

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS  
Governing Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 6, 2015, from 1:00-3:00 pm Meeting  
New Mexico School for the Arts—High School  
131 Nusbaum  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Meeting Minutes - Approved

*NMSA provides access to a rigorous mastery arts and academic high school education for youth with passion and aptitude in the arts, leading to post-secondary learning, careers in the arts, and lives that contribute to society.*

- I. Call to Order Sherry Thompson

Sherry Thompson called the Governing Council Meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

- II. Reading of Mission Statement Sherry Thompson

The School Mission Statement was read by Sherry Thompson.

**In attendance were NMSA Council Members:**

Sherry Thompson, Chair  
Vickie Sewing, Vice Chair  
Paula Tackett, Secretary  
Greg Hunt, Treasurer  
Trina Raper, Member  
Catherine Oppenheimer, Member

**NMSA High School Staff Present:**

Cindy Montoya, Head of School  
Christina Yamashiro, Business Manager  
Gayle McGuinness, School Secretary  
Ruben Desangles, IT Manager

**NMSA Art Institute Staff Present:**

Riis Gonzales, Director, Art Institute

**Public Present:**

Mohit Dubey, Alumnus Student

- III. Approval of Agenda Sherry Thompson

**Greg Hunt made a motion to approve the Agenda. Vickie Sewing seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 6-0.**

- IV. Public Forum Sherry Thompson

Sherry Thompson asked if there were any individuals requesting a Public Forum.

Mohit Dubey, a member of the 2014 Graduating Class, updated the Council on his experiences since graduation. He is a freshman at Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences in Ohio. He felt more than adequately prepared because of the solid education he received from NMSA, not only in music but also academically. He credits NMSA for teaching students how to think for themselves.

When asked, Mohit suggested that in the future, NMSA offer more college credit opportunities prior to graduation through Dual Credit programs.

- V. Approval of December 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes Sherry Thompson

**Catherine Oppenheimer made a motion to approve the December 2, 2014 Governing Council Meeting Minutes. Greg Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 6-0.**

**VI. Approval of OMA Resolution**

**Sherry Thompson**

**Trina Raper made a motion to approve the OMA Resolution. Paula Tackett seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 6-0.**

**VII. Approval of MOU between High School and Art Institute**

**Sherry Thompson**

**Catherine Oppenheimer made a motion to approve the MOU between the High School and the Art Institute. Trina Raper seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 6-0.**

**VIII. Technology Plan**

**Ruben Desangles**

Ruben Desangles, IT Manager, gave the Governing Council an overview on technology improvements at NMSA over the last several years:

Internet vs Students: 2011-2012: Internet capacity was not adequate for instructional use. By the current school year internet capacity per user goes above the industry standard, allowing NMSA to offer complete online courses to our students.

Devices vs Students: In 2010-11 NMSA did not have an adequate computer lab and only 6 working computers that were used by the Visual Arts students. As of the current school year, the total device count stands at 190 between iMac computers in the lab and netbook across the school, putting our one-to-one initiative at 96%.

Network: a major upgrade of the wireless network was done to be able to handle all the new wireless devices added to the school. 19 access point antennas were added throughout the school.

**IX. Approval of NMSA Employee Handbook**

**Sherry Thompson**

Paula Tackett made a motion to table the Approval of the NMSA Employee Handbook until the next Governing Council Meeting. Vickie Sewing seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**X. Head of School Report**

**Cindy Montoya**

Cindy Montoya, Head of School, provided the Council the following updates:

- The Advance-Ed Accreditation implementation team at NMSA consists of Katy Phebus, Christina Yamashiro, Acacia McCombs, Eric Crites and Cindy Montoya. They continue to work on gathering documentation for the review.
- Our lease extension through the Archdiocese of Santa Fe was approved through July, 2016.
- NMSA was awarded a Pay for Performance Pilot award through NMPED. The RfR must be submitted by July 7, 2015.
- A review of all NMPED required assessments, with descriptions and administration dates, was reviews with the Governing Council. The impact on Teacher Evaluations, School grades and instructional time and instructional content.
- The following Visual Art students received recognition from the Scholastic Art & Writing Contest:
  - Will Benson, Honorable Mention, Art Portfolio category
  - Ezri Horne, Honorable Mention, Drawing & Illustration category
  - Alma Valdez-Garcia, Gold Key, American Visions Nominee, Photography categoryThe Governing Council acknowledged these three talented students.

**XI. Business Manager Finance Report**

**Christina Yamashiro**

**a. Financial Statements/Report**

Christina Yamashiro and the finance committee met earlier that day to go over reconciliations and cash disbursements as well as the report included at this meeting. She discussed the fund balance and how it relates to next year's budget. Also, we are at about the same percentage of budgeted expenditures compare to last year at this time.

**XII. Approval of Governing Council training dates, times, and topics**

**Sherry Thompson**

Training dates will be discussed at a later time for those members still in need of the required hours.

XIII. Committee Reports

Sherry Thompson  
Vickie Sewing

a. Head of School Evaluation Progress

Vickie Sewing stated the Professional Development Plan for Ms. Montoya has been signed and is being implemented; she and Cindy Montoya continue to have met periodically and are and they are on track with the evaluation process.

b. Education

No report was given at this time. The Education Committee will meet on January 28, 2015. A report will be provided at the next Governing Council meeting.

c. Public Affairs

Riis Gonzales

Riis Gonzales indicated that he has three priorities for the next Legislative session:

- Reauthorize 2014 capital outlay appropriation
- Request additional capital outlay
- Request passage of a joint resolution to acquire vacant land from General Services Dept.

XIV. Art Institute

a. Residential Update

Cindy Montoya

Our Residential Students are all doing well. One student has withdrawn from NMSA that was part of the Residential Program.

b. Admissions Update

Riis Gonzales

Riis Gonzales stated that to date 105 applications for the next school year have been received. The application process has been revised this year, and he is pleased with the quality of the applicants.

XV. Executive Session

Sherry Thompson

No Executive Session was required.

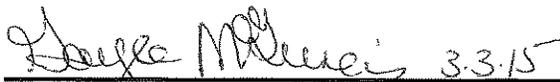
XVI. Adjournment

Sherry Thompson

**Catherine Oppenheimer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vickie Sewing seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed with a 4-0 unanimous vote.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm.

  
Gayle McGuinness, Secretary/Date

  
Paula Tackett, Governing Council, Secretary/Date

January 6, 2015 NMSA Charter School Governing Council Minutes

Date Approved: 3/3/15 Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_ Web page Post: \_\_\_\_\_