



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Minutes

September 23rd, 2020

1. Call to order

Dr. Jessica Lopez Lyman, Board Chair, called the regular meeting of the Academia Cesar Chavez Board of Directors to order at 5:08 p.m. via Zoom conference call on September 23rd, 2020.

2. Welcome

The following Board Members were present for the meeting: Dr. Jessica Lopez Lyman (Community); Mark Ahrens (Treasurer); Carlota Mendoza Perez (Secretary); Dusty Lee (Teacher); Julia Brandes (Teacher); David G. Stanton (Community); John Lozoya (Community); Juan Vazquez (Community)

The following Board Members were absent: Malicia Villegas (Parent)

The following staff and guests were present for the meeting: Lawrence Lucio (Interim Executive Director); Martha Dominguez (Family/Community Director); Marita Moran-Wildenauer (Head of Primary School); Diana Morales-Carlson (Senior Exec. Admin. Assistant); 22 ACC staff and teachers attended.

1. 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.

3. Grounding and check-in

Action Items (for Board Approval):

4. Approval of Agenda for September 23rd, 2020 Board Meeting

The first motion to approve was made by Carlota Mendoza and the second motion was made by John Lozoya. A roll-call was conducted and the agenda for the meeting held on September 23rd, 2020 was approved by the Board of Directors.

5. Approval of Minutes for the August 26th, 2020 Board Meeting

Julia Brandes requested some additions to the minutes from the August 26th, 2020 board meeting. The following additions will be made: The Resource Committee is creating a wish list. This includes updating the technology, computer labs and Ramona Center. Once they have created a wish list, it will be brought to the board for discussion and approval. The first motion to approve the minutes with the edits was made by Julia Brandes and the second motion was made by Carlota Mendoza. A roll-call was conducted and the minutes for the meeting held on August 26th, 2020 was approved by the Board of Directors.

6. Executive Director Job Call

The Executive Director job call was brought before the board for approval. The Board Chair shared that the search committee will prepare a short, concise job description when posting and will include a link to the full job call. Once the board approves the job call, a start date for the new ED will be set. Dusty Lee motioned to table the job call until October but there wasn't a second motion. Board

members would like the portion of “bilingual and bicultural” removed from the ED job call that states, “Ensure the hiring of bilingual and bicultural staff.” The following verbage should be added to the job call: “The ED is responsible for the hire and dismissal of all staff.” With those edits, John Lozoya made the first motion to approve the Executive Director Job Call. Carlota Mendoza made the second motion. A roll-call was conducted, all were in favor of approving the Executive Director Job call with the exception of Dusty Lee, who was not in favor. The Executive Director Job Call was approved by the Board of Directors.

Discussion Items and Committee Updates:

7. Executive Committee

a. Roles and responsibilities

The board reviewed the board roles and responsibilities document shared by the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools.

b. School culture and communication

Dr. Lopez Lyman shared with all the ACC staff that attended the board meeting that the board is here to support them. ACC staff should feel welcome to attend any and all board meetings and feel free to share any questions or concerns.

c. Board Training and future board meetings

Requests for board training should be brought to Dr. Lopez Lyman. The board was asked if they would like to start up in-person board meetings again. Some board members did not feel comfortable starting in-person just yet. The decision was made to continue meeting virtually and the board would revisit in-person meetings, in the future.

8. Resource Development Committee

The Resource Development Committee recently met. Their next meeting is on October 19th and they will meet on the third Monday of every month, moving forward. ACC is getting close to 1:1 technology. They are looking for possible donors to raise funds for the school.

9. Academic Program Committee

a. Survey report and discussion

Dusty Lee shared the responses from the Staff Survey. According to the survey, the staff is asking for transparency and support with technology. Staff at the board meeting expressed concerns with the lack of technology support that families are receiving. Teachers also did not receive enough coaching, especially with Google Classroom and stated that ACC used to have a full time technology staff member and have been left to figure it out on their own since. Although there are a lot of unknowns, ACC teachers and staff are grateful that the school board is listening and is being transparent.

10. Facilities Committee

In Early September, lightening hit the bell tower and the facilities committee is working with the insurance company to get it fixed. Due to the damage, the roof will also need to be repaired. The insurance company will be covering a part of the repair. It is too costly to tear the bell tower down but they are looking at possibly rebuilding.

11. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is meeting next week. There is a new team at BerganKDV and ACC is doing the annual audit this fall.

12. Staff and other board reports

a. Heads of School Report Pre-K/elementary and middle school

Abbey Korba has attended LETRS training for the last year. She will be doing all of the LETRS training for all staff and is certified as a LETRS facilitator. ACC also has reading and math tutors again this year. They are assisting teachers with various tasks until their groups start up. The Back-to-school night/parade was very well attended this year. This took place outside and scholars received a free backpack with materials and were able to meet their teacher during the parade.

ACC has an Academic Leadership Team. The staff attend weekly meetings as a group and then communicate that information to their teams. The Aguila Academy is in full swing. This daycare supports essential workers to include ACC teachers.

b. Enrollment

Enrollment is currently at 553 scholars. The Family and Community Director has reached out to families to gather information as to why they decided to withdraw. Parents shared that they would like their child to go to a school that offers hybrid. Other parents shared that they have been disappointed with the lack of technology support. Dr. Lopez Lyman will reach out to Eugene from MACS to see if other charter schools are having the same issue.

c. Technology Update

ACC currently has 322 Chromebooks and need to order 263 more. The total estimated cost would be \$102,000. This will allow the school to become 1:1. ILeonTech will be supporting ACC with technology training starting with Google Level 1 Training. They will also be supporting with drop-in technology hours for staff and families starting next Monday.

13. Announcements/Public Comment:

There were roughly 22 teachers that joined the board meeting. They brought forth their concerns around technology and the need for support. Mr. Moore recommended that the computer labs and iPads could be repurposed for scholars to use at home. Ms. Brandes mentioned that there is an issue with the current climate in the school. Staff have mentioned to her that there is a lack of communication and transparency from the board. Ms. Johnston shared that the current climate at ACC is awful and it needs to change. This was not the case previously. Dr. Lopez Lyman thanked all of the teachers and staff that attended the board meeting and for having courage to attend and to speak. There will never be retaliation for attending a board meeting and sharing their concerns. Mrs. Morales-Carlson will be sending a zoom link to all staff prior to the board meetings, moving forward.


14. Next Board Meeting: October 28th, 2020

15. Meeting Adjournment

Dr. Jessica Lopez Lyman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The first motion was made by Dusty Lee and the second motion was made by Carlota Mendoza. The motion to adjourn was approved by a roll call and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

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

Approved by Board and Signed by Board Secretary


Carlota Mendoza Perez (Jan 26, 2021 07:52 CST)
Carlota Mendoza Perez

Date 1/25/2021