

NMSA All-School Committee Meeting
Minutes for August 6, 2011

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 11: 00 AM. By co chair Trina Raper.

Roll Call Those participants signed in who attended the meeting:

Cindy Montoya, Principal	Nancy Marie Mithloe	Sherry Garcia, Secretary
Karen Kern	Trina Raper, Co Chair	Inez Russell
Jake Cohen	Nina Velenzuela	Steve Ediger
Charles Hoy	Deb Martinez	Fran Cooper
Laurie DeDomenico	Christi Schackel	Cathy Weber
Susan R. Cort	Susan Magestro	David Gomez
Warren Steinman	Katharine Gates	Tammy Orr
Christi Heild	Tom Hitch	Michele Ortega Co Chair

NOTE: Please remember to sign in and please print clearly so correct spellings of names can be achieved.

Approval of Minutes: Steve Ediger moved that the June 4, 2011 minutes be approved. Nina Valenzuela seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Creation of Agenda: Discussion or Action Items

Jake has a question about if the music dept will be classical or other selections. Report next meeting/Communication before the next meeting. Like there to be more variety than just classical.

Charles communication media (events for students to perform like electronic format) for all the other art forms, do we want it to expand? Discussion

Nina would like to know if there are cross discipline. Report

Steven M wants to include Capoeira into the PE program. Discussion

PE credit and varsity sports. Report

Report on Fund raising. Report

Therese dancers schedule goes from 8:20-7pm and wants to discuss. Discussion

Fran wants some cross discipline opportunity. Report

Steven K Parking lot fund raiser. Report

Steven M landscaping report and request. Report

Tom wants discussion of the \$1K arts fee. Discussion

I. Reports

1. Principal's Report: by Cindy Montoya

- **Introduction:** Ms. Montoya started with NMSA as principal on April 4th 2011 and has been involved in Charter movement for years before this.
- **Meeting location:** From now on we will be moving this meeting to a bigger room. Welcome new parents and thank returning parents for continuing with the All School Committee.
- **AYP Designation:** NMSA made AYP. Only 13% of schools in the state made AYP. We give credit to the schools (including home schooling) from which these students came. NMSA had 100% participation of the 33 students that took the tests. There were other small schools that did not have 100% participation in testing. There are other measures of success that NMSA will be using such as ACT and SAT preparation. NMSA is a public charter so we are held to all the laws to which other public schools must abide.
- **Preventive pest control:** There was a question from the June meeting about the chemicals used for pest control. The chemical used is not natural but is the least strong chemical that can be used. This is an old building and has pest which need to be controlled.
- **New Hires:** NMSA has hired a number of new staff. The new staff include:
 1. Counselor has been hired with a good background with working with variety of students.
 2. Spanish teacher named Elizabeth McCormick who is from Scotland and is very fluent in Spanish.
 3. Holly Phillips will head special education.
 4. Dan Newell will head the math department. He has a background in business and is an expert at engaging students in math.
 5. Jeannie Leesman is the other math teacher.
 6. Maureen Nelson has been hired to teach one English class which will allow Dr. Cassel to teach an elective poetry class.
 7. Dr. Redfield as the music director.

Library: The school has received funding for the library and students should be able to check out items online. It is a small collection but increasing. NMSA will be accepting donations of books and materials but will be placing some parameters on what can be donated to avoid having to cart off books and materials that are not appropriate for the library. The librarian(s) are in-kind and supported by the Lanan Foundation.

- **Registration:** Registration will be handled differently this year. Monday the 15th is registration and orientation for new students from 9 am – Noon. Tuesday the 16th is for returning students and students only need to stay long enough to register. The forms are on

the school's website and if parents sign the forms, parents don't need to be there although they are welcome to attend. Using your PowerSchool log on, returning students and parents can see their 2011-2012 schedules. If there are any errors, let Ms. Montoya know. During registration students will have photo taken for an ID and be assigned lockers/lock; PowerSchool logon; schedule and advisor.

- **Fundraising Report:** Julie Gomez spoke on behalf of professional fund raising. This type of fund raising brings in funds through board members, grants writing, art commission grants; special events; parent annual funds, and earned income through ticket sales for example. During the summer, NMSA received an etching press and it will be on loan for 5 years. It is upstairs and students can use it for printing. Mark White gallery has offered a sculpture to install on campus. A music store that went out of business provided NMSA with about \$30,000 worth of items for the school including a drum set. Michael Blumberg gave us a basalt bench which will be installed at the school. There was a short discussion about whether the school would accept donations of public art work. NMSA has a gift policy and gifts need to come through Julie's office. If something that NMSA can't use it might not be accepted. Funds received on the nonprofit side are used for arts programs, residential program and lunch program. It was asked that information about where the money comes from and where it goes be published on website.
- **Parent fund raising Report:** Laurie and Kristi On October 15 a breakfast fundraiser is scheduled from 8:00 am -10:30 am at Applebee's. There will be a raffle and if 150 students participate in selling tickets, it's possible to raise almost \$20,000. This is a student activity and they will be servers, performers, etc. There will be a letter writing fund raising campaign where the kids write letters asking for funding for specific events. The letter writing campaign raised about \$10,000 last year. This Christmas Eve, NMSA will coordinate a parking event for the farolito walk. Farolitos and biscochitos will be sold. On Feb 3-5, the Hahn-Ross Gallery will host a show for NMSA and student art will be shown and can be sold. NMSA is planning an event "Art Swap" for next summer. August 20 and 21st, NMDSA will coordinate a parking event for Indian Market. The cost will be \$9.99 and we will ask if the penny can be donated. Last year several thousand dollars was raised. Parking will start at 6:00 a.m until 5 or 6:00 p.m. Students and parents who sign up will work three hour shifts and 4 people are needed per shift. We might sell lemonade and snacks or have other means of raising money at this parking event. Donations of water and snacks are needed for the volunteers. NOTE: All volunteers for fund raising events need to sign a waiver and should sign in so that the school can get "in-kind" credit.
- **Grounds Committee Report:** Steven Marble reported that today (August 8) was a landscaping day. The next one will be on August 20 and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers can park at PRC or at NMDS if you want to donate parking fee to the school. Donations of plants are needed. Jake, Steve, Nina and Kathy are on the landscaping committee and have created a list of needed plants. We want to beautify the corner and we want to create a stone wall that is about 2 ft high. Nina can get the stone but a chipped stone

mason is needed. We also need a bobcat to till up the east side. An email will be sent out asking for this type of support. Also needed is someone to do maintenance to water and things. We can have a sign up of students and parents and water on the required water schedule. It would be nice to have drip system. We need parents to remember to sign in for volunteer because it helps with in-kind contributions.

II. Discussion Items

- **Curriculum:** Related to Physical education credit, the law allows a waiver to be requested that would allow dancers to get the one PE credit needed through their dance activities. It requires that the teacher is a certified PE teacher. Adam McKinney is working to obtain this certification. Elizabeth Lundy is already certified and adds student wellness learning to the curriculum. However, other types of PE activities (soccer, swimming, etc.) earned at other schools (SFHS for example) must be posted on the student's transcripts by the school certifying the credit. NMSA cannot post credits to transcripts for credits not earned at NMSA. A discussion of Capoeira as a possible option for NMSA was discussed. This is Brazilian art form that has play/dance and martial arts as components. Ms. Montoya will work with Elizabeth on this possibility. Starting in 2012-13 students must have four credits of math. NMSA thought there would be more need for Algebra but actually have more need for geometry.
- **Schedules:** Ms. Montoya provided information about electives and the challenges of providing cross discipline electives for students. The core courses must be a priority and must be held in the morning for many reasons. Electives have to be on grade level and the teachers/administrators have been working on a master schedule and feel that they almost have this worked out. However, electives might have to be scheduled by quarter instead of semester. Due to all the challenges and for budgeting purposes, the master schedule needs to be developed much earlier. The result will be that registration for 2012-3 will take place the end of January and the master schedule developed by April 1. Students may be able to review course descriptions and register online. The changes to schedules this year was necessitated after a complete review of transcripts and to ensure that everyone has what is needed to graduate.
- **Art Fee:** The letter that was recently sent to parents regarding a voluntary \$1,000.00 art fee was discussed at some length. What prompted the decision to charge an art fee was based on need for additional budget. Funding for the morning classes is based on enrollment numbers and comes as a formula from the Public Education Department (PED). Last year NMSA received additional funding of \$250 to 350,000 for the growth in numbers of students but that funding will not be received this year. The charter allows up to 300 students but the building and faculty cannot handle more than 200 students. The fee is to fund the private arts side of the curriculum. The fee is not a violation of the charter and was cleared by the attorneys for NMSA. It was also approved by the Public Education Committee (PEC). Students who do not contribute any or all of the voluntary fee, will still received the same education as others

and all matters involving the fee payment are confidential. Many parents and students voiced their support for the fee due to the quality of education students will be receiving. The letter didn't go out until just before school because so many eyes and groups had to review and provide clearance for the letter. Parents who elect to pay all or some (or more than the amount) can do so by credit card, in payments or in automatic deductions from their bank.

- **Dance Schedule:** NMSA had to find a way to increase the amount of time dance students have in their area of focus. They spend time in transit and it uses up the time for class. They started at 9:20 last year and now it will be 8:20 plus Wednesday evenings. Ms. Montoya will bring parent concerns to the faculty.
- **Music Choices:** Dr. Redfield will be consulted regarding a variety of music choices for music students. There is concern that choice should not be limited to classical music. Ms. Montoya would ask that Dr. Redfield address these suggestions.

Announcements: Ginny will be the new Community at Large Representative.

III. Action Items

- **Communication:** Julie Gomez is working on a facebook project to address using social media for the school. The school is working on an icon/blog that will focus on bi-weekly events for the school.

Adjournment and next meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM. The next meeting is Saturday September 3 at 11:30 at NMSA. Skype should be set up so that out of town parents can participate in this manner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Garcia, Secretary