

**MINUTES  
of the  
GOVERNING COUNCIL  
ALICE KING COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

December 13, 2011

The meeting of the AKCS Governing Council was called to order by President Carlos Romero at 5:16 p.m. at 1905 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, NM. A quorum was present. Present were: Carlos Romero, Aaron Kugler, Marcos Martinez, Marnie Sadek, Anne Murray, Lee Baldwin and Jill Dekker. Principal, Connie Chene, Assistant Principal Tamara Henderson, and Rhonda Lovato were present.

The Agenda- The agenda was amended to remove Item 5A, Audit Committee Report, as the report has not yet been made public. The amended agenda was approved unanimously.

The Minutes of November 1, 2011, were approved unanimously.

Board comments- Vice President Aaron Kugler welcomed the many parents and teachers to the meeting.

The Finance Committee Report- Marcos Martinez reported that there were no BARs this month. Rhonda Lovato stated that the internal audit procedures for random monitoring were about to take place. She reported that the budget currently carries a surplus balance of \$25,770.

The Principal's Report was presented by Principal Connie Chene. She reported that she has now nearly completed her first hectic semester at AKCS and that she was "still standing." She mentioned that AKCS's first spelling bee going to be held December 14 and that many interested children were scheduled to participate. The last day of school before the Christmas Break is December 15.

Foundation Report- Marnie Sadek reported that there was no official report for the Foundation this month as its meeting for November was cancelled. She reported that elections for Board members would be in January and stated that all were invited to run and attend. Wendy Licon asked for the financial report of the Foundation; Marnie stated that it would be available at the next Foundation meeting.

Old Business- Carlos reported that the Governing Board member self-evaluation surveys were in progress and that evaluation of those surveys would begin in January.

PTA Report. Wendy Licon reported that the teacher "giving tree" was progressing for Christmas. She stated that the PTA wanted the Governing Council's activities to be more transparent, that the Board should consider public election of members, and that the

appointment of the current members was not in the best interest of the community. She stated that the membership was concerned about a possible shortfall in the budget, the status of the capital campaign and the lack of communication between the Governing Council and the parents. Carlos noted that the provision for the election of board members would have to be accomplished through legislation and suggested that interested parents contact Representative Rick Miera, Chairman of the Education Study Committee, regarding the possible introduction of legislation. Wendy was also concerned about the lack of a three-year budget plan; Marcos Martinez stated that due to state budget considerations and cuts, it was next to impossible to formulate a three-year plan and stick to it. He noted that AKCS has done remarkably well managing the budget in the current unsettled climate. Carlos Romero mentioned that during the next semester the Governing Board hoped to begin a strategic planning process.

Ad Hoc Committee of Interested Persons in an AKCS Middle School- Parents reported that they had launched on a survey effort to pinpoint available resources regarding new property and space alternatives for AKCS. The survey has not been completed, but the parents are looking forward to completing the process. The parents are also interested in integrating their efforts with the Foundation so that any fund-raising can be done under one umbrella. Connie reported that she had not heard about the survey but was pleased that there was good energy being put into fund-raising efforts. Parents expressed concern that there was lack of notice of Governing Council meetings, although Carlos emphasized that the agenda and notice of meeting was posted on the front door of the school each month. The parents mentioned that they would like to see the Minutes for each meeting and as much pertinent information as possible posted on the AKCS web site. The Board agreed to continue that effort.

New Business- Aaron Kugler presented three draft policies for review: the Employee Contract Policy, the STARS Reporting Policy and the Training and Experience Index Policy. Carlos Romero suggested amending the Training and Experience Index policy to read that AKCS will comply with any future legislation, rather than any future Senate Bills, regarding T and E reporting requirements. The amendment to the T and E Policy was accepted and all three policies were unanimously adopted.

The Governing Council took public comment concerning a proposed resolution to either (1) continue the current configuration of the classes but close the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, (2) close the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and open a 7<sup>th</sup> grade or (3) keep a 6<sup>th</sup> grade and open the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Much discussion ensued regarding the five alternative scenarios that were presented in written form. Much of the discussion touched upon the promises of a seventh grade made to the current sixth grade parents and students last year. The parents of the fifth graders were concerned that the sixth grade would have to close to accommodate the seventh grade. Budget and space considerations entered into the discussion. There was general consensus that there was neither budget or space to support a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade mid school at present.

Vice President Kugler made a motion that the 7<sup>th</sup> grade be opened to accommodate current sixth graders, while closing the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He emphasized that no promises would

be made regarding the formation of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2013-2014. Connie emphasized that there would have to be at least 18 current sixth grade students committed to a 7<sup>th</sup> grade in order for the budget to accommodate the change. Marnie Sadek made a substitute motion to retain the status quo and keep AKCS a K-5 school with no 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade. A vote was taken on the substitute motion which failed four to three, with Carlos, Lee, Aaron and Marcos voting in the negative. A vote was then taken on Vice President Kugler's motion. That vote passed four to three, with Carlos, Lee, Aaron and Marcos voting in the affirmative. The resolution was adopted and signed by the President of the governing council and the Secretary in open session.

There being no further business, the Governing Council was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_