

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: October 2017
Report by Eric Crites

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.

Secretary of Education Visit

New Mexico Secretary of Education Christopher Ruszkowski visited NMSA in September on his Straight A Express Tour to celebrate the school's sixth consecutive A grade from NMPED. A blog about the visit is posted here:

<https://www.newmexico.org/straightaexpress/post/day-9-new-mexico-school-for-the-arts/>.

Teacher Evaluations

Cecile Hemez submitted inquiries about errors in data on several teacher evaluations and in at least one case NMPED corrected the data and updated the evaluation.

Eric Crites, Cindy Montoya, Chelamia Quintana, and Joey Chavez have completed the certification process to conduct teacher evaluations in the state's NMTeach system (using the Frontline/OASYS online system). The first round of formal observations will begin the week of October 16.

End of Course Exams

NMPED released new rules in August for teacher evaluations that require that End of Course exams be given to students in all courses for which they are offered. Patty Matthews confirmed that this means that NMSA will give 25 different EoC exams this year, and the Value Added Scores determined by NMPED using student test scores will be used in teacher evaluations.

Property Insurance Premiums

The school's portion of the property insurance carried by the Archdiocese will be \$9,235--double what was projected for the year.

Business Office Update

Maria Fidalgo and Eric Crites have been meeting weekly at 3:00 p.m. on Mondays to track progress. Greg Hunt has joined most of those meetings. The backlog of pending and past-due items has shrunk now that the Visions system is largely up and running. Now that reports are available through Visions, Maria will provide weekly budget updates.

The Wells Fargo checking account has been updated as follows:

Online users: Eric Crites, Maria Fidalgo, Gayle McGuinness, Chelamia Quintana

Checking account singers: Eric Crites, Bill Beacham, Paula Tackett, Chelamia Quintana

Counseling Update

After the recent loss of an NMSA alumna, the postvention team coordinated by Sky Center and Gerard's House was activated. They immediately brought in teams of counselors to support students and staff as they processed their grief. We are grateful for their amazing support.

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Sky Center has provided the first of four quarterly mindfulness trainings to staff and faculty last week. They started the first of their weekly sits with staff and faculty today.

Facility Updates

The roof leaks continued after recent repairs and have been repaired once again in the past week.

Capital Outlay

Our next step continues to be to complete the new bond questionnaire they will send out at an unspecified date. NMPED stated that we would be notified when the questionnaire becomes available.

Governing Body Resignation and Designation Notification

NMSA received notice from NMPED that they have received our notification of the resignation of Vickie Sewing and the designation of Michael Kaplan to the governing council.

Head of School PDP

Eric Crites's Professional Development Plan goals for the year have been completed.

Mill Levy Letter to Santa Fe Public Schools

A letter was delivered on September 19 to Dr. Veronica Garcia formally requesting NMSA's inclusion in the upcoming Santa Fe Public Schools Mill levy.