

The Governing Council of Alice King Community School
Draft Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2017

I. **Confirmation of Quorum**

A quorum was present with the following members in attendance: Jennifer Hathaway, Connie Chene, Jane Knap, Aaron Kugler, Victor Gamiz, Tim Schroeder, Molly Bell

Governing Council Members absent (excused): Marcos Martinez

Staff in attendance: Tonya Newton, Rhonda Cordova, Kristi Collins

Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by Aaron Kugler.

II. **Adoption of the Agenda**

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Tim Schroeder, and seconded Jane Knapp. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2017**

Minutes from the January 11, 2017 meeting were presented by Jennifer Hathaway. There was a motion to approve the summarized minutes by Connie Chene and seconded by Victor Gamiz. There was no discussion, and the vote was unanimous.

IV. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

V. **Comments from Council Members**

Connie commented that she went to the Anti-Racism Day rally at State House last week. There was a group of young people who had participated in an artistic contest, and some students read poems on senate floor or showed art. A former Alice King student won for best poem and received a standing ovation. Connie mentioned that both winners from charter schools. The former AKCS student was also featured in NM Kids magazine for her poetry.

Aaron commented on how well the state of the school address went. He thought that it was a large gathering and the event was entirely positive. He suggested that we seriously consider making this an annual event. The event was well attended in person and many people had viewed it on Facebook after the event was over.

VI **Council Committee Reports**

A. **Finance, Facilities and Human Resources Committee** *Rhonda Cordova*

Tonya Kristi and Rhonda met today to review the budget. Rhonda stated that she believed the state was going to take approximately \$43,000 from carryover due to the state budget shortfall, leaving the school with approximately \$100,000 in carry over. Rhonda also stated that the school has not heard about the Puente Para Los Niños grant, but that she had

been in contact with the state regarding that grant. In general, there is a lot of confusion at the state level as the legislative session has not concluded, and that hopefully by the March meeting a clearer picture of the state's finances, and impacts on the schools will be available. Rhonda also stated that the school had received the award letter for technology grant, but the funds were not available. She stressed that we would need to spend that money right away, and Tonya stated that there was a plan do to so already. There was also some discussion about the increase in the budget for instructional materials and how that money also should be spent quickly.

There were two BARS for approval.

BAR ending in 0018-I Additional 50% for lease reimbursement first three months (August through October) for the Annex building. A motion to accept this BAR was made by Tim Schroeder and seconded by Molly Bell. The vote was unanimous.

BAR ending in 0019-I Final increase for lease reimbursement for November through June. A motion to accept this BAR was made by Tim Schroeder and seconded by Molly Bell. The vote was unanimous.

B. Nominating and Council Professional Development Committee, *Connie Chene, Chair*

Connie reminded us that the Governing Council has until June to finish training. Connie will follow up regarding the free classes through the PED, as there have not been any notices regarding these classes for a few months. Rhonda mentioned that the state may increase the training requirement to 10 hours a year. Tonya said that in talks with the APS Charter School division there was a discussion about trying to get all the charters together to do Professional Development for Governing Councils.

There was a brief discussion of APS school board election, which had been held on Feb 7, 2017. Molly was looking for ways to find out a candidate's position on charter schools, being aware of how charter schools are viewed in the larger APS district.

C. Policy Committee, *Jennifer Hathaway, Chair*

i. **Report:** Jennifer reported that the policy committee had met on February 7, 2017 and had a draft media policy to present.

ii. **Discussion of Draft Media Policy:** There was a discussion of the draft media policy which would replace the entire section X A in the Policy Manual. Connie asked for the Administration to voice their thoughts about the policy as they were the ones who would have to implement it. Tonya and Kristi felt that the policy was well laid out as it was broken into general guidelines, planned and unplanned media coverage and Kristi commented that she appreciated that student privacy and the educational environment were the guiding foundations. Victor suggested changing "check in" to sign in, in regards how media should enter the school, saying that signing in was accurate and enforceable. Jennifer ask that every take some time to read the policy again before the next meeting, and to send any changes or suggestion ahead of the next meeting so a formal first reading could be made in March.

D. STEM Committee Report: *Victor Gamiz, Chair*

On January 27 Tonya Kristi and two teachers met at the La Luz Academy with Rhonda Cole. They were given a tour and told about the possible programs and how to get involved. Victor asked for some guidance on the next steps and said he was happy to facilitate another tour or meeting with Ms. Cole. Tonya said the teachers hoped to use kits before end of this school year in the upper grades, and the upper grades will try to the more hands-on activities in the future.

VII. New Business

A. Discussion regarding strategic planning

Tim lead the discussion on updating the strategic plan. Connie commented on how successful the state of the school address had gone, and thought the school community seemed more cohesive than in the past. Tim gave an overview of the process that was conducted to create the current strategic plan two years ago, which involved several weekend brainstorming sessions with the different groups on constituents, followed by a Governing Council session where the document was drafted, which was then presented for more discussion to the constituents. There was a discussion as to the best way to move forward at this point, since the document was not being created from scratch, but rather updated and revised. Connie asked that if a goal had been completed, did it need to be replaced with a new goal. Tim answered no, the plan should only be what we need it to be, and expanding it for the sake of length was ill advised. There was also a discussion on how to incorporate the definition of a community school into the plan. It was agreed upon that such a discussion as to our definition of a community school should be included in the planning session. It was decided that the Governing Council would meet to go over the current plan and start revision on Saturday, April 29th at 9 AM at the school.

B. Discussion regarding formation of a Media Literacy Committee

Molly started the discussion by saying she would like to amend the title to be Media literacy / Critical Thinking. She was concerned about the role of such a committee and wanted to make sure the Governing council was not overstepping its authority and venturing into procedure rather than policy. She stated that she thought the school and its teachers were already teaching critical thinking, but that perhaps since children are exposed to so much media today, a larger emphasis on this kind of critical thinking could apply. A discussion on the topic followed. Connie stated that the Governing Council should look at the charter to see how the Council could support the Administration in this process in terms of the charter. Tim suggested that the Council ask the Administration for a report on how critical thinking is being addressed in the curriculum, with attention being paid to media literacy. Then with that report, in the upcoming strategic planning session the Council could decide if critical thinking had a strong enough emphasis in the plan and proceed accordingly. Kristi emphasized the importance of looking at the charter for guidance, and to consider that if it is not emphasized enough in the charter now, it could be considered in the charter renewal. The Council asked the Head Administrator for a report on the role of critical thinking and media literacy in curriculum and it will be discussed at the April 29th planning session. No committee was formed at this time.

VIII. Reports and Miscellaneous

A. Head Administrator's Report, *Tonya Newton, Head Administrator*

Tonya gave a Head Administrators report. Highlight included:

- *There are 406 students enrolled.
- *The lottery process is open and the School open house is Feb 16th.
- *Two students Noah Barela and Kaisa-Tinuvial Baca had received honorable mentions for the DAR National Park Essay Contest.
- * The state of the school had been streamed on facebook, where it currently had been viewed 354 times.
- *Five Staff and five Students had attended a School Choice Fair, and the students were well received by the attendees.
- *The PTA campus beautifications was held Feb 4th and the indoor planters were filled and planted.
- *K-3 students are now assessed with Istation. The assessment given at mid-year showed that 9% of K-3 were below proficiency, 27% near proficiency and 64% were proficient in reading. The students below proficiency had dropped from 15% at the giving of the year to 9% at the middle of the year, and students who were not proficient mostly already had a plan in place.

B. AKCS Foundation Report, *Carlos Rey Romero, Foundation Board President*

No report was given

IX. Executive Session

A. Motion to move into Executive Session for the discussion subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(7), NMSA, (1978) was made by Tim Schroeder seconded by Molly Bell at 7:16 pm. The vote was unanimous.

B. The regular meeting was re-convened at 7:45 pm. Motion by Tim Schroeder to certify that the session dealt with discussion subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(7), NMSA, (1978), seconded by Molly Bell. The vote was unanimous

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:46 pm by Tim Schroeder and seconded by Connie Chene. The vote was unanimous.

Jennifer Hathaway
AKCS Governing Council Secretary