

**New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: December 9, 2015
Report by Cindy Montoya**

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.

NMSA GOALS -SY2015-16

Goal 1: Strategic Planning

Develop a framework and process that guides the future of NMSA including but not limited to designing and building a permanent campus, monitoring charter goals, ensuring the alignment of the mission in the admissions processes, articulating guidelines and expectations for school culture that translate the mission of the school into the daily lives of NMSA students, creating sophisticated systems to support art and academic programs, and plan for the financial needs of the school.

11-28-15 Update:

The writing of the SP has begun with the intention of having a draft document available on or near January 4, 2016. Staff and GC members will be working on this document on 12/5, 12/6, 12/13, 12/18 and 12/19.

Goal 2: Technology

Develop and implement a plan to use technology to assist with instruction and learning goals throughout our curriculum, both artistic and academic, with an emphasis on capturing student work through digital portfolios and learning via online classes that supplement classroom learning.

11-28-15 Update:

- A formal request to be included in a technology note was presented to and accepted by the Santa Fe Public School District.
- The Technology Plan was updated in advance of this request. It meets the current NMPED requirements for technology planning
- We now have 8 Chromebook carts with a total of 242 Chromebooks. Computers are being used in classrooms in a variety of ways on a regular basis.
- 5 additional classes are utilizing Blackboard: Health (totally online with teacher support), English 9 (blended), NM History, US History, Economics (all support). This is in addition

to Biology and Integrated Science (all support). Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1 are using online tools such as Desmos. Geometry is still following a modified flipped model using the Pearson software. English 3 is using Blackboard for blogs. English 2 and World History are using Blackboard for assignment submission. Teachers seem to really appreciate the usability of rubrics on Blackboard.

- All interim assessments are being delivered via Blackboard with results being exported into Excel for usability.
- New online math program (EdReady) that is provided by PED is being evaluated to assist with math instruction/remediation.
- Working with the Visual Arts department on using the Blackboard rubrics for the portfolio review. This project is in its infancy.
- The Delle Grant report and request for continued funding was submitted to the foundation.

Melanie developed the digital assessment framework used by all teachers for the implementation of Interim Assessments. Over the summer, NMSA teachers as well as three educators from other districts (La Tierra Charter and Pecos) participated in a training to learn how to use the application. She presented this work at the state IDEAL-NM conference: "Using Blackboard to Facilitate Data-Driven Instruction."

- At least one school district is interested in learning how to use the application. Melanie will provide support to this school through the Delle Grant should it be renewed.

Goal 3: A-F Report Card

Attain a school grade of A for School Year 2015-16 by understanding and complying with the New Mexico Department of Education requirements, including but not limited to the implementation of Common Core State Standards, Teacher Evaluation System, and PARCC assessments.

- *NMSA believes in a growth mindset. We believe that all everyone can learn and grow through experience. We believe that failure is fodder for success.*
- *Guide the implementation of Data-Drive Instruction Framework and Interim Assessments in order to ensure college and career readiness for 100% of NMSA students.*
- *Focus is on levers Consistent School Culture, Interim Assessments and Data Analysis*

11-28-15 Update:

NMPED has not yet released detailed PARCC data or school grades.

Goal 4: Student and Staff Wellness

Develop programs and practices to those skills needed for students and staff to maintain wellness.

- *Develop a Mindfulness program for students and staff.*
- *Through the counseling department, develop a Healthy Boundaries program that addresses the social and emotional needs of students and that includes but is not limited to consent programs, gender orientation instruction, suicide prevention, tobacco and substance abuse prevention, and bullying prevention.*

11-28-15 Update:

NMSA's Prevention Programs

Inner and Outer Life Skills (Stress Reduction) Group starting with the Sky Center

October 2015: "The group will be offered by one of our most excellent group leaders, Susan Hayre, a program coordinator at Gerard's House and a licensed, advanced placement therapist at Sky. She is lovely, creative, and excited to lead the group. Susan's background prior to becoming a therapist, like me, was in the arts, (she is an artist and worked for the SF photographic workshop) and she will be an excellent fit for your girls. She is also bilingual. Analicia Coca will be her intern therapist "mentee". Analicia brings wonderful group experience from her time working at Girls' Inc. She is a second year MSW at Highlands and originally from New Mexico."

Mindfulness Groups September 2015 facilitated by James Stake and Mikiko Ellis:

In addition to his role with Simon Scholars James Stake currently works in the domestic violence field. Prior to these positions, James lived and practiced at the Upaya Zen Center in Santa Fe, dabbled in organic farming, and was a medical student at Columbia University. He also worked as a clinical neuroscientist. James earned his BA in Neuroscience from Pomona College and a Masters in Biology from the University of Cambridge in the UK. He is a world traveler, having grown up in Belgium, Venezuela, and Italy. Outside of his work with Simon Scholars, James is passionate about spiritual practice, singing, hiking, reading, and art of all kinds. As of October 16, 2015, two students groups are in place and a staff group will begin no later than October 30, 2015.

Grief and Loss Support facilitated by Gerard House and Mikiko Ellis

Education

Transgender Education facilitated by Adrien Law/Transgender Center of NM and Mikiko Ellis

Consent Training and Healthy Boundaries facilitate by Solace and Impact with support from Mikiko Ellis.

Poverty Simulation Day presented by the Denver Good Will for all staff during a full day of professional development. The goal was to develop and understanding and empathy for those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Counseling/Student Services

Serial Testimony through Art Department meetings in response to student social and emotional needs including but not limited to use of illegal substances and bullying.

Crisis Response

Mindfulness for Actors presented by Dianna Edwards.

Open Meeting Act

The Open Meeting Act Compliance Document was revised in 2015. A hard copy of the revised OMA will be shared with all Governing Council members at the 12/9/2015 meeting. A digital copy will also be shared with members in advance of the meeting. A copy of the OMA will be available for use at all meetings of the Governing Council.

NMSA Governing Council Bylaw

The complete NMSA Bylaws will be distributed at the 12/9/2015 Governing Council meetings. A digital copy will also be shared with members in advance of the meeting. A copy of the bylaws will be available for use at all meetings of the Governing Council.

Special attention should be given to the following sections.

2.3 Duties and Powers. The Governing Council shall have control and be responsible for the management of the business and affairs of the School. The Governing Council shall in all cases act as a Council, regularly convened and in the transaction of business, the act of a majority of the Governing Council who are present at a meeting in which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Council, except as otherwise provided by law, these Bylaws or the School Charter. The Governing Council may adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the School which they deem proper and which are not inconsistent with law or these Bylaws.

3.5 Duties of the Chair. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the Governing Council, be an ex-officio member of the committees designated by the Governing Council, provide leadership to the Council and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Council. In the absence of the Chair, the duties of the Chair will be performed by the Vice-Chair.

3.6 Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall perform the duties incident to the office of Secretary so that the charter records of the School are kept current, including minutes of all meetings and all required notices of meetings and when authorized shall execute, attest and deliver documents of the School, and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Governing Council.

3.7 Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall perform the duties incident to the office of Treasurer so that the books and records of account of the School are accurate and complete and the budget process is properly conducted and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Governing Council.

3.8 Duties of Other Officers. Other officers shall perform such duties and have such powers as may be designated by the Governing Council.

NMSA Governing Council Revised Meeting Dates

The Governing Council will take action on the revised meeting dates on 12/9.

NMSA Governing Council Yearly Calendar

Included in this packet is the yearly calendar of action items.

NMSA Governing Council Terms of Office

Included in this packet is the current terms of office.

Ed Specs Facilitation Scheduled for December 9

Mr. Bill DeJong will be in Santa Fe to present his findings to the Governing Council and the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute.

Architect Presentations

Presentations were made over two days, 12/2 and 12/3. Information will be forthcoming regarding the final selection.

Charter School Division and NMPED

Updates regarding the changes to ESEA by the state and policy changes will be shared with the GC during the 12/9/15 meeting.