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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, December 19, 2024**

**4:30 p.m.**

RFK Governance Council President, Mark Walch called a regular Governance Council Meeting on December 19, 2024. The time was 4:46 p.m.

**ALL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mark Walch, President

Carlos Caballero, Vice President

April Gallegos, Secretary

Lawrence Barela, Treasurer

Bob Edgar, Member

**ZOOM:**

LaNika Bullington, Member

Aaron Arellano, MS Principal

**QUORUM:**

Yes

**STAFF:**

Robert Baade

Irene Sanchez

Kara Sanchez

Les Peterson

Cindy O’Neil

**STUDENTS:**

Zoe Chavez

Shane Bechdol

**GUESTS:**

Kristi Bechdol

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela makes a motion to accept the December 19, 2024, Meeting Agenda. RFK GC Secretary April Gallegos seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. The Meeting Agenda for December 19, 2024, is accepted and carried out.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2024:**

RFK GC Treasurer, Lawrence Barela made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2024. RFK GC Vice President, Carlos Caballero seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2024, are accepted and carried out.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**:

RFK Teacher, Les Peterson introduced RFK Senior, Zoe Chavez. He highlighted her passion for learning as well as her talents in Ceramics Class. Zoe showed GC Members her skilled and amazing ceramic pieces. Zoe states that she really enjoys RFK especially Ceramics Class with Mr. Peterson. Cindy O’Neil asks, “Why is the Ceramics program good?” Zoe replies, “It is a creative and positive outlet.” Executive Director, Robert Baade gave a brief bio of the Ceramics Class and its history at RFK. GC Secretary April Gallegos shared that Ceramics at RFK holds a special place in her heart. April’s son graduated from RFK in 2018 and went on to study art in San Francisco. She feels that Ceramics at RFK gave him a way to express himself and as he would state, “RFK is My Graceland”.

Zoe mentioned how much she has learned in the class and expressed appreciation as the GC Members showed personal interests and would later buy pieces from Zoe.

Executive Director Robert Baade presented results from STARS Assessments. He noted that results show growth.

He explained that Systems of Support are how growth happens.

**RFK MIDDLE SCHOOL / HIGHSCHOOL REPORT**

RFK MS Principal, Aaron Arellano reports,

* The first semester is successfully wrapping up and grades are due. Even with grades having to be in, there will still be opportunities for make-up work to bring up grades.
* The 90-day plan will remain the guide moving forward. The administrative team has been meeting to address areas that need to be pushed out. In reading and math specifically.
* Classes will be shifting after returning from break to better support academic progress. Freckle Intervention will be shifting back to math and ELA classes with support from Advisory classes like in the past. Art will make way for all students.
* Current enrollment is at 63 students. Thirteen sixth graders, 21 seventh graders and 29 eight graders.
* Attendance Coach, Crystal Mora and Principal Arellano have been meeting regularly to discuss chronic absences. Unfortunately, some students are being dropped.

HS Principal, Kara Sanchez reports:

* Winter Break has approached, and teachers are entering final grades for the semester.
* Students have completed the Middle of Year (MOY)STARS assessments in reading and math. Data shows an 8% growth in reading and 11% growth in math for all students. This growth exceeds the projected growth described in RFK’s NM Dash Plan. A projected 5% growth at MOY in reading and 5% in math. Principal Sanchez feels that students are on their way to meeting the end of year goal of 10 % growth in reading and math.
* The top 10 students in reading with the most growth have been awarded $100 gift cards and the top 10 students in math with the most growth have been awarded $100 gift cards.
* Sixty-two students are on the Tentative to Graduate list. Forty-two are on track to graduate in May. Four will graduate early in December and sixteen students are at risk of not graduating because they are at risk of failing one or more courses. The staff and especially the Dean of Students, Pete, are working with students to try to keep them on track. Evening school is an option for students to recover credits as well as online courses offered through Acellus.
* A partnership with CNM will offer some skills courses through CNM Ingenuity. All required core classes will be offered as well as Capstone, Welding, Guitar, Ceramics, Media Arts, Information Technology, courses. All students will also have an Advisory class..

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2024**

RFK Treasurer, Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve the Finance Report for November 2024. RFK GC President Mark Walch seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” vote and no one opposing. The Finance Committee Report for November 2024 has been accepted and carried out.

**CASH DISBURSEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2024**

RFK GC Secretary, April Gallegos makes a motion to approve Cash Disbursements for November 2024 in the amount of $620,406.97. RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. Cash Disbursements for November 2024 are accepted and carried out.

**BARS**

* RFK GC Member, Lanika Bullington make a motion to approve BAR# 001-051-2425-0019-IB, Fund 24174-PSCOC – Carl Perkins – CTE for $10,627.00. RFK GC Vice President, Carlos Caballero seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. BAR is accepted and carried out.
* RFK GC Member, Lanika Bullington make a motion to approve BAR#001-051-2425-0020-D, Fund 28133 YCC for $40,632.40. RFK GC Vice President, Carlos Caballero seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. BAR is accepted and carried out.
* RFK GC Member, Lanika Bullington make a motion to approve BAR# 001-051-2425-0021-IB, Fund 26107-ED Fellows for $49,100.00. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote, and no one opposing, BAR is accepted and carried out.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

RFK GC President, Mark Walch suggests January 18, 2025, to move forward with Strategic Planning. He states that this is something that should not wait too long. Mr. Baade will get in touch with Mr. Walch and then the RFK GC members will receive an email with a confirmed date and time.

**ED SEARCH UPDATE**

RFK GC President, Mark Walch updated the council on the search for an Executive Director. He informs the group that a Job Description and Job Announcement has been completed and after it is reviewed the Council will have it to review and make suggestions or corrections. Then the next step will be to post the announcement and move on to the interview phase. As this progresses, the council will have updates as this is underway.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director, Robert Baade reports:

* APS has suggested to RFK to think about how to represent academic progress relative to where RFK has been. APS is also recommending RFK for an expedited Charter Renewal in the fall. Mr. Baade would like to begin the process in the spring to be ready by the fall.
* Next semester the focus on curriculum development and delivery of instruction will hit the ground running from the very beginning. In efforts to move out of MRI status and so the students can be proficient for state exams.
* The Capstone program continues to be developed by students, and some have presented to staff for feedback.

Mr. Baade expressed his concern with enrollment numbers not being where they need to be. He also expressed how RFK will have to realign priorities and develop a strategic plan. There will be a reduction in revenue in January and it will be retroactive to the beginning of the year.

Lastly, Mr. Baade states, “I believe Career Pathways and a CTE program will attract new students.”

**HOUSEKEEPING**

RFK GC Training will be on January 18, 2025. The time will be sent to GC Members soon.

**Adjourn**:

RFK GC member, Bob Edgar, makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. GC Vice President Carlos Caballero seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” vote and no one opposing. GC President Mark Walch adjourns the meeting at 6:38 pm.

**Next meeting:**

**Minutes by:**

RFK GC Board Secretary, April Gallegos

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***Governance Council Secretary Signature***

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***Date***

***\*\*A copy of the Middle School Report, High School Report, Executive Director’s Report and Treasurer's Report is available upon request. \*\****