:05 a.m. on November 4, 2014 at the school's location.

## **II. Sign Roll Call Sheet**

Those in attendance were asked to sign in. According to the sign in sheet; 16 were in attendance, 2 faculty members and 14 parents. Attending were: David Sandoval, Kris Radecki, Shelley Robinson, Charles Hoy, Renée Martínez, Cindy Montoya, Jake Cohen, Joey Chavez, Amy Weider, Tammy Orr, John King, Megan Stravrowsky, Olga Torres-Reid, Sue McDonald, Will McDonald, Leonard Civale.

## **III. Introductions**

Introductions were completed.

## **IV. Review and Approval of October 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

This item was not covered during the meeting and will be included on the December 2014 meeting agenda.

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

Requests to add a Student Council report and a student request for parent contributions to an upcoming event were made. Kris Radecki made a motion to approve the Agenda as revised. Renée Martínez seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

## **VI. Assign a Timekeeper**

Joey Chavez acted as timekeeper.

## **VII. President's Report:**

President David Sandoval gave a summary of his recent meeting with Riis Gonzales. The role of the Arts Institute was clarified as a private not-for-profit organization that focuses solely on fundraising for NMSA arts programming. It was noted that many other arts schools are magnet schools and are associated with local public school systems.

The Arts Institute does not fund 100% of the arts program budget. Arts teachers have a contract with the Arts Institute for part of their job. Title I funds do not flow until a school has exceeded one year in operation. A potential future path may be for Arts Institute to evolve into a Foundation for the school. There are restrictions on the use of public school funds on outreach activities. Any revenue generated from student work created in school is considered funds to the Arts Institute.

One parent raised the question about the recent property tax increase and why the NMSA allocation is low relative to other schools. A suggestion was made to invite Carl, Santa Fe Public School Chief Financial Officer, to a future NMSA PA meeting to provide information on school bonds and impacts to NMSA.

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David recommends that parents contact their state legislative representative to promote the school. Personal stories about the value of the school to students and families can be very powerful.

A suggestion was made to prepare a NMSA fact sheet to give to each legislator at the beginning of the regular legislative session. Cindy Montoya volunteered to provide information and Renée Martínez volunteered to create the fact sheet.

David mentioned a recent news article about a potential siting of a new NMSA campus on Siringo road near the Santa Fe University of Art and Design. He clarified that this is just one site of several being considered.

A question was raised about the goal of the PA; is it to channel funds to the Arts Institute or to fund requests from Art chairs and students directly. It was suggested that one of the goals of the PA is to close the gap between what the Art Institute contributes to each arts program and the total each arts program needs.

A clarification was made about the tax treatment of the family Arts fee. This fee is not tax deductible, all other parent contributions are.

## **VIII. Treasurer's Report:**

The current PA funds balance is \$9,301.17. Outstanding obligations are \$5,000.

Parents are encouraged to take their Thanksgiving shopping to Smiths.

The projected revenue by year end is \$1,500 for Smith's and \$1,500 for holiday parking fundraisers. A request was made to include outstanding obligations on the monthly report.

A discussion was held about whether the PA should adopt a practice for asking the arts chairs to present large requests to the PA at the beginning and middle of the school year.

A decision was made to have a small workgroup meet to prepare a recommended process for allocating PA funds to the arts and academic departments.

## **IX. Administration Report:**

Cindy Montoya provided an overview of the NMSA Strategic Plan.

Strategic Goals

- Technology
- "A" grade for school
- Accreditation
- Long Range Strategic Plan

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Growth Mindset - We can learn and get better

Collaboration is a cornerstone principal - we are smarter collectively than individually

An example is learning from outside experts, e.g. Joe Price from the Guthrie Theater who suggested the theater curriculum focus on auditioning.

The plan includes projections for adding students to school with a new campus.

Cindy is seeking feedback on how to engage parents. The Coffee with the Principal events have not been well attended.

Each Department is developing a long range plan.

## **X. Art Department Reports:**

- Visual Arts - Birch showcase next weekend
- Dance – Thriller performance in downtown Santa Fe
- Theater - Children's Hour, last performance tonight 7 pm. Artesia Trip, Joey taught a acting workshop. Shakespeare Project will be presented again
- Music - Orchestra and percussion event last week. Tribute to Mara Robinson on Nov. 4.

## **XI. Old Business**

A motion to extend the PA meeting for additional 15 minutes was made by Shelley Robinson, second by Leonardo Civale and approved by unanimous consent.

## **XII. New Business:**

Student Council Request – Fall Festival will be held on the Friday before Thanksgiving. A request was made for parents to provide snacks for the afternoon. Leftover snacks will be used at the School Dance that evening. Parents are to drop off food before 2 pm. Snack suggestions are water and fruit.

## **Parent Concerns:**

N/A

## **XIII. Next Meeting**

December 6 at 11:00.

## **XIV. Adjournment**

President, David Sandoval adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Renée Martínez, PA Secretary