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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, February 16, 2023**

**4:30 p.m.**

GC Board President, Mark Walch called a Regular Open Governance Council Board Meeting on Thursday February 16, 2023, at 4:36 pm.

All Board Members:

# Roll Call:

Mark Walch

Lawrence Barela

Sylvia McCleary

April Gallegos

Trey Hammond

Angel Garcia

Michele Coleman

**Absent (excused):**

Denise Parras

Carlos Caballeros

**Quorum:**

Yes

# Staff:

Robert Baade

Shawn Morris  
Aaron Arellano

Irene Sanchez

Aradelli Ibarra

Janessa Garay

Ronnie Reynolds

# Guests:

# Charlotte Ortega (SWEPT REPRESENTATIVE)

# RFK STUDENTS:

# Nathan Alvarez

# Devin Quintana

# Nathaniel Gefroh

# Judeah Piro

Camille Chavez

Ruby Campos

# Approval of Agenda:

# Angel Garcia makes a motion to approve the February 16, 2023, Meeting Agenda.

# Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. All in favor. Agenda is accepted and carried out.

# Approval of Meeting Minutes:

# Lawrence Barela makes a motion to accept the January 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes with an adjustment to “red money” and “green money” in the Financial Report.

# Angel Garcia seconded motion. All in favor. Minutes are accepted and carried out.

# Public Comment:

# Gun Buy Back:

# Robert Baade (SWEPT) and Miranda Viscoli. (Co-President of New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence) have partnered with Bernalillo County District Attorney’s Office and La Mesa Presbyterian Church on a “Gun Buy Back” community event. It is a safe surrender of firearms and in return folks get a gift card ranging from $100.00 to $250.00 from local participating retailers. This is to support the efforts to prevent any or ALL gun violent crimes. Charlotte Ortega (SWEPT Representative) awarded four students from RFK who worked to dismantle and forge firearms and transform them into gardening tools. Students got an opportunity to speak about why this was important to them and tell us about their trip to Santa Fe and the opportunities they embarked on with their wonderful work. They shared about how this has affected them personally and then dedicated their work to their two classmates whose chairs are now empty. They were all excited to know that they now have experience of creating with wood and metal and see a future in either or both carpentry and welding. We are all very proud of these students!

# Capstone:

# Charlotte Ortega also presented students in the “Capstone” program at RFK a stipend for their efforts in their chosen fields.

# RFK Teachers, Janessa Garay and Ronnie Renolds both spoke about how proud they are of these students and support them to reach their future goals. Ronnie Renolds let the Board know that there will be a presentation in May where students will set up booths to introduce their profession of choice and encourages all to attend!

# Middle School Update:

# Middle School Principal, Aaron Arellano reports,

# There is an 89% completion rate coming out of the fourth round of Parent Teacher Conferences. Teachers from both the high school and middle school will be rolling out training sessions to get set up for assessment, inventories, and diagnostics. These training sessions intend to show how to combine online and direct instruction, student assessment, and help with teacher professional development methods.

# After school programs are in full swing. Garden Club on Mondays, Academic Support on Tuesdays, Gaming on Wednesdays, and Safe Space on Thursdays. The hours are from 3pm – 4pm.

# MS Partners will be starting their second semester with students. Cottonwood Gulch will continue working with eighth graders. Nature Ninos will continue working with seventh graders and PB&J Family Services will continue to work with sixth graders. UDL has shared that since September of 2022 RFK students have read using Snap & Read and have read over 1 million words. The UDL Team has requested our teachers to share their successes in terms of working with UDL tools to be highlighted across the State. Great Job Teachers and Students‼

# Using PowerSchool, eight students are marked as “high risk,” 23 students marked as “moderate risk” and forty-five students marked as “some at risk”. Leaving nine students who are not considered “at risk” with attendance.

# Student enrollment at the MS is eighty-five students. 18 sixth graders, 34 7th graders and 33 8th graders.

# High School Update:

# HS Principle, Shawn Morris reports.

# Like at the MS, teachers will be rolling out training sessions to get set up for assessment, inventories, and diagnostics. These training sessions intend to show how to combine online and direct instruction, student assessment, and help with teacher professional development methods. Read 180 and Math 180 is what teachers will be implementing.

# The IEP process will be transitioning to an electronic method and should be a better process.

# The Restorative Justice workshop went well, and Mr. Morris thanked all those who donated money so that RFK would be able to feed all the attendees.

# Student Enrollment is at 289

# COMPENTENCY BASED EDUCATION:

# GC Board VP, Lawrence Barela led the conversation about Competency Based Education. He explained that a Competency-based Education is an approach to learning that focuses on the student’s demonstration of desired learning outcomes as central to the learning process. He then gave instruction to Board Members to spend some time researching this topic.

# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

# Sylvia McCleary makes a motion to approve February 16, 2023, Financial Report. Angel Garcia seconded the motion. All in favor. Finance Report is accepted and carried out.

# CASH DISBURSEMENTS:

# Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve cash disbursements totaling $576,844.06.

# Angel Garcia seconded the motion. All in favor. Cash Disbursements are accepted and carried out.

# BARS:

# Lawrence Barela made a motion to approve BAR # 001-051-2223-0021-I, Fund 23000 – Activity Acct for $1,406.00.

# April Gallegos seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion is accepted and carried out.

# Lawrence Barela made motion to approve Bar # 001-051-2223-0022-IB, Fund 14000 – Instructional Material for $28.00.

# April Gallegos seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion is accepted and carried out.

# Lawrence Barela made a motion to approve Bar # 001-051-2223-0023-D, Fund 28133 – YCC for $26,375.00.

# April Gallegos seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion and carried out.

# TRANSITION REPORT:

# GC Board President, Mark Walch led the discussion and went around the room to each board member for their report.

# EQUITY COUNCIL:

# Aaron Arrellano reports that the Equity Council has been moving forward at a good pace and is preparing for “Readiness Assessments.” He is also working on making meetings virtual.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Mr. Baade begins his report with words of sympathy and expresses condolences to the family, friends, teachers, and staff for the tragic loss of two students over the last month. He states that due to this being an open investigation and not to add, it is very difficult for some to process the loss. Mr. Baade wants to respect the family’s right to privacy and extends a variety of support services and debriefed the school community with a statement. “We will continue to improve how RFK responds to tragedies like this.”

He also mentioned that due to the Legislation Session moving quite “fiercely,” there may be a Special Governance Council Meeting to meet submission deadlines. Two bills that have been discussed will eliminate NM History and remove Algebra two from being that of a requirement to graduate. He is opposed to eliminating NM History and will insist on keeping it at RFK. Algebra Two, he understands the rationale.

Mr. Baade shared his appreciation to Denise Parras for the information about the federal energy grant. This will reduce costs by 50%. Thank you, Denise! Appreciation to Lawrence Barela, Clyde Ortiz, Shawn Morris, Katie Avery and RFK Capstone Teacher Ronnie Reynold for attending the Future Focus Conference.

Thank you all for attending!

Lastly, Mr. Baade Thanked Shawn Morris for his work around the Statewide Teacher Residency and he will represent RFK at a national conference at the end of the month. Which will directly help teacher development efforts. Mr. Baade stated, “These are all essential and GC Members need to understand the direction and initiatives to moving into a School of First Choice!”

**Housekeeping:**

Mark Walch encouraged GC members to finish their training if they have not, please do so.

**Adjourn:**

Angel Garcia motions to adjourn the meeting. GC Board President, Mark Walch Adjourns at 7:19pm

**Next meeting:**

March 16, 2023

**Minutes by:**

Secretary, April Gallegos and RFK MS Office Manager, Aradeli Ibarra