

New Horizons Board Meeting

February 28, 2017

Present – Stuart Cano – Board Chair, Richard Thomas-Executive Director, David Sams, Dr. Christina Duran, Dr. Mario Castaneda

Others Present: Guillermo Gomez, Ramisi Dilley, Dawn B., Bea Italia, Charlotte Cuevas, Diego Gonzales, Janet Curiel, and Mr. Stephan Rinka.

OPEN Session: Meeting Commenced at: 4:30 PM

Approval of the Previous Board Meeting Minutes

- *Motion made to approve by Stuart Cano*
- *Second made by Dr. Castaneda*
- *Motion carries 5-0 vote*

Public Comment

Diego Gonzalez (teacher) - Mr. Gonzalez was concerned that the Wellness Committee was held today and members were not informed about the meeting change in time. In the future, he would like to be informed in advance, so he can make arrangements to attend.

Mr. Thomas – This was a one-time occurrence, as we had the Parent in Action Meeting, an ELAC Meeting and a Wellness Meeting all on the same day. The calendar did not allow us to change this schedule, you can consider this a one-time thing. The Wellness Committee changes were shared with other members who were not present.

Form 700 (regarding a conflict in interest)

Mr. Thomas – Please review the Form 700 for correct information and your signature is required in Blue Ink and indicate whether you have any financial interest and e-mail address.

Financial Report (Dawn B.) – December 2016 and January 2017 Financials Presented - *I am pleased to share the revenue is above the previous budget \$3,519,000, we still have a strong balance, your budget ending fund balance of \$821,000. This is a very healthy number for this time of the year.*

Mr. Thomas – *Our revenues went up and our expenses went down. Our book supplies expenses came at the beginning of the year and we have moved to digital curriculums. We also utilize TAs that are certificated, so we use them as opposed to utilizing TOR to cover our daily classrooms. There are Title 3 funds \$20,000 worth, but the effort to join a consortium is not worth it.*

Dr. Castaneda – *I realize this is a challenge, but what are we missing from not joining a small organization where they share best practices and other constructive information?*

Dr. Duran – *I agree with Richard, you're not going to be able to utilize the moneys in a grand way, your benefits will be limited to compliance driven features.*

Dawn – *Going back to your cash flow, you're in a very strong position, with \$455,000 in reserves. The high attendance is what makes you a very strong school.*

Approval of the *Financial Reports (December 2016 and January 2017)*

- *Motion made to approve by Mr. Sams*
- *Second made by Mr. Rinka*
- *Motion carries – 5-0 vote*

2016-17 Compliance Monitoring Certification

- * Board Review of 2016-17 Compliance Monitoring Certification
- * Discussion of components of Compliance Monitoring Review Document
- * Motion made to approve Compliance Monitoring Review Certification – Mr. Sams
- * Seconded made by Mr. Rinka
- * Motion carries – 5-0 vote

Executive Report

Charter Renewal Timeline

Mr. Thomas – Our current similar school ranking is an 8, and that speaks highly to our staff, aides, and instructional organization. We feel that we are in a strong position to make our case for renewal. If it becomes necessary, we will take our teachers, stakeholders, and Board to show that we are in a strong position to make our case.

School-Wide RtI (K-8)

In a commitment to support our Tier 2-3 students, we have reconstructed our intervention schedule to support our students double-down on additional time to work on intervention in both mathematics and English Language Arts. At this time, we find it necessary to maximize our school resources in this way.

Dr. Castaneda – Once again, where is this time coming from?

Mr. Thomas – We have been able to adjust our arts and PE times, to provide additional instructional time to support these two levels. We have also been able to add K-1 to this schedule, to add them in to provide support at those levels as well.

Wellness Policy

Ms. Dilley – I would like to start by apologizing the two members of the Wellness Committee who could not attend today. With so many conferences and meetings on our schedule, it was necessary to hold a meeting today, or we would not have been able to meet our deadline for this month. We will try very hard to make sure this does not happen again.

Now getting to your previous request to see our original Wellness Policy, and compare it to our new one.

I have printed both policies and have highlighted in both pink and yellow the changes between the two documents.

- *I have also added the opportunity for us to look at providing a “Snack,” for students after school. Many student come to the office after school looking for additional food, and we need to look in to providing them with enough nutrition to sustain them at the end of the day.*
- *We have also reviewed the suggestions for providing students with physical activity, and we are*

- *seeking to strike this provision, because the amount of time we are providing is actually beyond this, but the actual time suggested is not research-based.*
- *We also propose to change the physical fitness requirements to what is specified for K-8 classes per State guidelines.*
- *On page 10, we would like to suggest that we remove the number from the term of active transport. We suggest six, but we only list four, so we propose that we remove that number.*

We have reduced the total number from 18 to 12 pages. Most of our removals, share that we are not marketing any food products, but we could do so with natural food partners in the future. The only additional position we removed, dealt with staff wellness, our time and resources are severely limited to establish a committee for this area, at this time. We also removed the glossary, because the terms were not overly difficult to have defined.

Ms. Dilley – We can absolutely find and match the elements from the fitness exam.

Mr. Thomas – Our PE teacher currently works on the 5 and 7th grade units for the fitness exam. We will make these revisions and see how we can implement these elements into our school plan.

LAUSD Oversight Visit – We will have a visit on April 26th, and we would appreciate if any Board Members can attend. Two or three Board Members present, would be great. This is a financial as well as a school review of all our compliance monitoring issues.

Prop 39/Facilities Preliminary Proposal - Our enrollment capacity is higher than what we listed, and we want the agreed upon petition to reflect the number of 300 students. This means, we wish to be on record that we are entitled to 14 classrooms, that is what we have outlined in our response. We are submitting this document tomorrow.

CALSTRS Pensions 3 – I will table this item at this time. We will look at a 403b option for our employees who are not in this program, and look into providing them with this viable pension option.

Audit Firm Selection for 2017-2018 – The board reviewed the Audit Engagement Letter from Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Co., LLC dated February 22nd. The services were discussed for the upcoming audit of 2016-2017 school year.

Approval of the Fees and Audit Company - Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Co., LLC

- *Motion made to approve by Stephen Rinka*
- *Second made by Dr. Castaneda*

Motion carries 5-0 vote

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.