

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Minutes

January 22nd, 2020

1. Call to order

Dr. Charles Keffer, Board Chair, called the regular meeting of the Academia Cesar Chavez Board of Directors to order at 5:11 p.m. January 22nd, 2020 held at 1801 Lacrosse Avenue, Saint Paul, MN.

2. Welcome

The following Board Members were present for the meeting: Dr. Charles Keffer (Board Chair); Dr. Jessica Lopez Lyman (Secretary); Mark Ahrens (Treasurer); Elizabeth Rodriguez (Teacher); Dustin Lee (Teacher); Carlota Perez (Teacher); Juan Vazquez (Community); David G. Stanton via telephone (Community); Malicia Villegas (Parent); Christian Guerrero (Parent)

The following Board Members were absent: Commander John Lozoya (Community)

The following staff and guests were present for the meeting: Bondo Nyembwe (Executive Director); Marita Moran-Wildenauer (Head of Primary School); Jessica Perry (Head of Middle School); Lisa Taube (Operations Manager); Diana Morales (Sr. Executive Admin. Assistant)

3. Recite Mission Statement

Academia Cesar Chavez is dedicated to providing a quality dual-language education that prepares critically thinking, socially competent, values driven, and culturally aware bilingual and bi-literate learners by advocating Latino cultural values in an environment of familia and community.

4. Board Team Building

Action Items (for Board Approval):

5. Approval of Agenda for January 22nd, 2020 Board Meeting (Dr. Charles Keffer)

The first motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Ahrens and the second motion was made by Dr. Jessica Lopez-Lyman. The Agenda for the meeting held on January 22nd, 2020 was approved by the Board of Directors.

6. Approval of Minutes for December 4th Board Meeting (Dr. Charles Keffer)

The first motion to approve the minutes was made by Betty Rodriguez and the second motion was made by Dr. Jessica Lopez-Lyman. The minutes for the meeting held on December 4th, 2019 were approved by the Board of Directors.

Discussion Items and Committee Updates:

7. Strategic Plan Discussion

The board reviewed the goals included in the Strategic Plan. A few questions were raised regarding the Gifted & Talented program and the Future Problem Solvers. Mainly, inquiring details as to what those programs entail and the timeline for establishing the Gifted and Talented Program. Efforts should be focused on improving our current academic program.

The board discussed the decline of literacy proficiency in the last few years since the implementation of the Dual Program. The implementation of the Dual Program caused some delays in scholar's English proficiency and growth. However, our scholars show progress on Spanish assessment (ENIL). From the moment scholars begin 2nd grade and are no longer in the dual program, they have 1 year to catch up on English literacy and become proficient so that they can take MCA tests in the 3rd grade and beyond. Several board members discussed the research which indicates Dual Language programs when properly implemented create better test scores on average than monolingual speakers. Since the dual language program is not fully actualized, we do not see the full potential at ACC, thus the test scores from the drastic transition from second to third grade are low. We also discussed that the test scores prior to 2015 when there were bilingual EPs in each class were much higher than once they were removed. We discussed the implications of these factors and how to move forward. The board will continue to discuss the future of the Dual Program in February so that we can do right by our scholars.

Board members are to review goals 1 and 2 of the Strategic Plan prior to the next board meeting where they will be discussed.

8. Board Sub-Committee Reports

a. Resource Development Committee (Bondo Nyembwe)

Board members submitted their contributions in December and the committee would like to express their gratitude for the generous gifts to our school. The Resource Development Committee has also seen an increase in the number of individual donors making contributions to ACC. They are reviewing several grants that they will be applying for in the next few weeks.

b. Executive Committee (Dr. Charles Keffer)

The Executive Committee is working on the Acceptable Use of Technology policy and the Meal Charge policy. Both policies will come to the board for approval at a future board meeting. There is a phone call scheduled with the bondholders on Jan. 23rd and an S&P review phone call on Jan. 31st.

c. Academic Program Committee (Head of School)

The Academic Program Committee reviewed the Quarter 1 Vision 2020 outcomes and raised some questions regarding EL support at our school and other schools. The dual language program and the IRLA assessments were also reviewed. Scholar proficiency and growth has increased across the board.

d. Facilities Committee (Lisa Taube)

The Facilities Committee has not met.

e. Finance Committee (Mark Ahrens)

The budget for 2020-21 was shared. There was a noticeable decline in scholars that are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Due to this decline, there is a decrease in our state funding by roughly \$306,000. The final budget will be shared with the board in a future board meeting, for approval.

9. Staff and Other reports

a. Executive Director Report (Bondo Nyembwe)

i. Enrollment

The enrollment is currently 560. We lost 10 scholars due to mobility.

ii. New Hire

Three staff have been hired to replace someone or to fill an open position. The following positions have been filled: long term middle school math teacher, AVMR math tutor and a middle school literacy interventionist.

iii. MDE 21st Century Visit

The Children's Defense Fund has greatly supported our afterschool program. Our partnership with them will continue for another 3 years after this year.

10. Announcements/Public Comment:

11. Upcoming Events:

- High School Fair - January 28th
- Math & Science Night - January 30th
- President's Day Holiday - No staff or scholars - February 17th

12. Next Board Meeting: February 26th, 2020

13. Meeting Adjournment

Dr. Charles Keffer called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The first motion was made by Mark Ahrens and the second motion was made by Betty Rodriguez. The motion to adjourn was approved by the Board of Directors and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

This meeting was conducted in accordance with MN Statutes 13D.01, Open Meeting Law.

Approved by Board and Signed by Board Secretary _____


Dr. Jessica Lopez Lyman

Date 2/26/20