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Mission

RFK Charter School prepares, motivates, and supports students to achieve their college and career goals

in partnership with their families and the community.

**Governance Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 17th, 2022**

**4:30 PM**

**Council members: Some virtual and some in-person**

**Roll Call: (in-person)** Mark Walch, Lawrence Barela, Clyde Ortiz, Trey Hammond, Sylvia McCleary

**Virtual:** Shawn Morris

**Excused Absences:**  Tina Garcia-Shams

**Quorum:** Yes

**Staff:** Robert Baade, Irene Sanchez, Shawn Morris, Aaron Arellano

**Approval of Agenda:**

Lawrence Barela makes the motion with change to approve the agenda. Sylvia McCleary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of February meeting minutes:**

Trey Hammond makes a motion for approval of the February meeting minutes. Clyde Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public comment:**

The governor of New Mexico has announced that she will be pursuing a 7% raise for all educators. Her goal is to raise salary levels to 50, 60, and 70 thousand dollars. Educators will finally be getting paid a commendable amount of income. Veteran teachers will not be getting the same bump in salaries. This new announcement has resulted in teachers being let go by APS because they cannot increase their salaries. This is unfortunate since there is already a shortage of teachers– now more than before. Forty million dollars will be lost by APS from increases. Everyone must receive a raise at $15.00 an hour, not just teachers. Nobody at RFK makes less than $17.00.

**Legislative Update:**

RFK has secured legislative capital of $575,000 but this $60,000 in operational revenue was vetoed by the Governor, so RFK will need to wait for the politics to be played out.

**Middle school update:**

In the process of finishing up student and parent teacher conferences, examining what needs improvement with both parents and teachers. The conferences are flexible with the parents, you can attend virtually, over the phone or in person. After spring break, there will be four assessments for middle school students: NM success of achievement, NM assessment of science readiness testing, and Spanish testing. Attendance is a continuous issue, students and parents are still being contacted. Mask mandates will be lifted on March 28th; voluntarily and CDC guidelines will remain intact. Cottonwood gulch field trip will take place over the spring break, with 9 students attending. Preparing 8th grade students for their transition into high school, with the help from Cottonwood gulch. The grant for YCC to support the school farm is still unknown, the farm will go on regardless.

**High school update:**

Some high school students attended the spring break trip with Cottonwood gulch along with a few middle school students. The mask mandate will be lifted March 28th, following CDC guidelines. Getting prepared for the fourth quarter and advising seniors closely with upcoming graduation. Making sure seniors are getting their credits needed for graduation. There are 60 seniors at RFK and 42 are graduating which is above average. Graduations will be held on the 20th of May. The social and emotional support of RFK is described as ‘the connection service’. The connection service, “is a way of communication with the students and continuing to engage which happens during advisories. An open place for students to speak and express themselves in a safe environment”. - Robert Baade

**Finance Committee Report for February 2022- Discussion and Approval**

Lawrence Barela makes the motion to approve the finance committee report for February. Sylvia McCleary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cash Disbursement for February - Discussion and Approval – Total for February was $429,792**

Sylvia McCleary makes the motion to approve the cash disbursement for February. Lawrence Barela seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

**February BARS Approval:**

* BAR # 001-051-2122-0043-I, Fund 24316 Air Quality (Increase) - Sylvia McCleary makes the motion to approve, Lawrence Barela seconds the motion.  The motion passes unanimously.
* BAR # 001-051-2122-0045-I, Fund 27502 CTE (Increase) - Sylvia McCleary makes the motion to approve, Lawrence Barela seconds the motion.  The motion passes unanimously.
* BAR # 001-051-2122-0046-T, Fund 24308 CRRSA (Transfer) - Sylvia McCleary makes the motion to approve, Lawrence Barela seconds the motion.  The motion passes unanimously.

**Funding formula presentation**

Different grade levels have different index costs. This is what generates different programs, it's dependent on the program units’ students are generating. RFK needs more students in order to generate money. Extended learning time is being implemented, 10 extra days of school and 10 extra days of professional development. This is generating $157,000, which is 33 program units, this is a good thing. Admin is higher now and has been lower in the past. Will provide a balanced budget for the meeting of April.

**2022/2023 Budget overview**

In the 7% increase, as of now, all staff members get 3% in the last quarter (not in the full annual salary). RFK is already over $15.00 an hour, so we couldn't give the 3% raise now, which will establish a new base salary. The extended learning is another 3% on top of that. Going to apply for a k-12 pilot program that will add another 3%. There has been 1.2 million dollars more just on increase in teacher salaries. There is a 6% increase in benefits and 20% increase for teachers. IDA is used for federal money for additional support.

**Committee meetings – Executive Director Evaluation Committee**

We don’t have an evaluation committee yet. Lawrence Barela , Sylvia McCleary, and Clyde Ortiz would like to be on the Evaluation committee– it’s possible that Tina wanted to be on it as well

**Committee’s:**

* *Audit Committee* - Lawrence Barela and Trey Hammond
* *Facility capital committee* - is part of the strategic plan with the campus and a mechanism bids and licensed are appropriate - Clyde Ortiz is on this committee
* *Strategic plan review* – Clyde Ortiz, Mark Walch, and Trey Hammond
* *Policy manual review* - got updated last month, added the corrections of audit.
* *GC evaluation* - looks like everyone wants to engage

Recommendation by Lawrence Barela: keep committees separate, keep track of all of them.

**Equity Council**

Once RFK receives the proposal from Jennifer, will bring it into the council, no need for council approval. There are many working components for the equity school council to ensure equity among all students and their education. They are foundational pillars that support RFK for when RFK brings new staff that they are up to speed and teachers still here get that support as well. RFK holds a monthly meeting with the NMPED Equity Council. Community members are also a part of that council. Parents are being encouraged to engage in the equity council.

**Executive Directors Report**

Roberts Baade is going to shadow the spring break camping trip, to ensure everything goes smoothly. It is the school’s responsibility to provide the field trip experience but not behavior disciplinary, which is why Robert will be attending. The two suburban’s are being used to transport to and from the destination of the field trip with Cottonwood gulch. There will be 2 middle school students and 7 high school students. Covid is reducing, RFK has received money for Covid. RFK is going to use that Covid money to pay employees for next year when the extra federal money is not coming in. Shifted salaries out of operation because we cannot carry it over. ARP is $800,086. Have hired a lot of people and have concerns with the state money being enough to move forward. SWEPT has been contracted by the county to help with rent and utilities.

**Housekeeping: (Any possible new members, training hours, planning meetings, etc.)**

Mark Walch talked to April Gallegos about joining the board: a potential board member. She has worked for SWEPT and is very interested in RFK. Mark Walch suggests that the rest of the board meets April. She can’t serve now, she is volunteering. Lawrence Barela and Sylvia McCleary volunteered to meet with April on a scheduled time for both ends. Mark Walch encouraged zoom or in person. Need a release of conflict-of-interest forms – need Joseph and Trey Hammond still.

**Adjourn**

Lawrence Barela makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Sylvia McCleary seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.

Robert F. Kennedy Charter School

Governance Council Meeting

3/17/22