

NMSA All-School Committee Meeting
Minutes for December 3, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM. by Principal, Cindy Montoya.

Roll Call Those participants who attended and signed in:

Cindy Montoya, Principal	Trina Raper, Chair	Sherry Garcia, Secretary
Charles Hoy	Jake Cohen	Tom Osgood
Dave Jansen	Warren Steinman	Shelley Robinson
Chriss O'Neill	Megan Smith	Janey Potts
Cathy Weber	Susan Magestro	Karen Conley
Craig Conley	Laurie DeDomenico	Nancy Bowman

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

Approval of Minutes: November minutes were not available since Sherry was unable to attend the November meeting due to surgery.

Creation of Agenda: Discussion or Action Items

Problems with icontact and group email	Feedback loop for teachers from students
Parking lot event on Christmas Eve	Students leaving NMSA
Dance Events	Music juries
Finals	Reports
Theatre plans	Coffee House

I. Reports

1. Principal's Report: by Cindy Montoya

- Problems with icontacts and email: The school makes every attempt to keep emails current and have scrubbed the data and called and checked addresses but can't tell when emails don't make it to everyone. So one way to handle missed emails is to post a note on the website each time an email has gone out. With I contact- tell Natalia if there are issues. The school already has a web link for every email. One idea is to check column on the webpage.
- Feedback loop: There was a question about whether there was a mechanism to allow students to provide teachers feedback through administration instead of directly to the teacher in case students are not comfortable doing that. Cindy states that there is an envelope outside the door but issues can't be confidential if they are going to be resolved. There is mediation available with Cindy, students, teachers and parents as appropriate. There is a process but care needs to be taken. The school is considering a survey using survey monkey. It may only go to teachers at first because Cindy must use the information for teacher evaluations. Questions from parents are always welcome. This

week the school asked about the top 10 lunches to help the food service folks. They have discussed ideas like every Monday is pasta day or having a soup bar for \$3. They have figured out how to have a common lunch period by having 5 minute passing periods and it will be announced at assembly.

- Student Exits: A parent has heard about students leaving and was wondering why. Cindy can't talk about specifics because due to confidentiality but indicated that students leave for many reasons: moving; program not what they thought it would be; health issues; etc. If students leave temporarily, they don't have to re-audition. An exit survey is completed on students who are leaving but the reasons are very student-specific. The administration spends hours working with kids before they finally leave. It is very difficult for students who live outside Santa Fe because it is difficult to leave home at 14. Adelma is working on these issues. This led to a discussion regarding applications for this year have been extended by a month. This aligns with other school's deadlines and allows parents more time to complete the application. The school is going to tighten the admissions process before a student comes to NMSA so that it is clearer what to expect. For example, this is not a school that has 6 AP courses before they graduate. Another example is dancers who don't want to take ballet or students that want musical theatre. NMSA must stay true to its mission and that sometimes means that all requested changes can't be honored. That leads to dissatisfaction by some parents and students. There are also positive reasons that students leave. One student is now in Chicago Ballet.
- AP Classes: NMSA is working on honors classes but not AP. Any student can take AP test and passing the exams helps with the cost of college by reducing the courses they need to take. There was discussion about whether parent fund help pay for the cost of the AP exams that are \$60 to \$80 each? It is a good idea to have the students pay for at least half the cost as it seems what people pay for they take more seriously. They are trying to figure out what they can do about AP courses. One idea is to have a common writing rubric across the grades. In math, what are common things you need to know –must know math facts. They are revising the student handbook and have hired David Gardner as the registrar. He is creating a database to help track student records. This led to a discussion about how to let more people know about NMSA and improve the reputation in the community.
- Reputation: There are a lot of charter schools and the pot of money is now more split. Everyone is fighting for the same money. Also now that NMSA is more established, we are pulling from the 8th graders instead of the high schools. There were some upset teachers from other schools because they felt NMSA was taking their best students. We also need a bigger residential program so more students from around the state can be brought in. We also need to get our kids into other schools to perform and increase collaboration with other schools. This will help reputation.
- Culture: NMSA continues to grow its culture based on our core values. We take care of ourselves and each other and this place. They have found a vendor who will take NMSA

purchase documents who will make decal signs for the school. No bumper stickers yet. Another project is determining what benchmarks to use in evaluating the success of NMSA. The benchmarks need to be meaningful such as what schools do our students get into? How much scholarship money did they get? Benchmarks around leadership, academics, artistic.

- There was discussion about AYP and what it means and what it doesn't mean for a new school with small sample groups. There was a suggestion to present more academic information on the website. It was stated that every successful art school is 51% art. There are many ideas for academics. Students could possibly take core classes over the summer. Every student that graduates in 2013 has to take an online class. Honors English is online for example.
- More thefts have occurred. Cindy has a daily update but doesn't share it because it does change daily and things that were "stolen" have been "found". She is working with SFPD. They have put all teachers on duty. They are implementing honor court and developing a poster on respect. They are rewriting the discipline policy especially about ditching school and students calling in by 10:00 a.m. They are also working on bringing IMPACT NM to the school. They are trying to emphasize keeping the doors closed and locked, not being polite to all strangers and getting bids on cameras.
- Bus Stop at School: Does anyone know someone who could get a bus stop at the school? Mateo's dad is looking into this..

2. Parking Lot event: December 24th. Steve Kohler will be sending out an email for people who want to come help park cars. It is \$9.99 and there will be a biscochitos and coffee sale at the same time.

3. Amazon Link: The Amazon link is available for shopping and it helps the school.

4. Theatre Plans: In February, theatre goes out to compete in Portales. They will find a way to perform it in Santa Fe.

5. Coffee House: Charles reported on the status of the coffee house. It has been over a year in preparation. It has been a collaborative effort. There will be auditions on 12/12/11 but they are just making sure that performances are presentation quality.

6. Students who are hurt: Question from parent whether students know where to go if they are hurt. Cindy feels that they do and that people in the office know how to help students who are in pain. They brought in a nurse to look over their processes and an attorney is coming in as well.

7. City Council and possible new location: Parents can help by attending city council meetings regarding St. Catherine's. The most important meeting is December 12th. The mayor would like to buy the property and lease it to NMSA. NMSA would pay for renovations. If NMSA were located there, the dancers could stay on site for classes and there would be better dormitory situations.

8. Hahn Ross Event: This event raised \$7800.

9. Other items: NMSA is working with Chimera Outreach for visual arts and Christina Gonzales. Culturenet has set aside \$4k to bring in Poets at collective works.

III. Action Items

- **No Action Items were discussed**

Adjournment and next meeting: Due to scheduling conflict, it was moved by Charles Hoy to change the January meeting date to the 14th and seconded by Lori Diedeman-Hall. The change was unanimously approved. The next meeting is Saturday **January 14th, 11:00** at NMSA. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Garcia, Secretary