Minutes of the Governing Council Meeting

Date: October 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Location: Middle College High School via videoconference

Meeting was a videoconference call with all materials available at mchsgallup.com

Governing Council Members:

Dr. Betty Sutliff, Present – Present

Lisa Bracken, Vice President – Present

Monica Yazzie, Member – Present

Dr. Matthew Mingus – Member – Present

Olin Kieyoomia, Member – Not Present

Agenda Item I

1. Call to Order-***Dr.Sutliff called the regular meeting to order at 5:03 pm.***
2. Roll Call video-declared open meeting, quorum was present for the meeting.

Agenda Item II

1. Approval of the October 28 Agenda: ***Dr Sutliff asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Dr. Mingus moved, Ms.Yazzie seconded, all members voted in favor***.
2. Approval of the September 30, 2020 Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented: ***Dr. Sutliff asked for a motion to approve minutes. Ms. Yazzie moved, Ms. Bracken seconded, all members voted in favor.***

Agenda Item III

1. Teacher’s Report: ***No teachers present to report.***
2. Counselor’s Report: ***Mr. Knowles reports that nine students took the PSAT. He indicated that some colleges have begun conducting admissions outreach via Zoom and that interested students have been invited to participate in one that NMSU is hosting next week. A virtual FAFSA workshop occurred last week with six students participating. Finally, the scheduling process for spring classes has begun and he is presently working on draft schedules for the senior class.***
3. Principal’s Report: ***Mr. Cunanan reports that the 40th day reporting has been accepted by the PED. He also reports that MCHS has received approval from College Board to become an Accuplacer testing site and that the first students to be assessed will be those who are currently taking Algebra II or English 10, in order to help determine readiness for college courses in these content areas. Also, a small group of seniors elected to take the SAT, though it is still presently optional for high school graduation purposes. Finally, the school’s attendance rate to date remains strong at 94%.***
4. GC Board Member’s Report: ***Dr. Sutliff expresses an interest in making sure that governing council training hours are not overlooked. Mr. Dan Hill offers to provide anything additional to what is being offered through Public Charter Schools of New Mexico’s self-paced modules.***
5. Business Manager’s Report
   1. Financial Report-Written: ***Written report presented by Ms. Anna Cress.***

Agenda Item IV—Dr. Hunter requests moving to Agenda Item IV, prior to finishing Item III. The GC concurs.

1. Action Items-New Business:

* 1. Approval of Pre-Development Contracts with T2: ***Mr. Hill explains that pre-development includes three individual contracts, each to be considered separately. Within each contract, the CEO can be authorized to execute the documents, including the negotiation of non-material changes.***

***Development Contract: Motion to approve by Dr. Mingus with language provided that CEO be given ability to make non-material changes and to report any updates at regularly scheduled GC meetings, seconded by Monica Yazzie, with all GC members voting approval.***

***Architectural Contract: Motion to approve by Dr. Mingus with language provided that CEO be given ability to make non-material changes and to report any updates at regularly scheduled GC meetings, seconded by Lisa Bracken, with all GC members voting approval.***

***Engineering Contract: Motion to approve by Dr. Mingus with language provided that CEO be given ability to make non-material changes and to report any updates at regularly scheduled GC meetings, seconded by Monica Yazzie, with all GC members voting approval.***

* 1. Approval of Service Agreement and Scope of Work with the Grant Plant: ***Dr. Mingus inquires of K12’s role in grant acquisition, to which Ms. Cress explains that K12 is not so much involved in the research and application phases, but would be involved in the reporting requirements. Dr. Mingus motions to approve, seconded by Lisa Bracken, with all members voting in favor.***
  2. Approval of BARs: ***No BARs for approval at this time.***
  3. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers: ***Dr. Sutliff inquires about a charge for an item entitled Pear Deck, to which Dr. Hunter explains that it is an interactive supplement to online instruction that promotes student engagement and allows instructors to monitor whole class engagement in actual time. Inquiring who uses this supplement, Dr. Hunter replies that he has observed its use in Mr. Kempton’s class and that Mr. Schali is also utilizing it. Mr. Cunanan adds that Mr. Hunt is also using it. Dr. Mingus inquires about PowerSchool. Dr. Hunter identifies that this is the school’s student information system. Dr. Mingus expresses approval for this system, as the local district’s newly adopted system has introduced some unwelcome challenges. Dr. Hunter is grateful that Ms. Wargo is on staff, as she is an expert user of PowerSchool. Motion to approve vouchers by Monica Yazzie, seconded by Lisa Bracken, will all members in favor.***

Resume Agenda Item III

1. CEO’s Report
   1. Updates from PED: ***Dr. Hunter explains that due to the pandemic, there is pressure from many districts for the legislature to calculate current year funding on prior year enrollment, in other words, a hold harmless calculation to buffer against enrollment loss. The problem is that very many charter schools (unlike traditional districts) have experienced growth in their enrollments from prior year. The legislature is aware of this and is being asked to also compensate for schools experiencing growth. More to come as superintendents and charter lobbyists are gearing up for the legislative session, with charter stakeholders advocating for an equitable solution. Dr. Hunter also relays a discussion point from the past week’s conference call with the Secretary of Education’s Office, in which it was indicated that all tuition and fees for students enrolled in dual credit are supposed to be waived, as per statute. Deputy Secretary Warniment mentioned UNM-Gallup by way of example. Dr. Hunter wonders if anyone affiliated with McKinley Academy may have had some conversation with the state regarding the paying of tuition and fees. Dr. Mingus explains that campus funding comes largely from the state, and is not heavily reliant on student tuition. Dr. Hunter informs the GC that the school’s IDEA-B application for special education funding was submitted, as the PED did not approve the school’s request to decline funding for the current year pending development of independent school policies. The amount is minimal, but a BAR will be forthcoming. Thankfully, the GC approved this application during the regularly scheduled meeting in May, in the event that the PED would not permit the school to decline it. Finally, Dr. Hunter notifies the GC that air quality will be a primary consideration of the PED in allowing schools to reopen to in-person instruction. While the PED is giving some ground on the requirement for MERV-13 filtration (which is most commonly found in medical settings and for which most educational institutions’ HVAC systems are not equipped), MCHS is in the process of ordering Medify HEPA filters for individual classrooms. This has become a recommendation of the PED, and one that the school has been in front of, though supply of these filters has been quite limited.***
   2. Spring Scheduling: ***Dr. Hunter explains that pre-scheduling for spring is underway, and that upperclassmen are being addressed first. He indicates that underclassmen should receive their schedules in the following week. Dr. Mingus informs the GC that registration opens on November 9 and that nearly all courses are scheduled to remain online. Dr. Hunter affirms that MCHS will follow UNM-G’s lead regarding the expectations of students on campus. The MCHS schedule mirrors the same instructional modalities as are currently in place.***

Adjourn: ***With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Mingus, seconded by Ms. Bracken, with a roll call vote of all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:28. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for November 18 at 5:00 pm.***

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Dr. Betty Sutliff, Council President

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Recording Secretary