

NMSA All-School Committee Meeting
Final Minutes for May 5, 2012

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:07 AM by Cathy Weber, ASC President.

Roll Call Those participants who attended and signed in:

Janey Potts, NMSA Contractor	Adelma Hnasko, Executive Director	Cathy Weber, President
Julie Gomez, Director of Development	Jake Cohen	Katharine Gates
Jaffa Frank	Trina Raper	Tamara Lichtenstein
Chriss O'Neill	Steven Marble	Christi Hield
Shelley Robinson	Nancy Bowman	Megan Stavrowsky
Steven Marble	Charles Hoy	Scott Gamble
Lois Harvie	Dale Baltz	Aviva Faust
Craig Conley	Lori Sunshine	Susan Steinman
Karen Conley	Sherry Garcia, Secretary	Warren Steinman
Patricia Lenihan	Leenan Lory??	

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

Approval of Minutes: Postponed until the end of the meeting when both March and April minutes were reviewed.

Items for Agenda

- Music Chair Update
- Door Policy
- Office Support
- Schedule ideas
- Arts Fee
- DUI Speaker
- Grounds Update
- Other Committee Updates
- PR and Marketing
- ArtSpring Food
- Old Business
- New business
- Confirm next meeting date and time. May 26th or June 9th.

Everyone introduces themselves and identified their student(s) attending NMSA.

Committee Reports

Grounds Committee: Steven Marble noted that more help is needed on another day to landscape the West side. This will include laying down weed barrier. Anyone can adopt a “bed” in front by contacting Steven. You can bring plants and the water is in front. There was discussion about the best way to get water and it was decided to obtain a bicycle chain and hook it to the wrought iron fence. We need stones and items to help build a retaining wall; we will use railroad ties unless something else is donated. ACTION: Need to provide money to Steven to get the bicycle chain.

PR /Marketing: Charles Hoy asked if anyone has any ideas to contact him. He has a meeting with Cindy & Natalia on May 16th at 11:00. On Youtube “Regeneration” is a cross-genre musical combination that should be seen for our school. Charles will be talking with Cindy about a new course next year on Creativity across the disciplines and looking at how that happens.

Teacher Appreciation: Christi Hield reported that this will occur the last week of May. Tuesday breakfast, Wednesday lunch, Thursday massages from 2-5 from NM Healing Arts Academy, and Friday gift cards. \$1400 worth of gifts has been given from the community. A private appeal is being conducted by Christi. No funds are needed from the Parent Fund.

Residential and Out of Town Students: Lois Harvie reported that a form was created for new, incoming students and will be mailed out asking for local resources.

Prom and Coffee House: Nancy Bowman reported that tickets for prom are being sold and it will be held at the SF Country Club. There’s a fund for students who can’t afford the tickets. Dinner is only for juniors and seniors, and their dates. Red carpet and decorations will be completed the day before. Music is arranged, DJ and Band in place. Police will be doing a breathalyzer again. They make it fun. Photo piece is in process. Prom ends at 11:00 PM. There was a suggestion that there should not be a discount for couples as there should be no emphasis on going as a couple. The next coffee house will be on Friday, June 1 at the school.

Parent Reps: Susan Steinman and Katharine Gates, as Parent Liaisons for Visual Arts, reported on upcoming portfolio reviews, and a new arts supply list that will be sent. Cristina Gonzalez wants a parent reception committee next year. Katharine will be meeting with Christina in June to talk about arts colleges. We need to put a letter out on NMSA letterhead, sent to arts colleges across the country, to highlight our existence. Cristina will give list for Visual Arts. The other Arts Chairs should give their lists, so we can do the same in all artistic departments. Phase 1: letters out, Phase 2: follow-ups with those we didn’t hear back from; Phase 3: setting up meetings, visits, and portfolio reviews. Autumn school visits. Charles Hoy would like a place on the website for College and Further Learning Opportunities. Is the website the right place for it? Would a blog be a better site for this? Megan asks if a college counselor isn’t on board to do this? Christi will reproduce 50 videos to include in packets. Katharine moved that she work with Adelma and Christina to create a template letter. Steven Marble seconded and it was passed unanimously.

The ArtSpring public opening is on Saturday night for Visual Arts students. Katharine discussed the need for food and organization. Stephen Koehler and Steven Marble agreed to assist with taking food so that folks didn't need to get out of their cars.

Chaparones/walkers needed: Shelley Felt relayed that visual art students would be walking to Ft. Marcy Park on May 25th for a fun day. They need parents to walk with students. They have a call out for beverages, Frisbees and things for that day.

Yearbook: Janey Potts reported that the yearbook will be available before graduation. Senior class pictures were just taken, by department and as a whole. A signing day will take place.

Old Business:

Music Department Chair: Adelma Hnasko reported that the committee will be hiring someone, hopefully in July. They had strong applicants and now have 4 lead candidates. They will interview the final week of May. The whole school is invited to provide input. The goal is to have someone in place for many years. Contact Adelma if you want to be involved.

New Business:

Locking Doors: Adelma Hnasko clarified that the back door will be open until 9:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. When the doors are locked guests will need to come through the front door. There was a suggestion to place a sign that says "closed". This went up this week.

Next Year's Schedule: Adelma Hnasko reported that nothing is set yet. They are taking input. The school day starts at 9:20 and ends at 4:40. NMSA would like to have an extended school day and they are looking at different ways to have some breaks in the day. They would like to start school 1-2 days at 8:20 a.m. Some community organizations would love to work with our students. There was much discussion about a shuttle but the train is considered "safer" and students can work on homework. Some students just have too long of a day due to travel and their activities.

Principal's Report

Cindy could not be here due to daughter's graduation. Letter read by Cathy Weber. (See letter attached)

Regarding the security cameras. We did contact the person that Laurie recommended, but I have not heard back from him/them at this time. We did schedule a walk through with one company, but they did not show up. I don't have any further information on that. I did ask Christina and if I hear from her, I will send a text to Adelma with the information.

Students will not receive a consequence for using the backdoors.

However, any student who opens the door for a non-NMSA student will face a consequence, including detention. Students from other schools often come to NMSA to wait for friends at the end of the day. We welcome all visitors, however, these students cannot enter the building without signing in (same process for any visitor) nor can they wander the halls. All NMSA students have been told this rule.

However, we have had some instances where NMSA students open the door to 'friends'. In the future, if an NMSA student allows non NMSA students into the building, then there will be a consequence.

We do realize that there are times when parents arrive at the back door and students open it for them because they recognize the parent.

This is the benefit of a small school. There are other times when the door is opened for strangers. We are trying to find a way to use common sense while avoiding danger. Therefore, there might be occasions when even a parent will have to walk around to the front door to gain access to the building. Clearly cameras will help us to see who is coming and going. However, cameras will not eliminate the problem of someone in the inside opening the doors. We are attempting to increase everyone's awareness to the dangers of opening the doors to strangers. Any and all suggestions are welcome. I apologize if the original message was direct and unclear.

Students can use the office phones to make calls. Students will also come into the office to use their personal cell phones. When students are feeling poorly, they should also come to the office. We have a new nursing bed and are trying to create a more private nursing area near the office. It is our intent and hope that each student is treated with kindness and respect. If that is not happening, please call me directly regarding the incident with your child. As you know, we have an online Comment, Complaint and Compliment form as well as a hard copy version that is located in a pocket outside of my door.

Also, I have an open door policy and do my best to meet with parents immediately.

Regarding the train schedule and changes to the school day, I want to start with some background information. NMSA is a dual curriculum based school. To that end, we have always stated that an extended day was needed in order to meet the demands on academic and artistic programming. At this time, we have a 7.5 hour day. This is very much like a regular high school day. It is difficult to meet all of the demands within the 7.5 hour day. Therefore, we have a very short lunch period and very little time between classes. The only way to meet the requests for longer lunches, more time between classes, etc., is to increase the length of the school day. Adelma and I have been exploring many possibilities on this, including an earlier start of day. We do recognize the impact that this would have on students commuting from outside of Santa Fe. This is why we are constantly exploring options, eliminating, revising, rethinking, etc. We are also working with the academic staff to find ways to cover content standards and benchmarks in a way that reduces a student's workload.

We are also looking at other schools for ideas that address this very issue. The train schedule is one important piece of this.

Art Fee: Julie Gomez explained that the school has to generate \$1.2 million dollars. The Arts Fee is a sliding fee basis and it is possible for a parent to ask for help. But for those that can, the

art fee is a fee not a donation. Technically it is not tax deductible. It will be \$1,000 again next year.

Trina thanked the committee and the School for all they've given to her son.

Minutes: Tamara Lichtenstein moved to accept the minutes, Steven Marble seconded. Both the March and April minutes were approved unanimously.

Adjournment and next meeting: The next meeting is Saturday **June 9th, 11:00** at NMSA. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. and a presentation ensued regarding college preparation especially regarding financial aid and getting into the college that students desire. The presentation was provided by Jennifer Dryfoos. It was suggested that Lori Sunshine provide a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Garcia, Secretary