



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2021

- I. Call to Order
 - A. The regular meeting of the Academia Cesar Chavez Board of Directors was held at 1801 Lacrosse Ave, Saint Paul MN, 55119
 - B. The meeting was called to order at 5:15pm by Cmdr John Lozoya (Treasurer).
- II. Welcome and Roll Call
 - A. Board members present: Cmdr John Lozoya (Treasurer), David G Stanton (Community), Aleida Enriquez (Parent), Dusty Lee (Teacher), Semita Perez (Teacher), Mark Ahrens (Community),
 - B. Board members absent: Dr Jessica Lopez Lyman (Chair), Dr Osiris Gómez (Secretary), Enrique Estrada (Community),
 - C. Staff and guests in attendance: Norma C. Garcés (Executive Director), Diana Morales-Carlson (Executive/Finance Manager), Raquel Arismendez (Project Manager),
- III. Recite ACC Mission Statement
 - A. *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.*
- IV. Grounding and Check-in
 - A. All those present each check in with a personal anecdote.
- V. Public Comment Forum
 - A. Three parents are in attendance to ask about any potential mask requirement for their children for the upcoming school year.

Action Items for Board Approval

- VI. Approval of Agenda
 - A. David moves to approve the agenda for the August 25, 2021 board meeting. Aleida seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

VII. Approval of Minutes

- A. Mr Lee moves to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2021 board meeting. David seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

VIII. 2021-2022 Board Calendar

- A. David moves to approve the 2021-2022 Board Calendar. Ms Semita seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

Discussion Items

IX. Board Committees

- A. John shares that moving forward, things may look and feel different. We hired an Executive Director to do a job, and we expect that job to be done. We also expect cooperation from everyone.

X. Executive Director Update

- A. Ms Norma introduces herself as the new Executive Director for those in attendance unaware. Right now is very preliminary as there is follow-through with decisions that were made last school year, so there will be no major changes made at this time. She will be examining this year how effective administration is. She has also invited Eugene Piccolo from the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools to attend the September board meeting.

1. She shares her two-prong approach: First, working with the board chair and building capacity at the board level; and second, working with leadership within the school.
2. Ms Norma has distributed the grades into three houses:
 - a) Lower Elementary (PreK-2): PreK-1st will be 100% Spanish, and 2nd Grade will be 50/50 English and Spanish. Technology devices will be primarily for home use, and significantly less utilized in the classroom. Staff are examining the data for demographics for primary language spoken at home, which will inform the program moving forward. Ms Semita will take a leadership role within Lower Elementary, supporting the classrooms.
 - b) Upper Elementary (3-5): These grades will stay exactly the same this school year.
 - c) Middle School (6-8): Spanish will return as a core component of the program.
3. Ms Norma met with the authorizer. Aaliyah Hodge, our liaison from University of Saint Thomas, has resigned from her position. UST has informed us that we have two years to address their areas of concern.
4. Ms Norma is meeting with the founder of ACC weekly, who is assisting with Ms Norma's contractual goals of returning the school to its mission

and vision, and introducing her to who is who in the community. The other goal in Ms Norma's contract is to decolonize and indigenize the space. This includes examining the processes in place.

- B. Ms Norma identified strengths at the school. Our sister school in Nogales is a blue-ribbon school, so there is evidence of the model's success. Ms Norma is amazed by people's flexibility and willingness to adapt in the transition.
- C. Ms Norma identified some challenges at the school. Data is a challenge: where does specific data live? The curriculum that is being utilized is not culturally competent, and not meant for the student body that we serve, so we need more information. Enrollment appears to be increasing every day, however the numbers reported to the board previously are registrations and not ADMs, therefore Ms Norma will be reporting on ADMs moving forward.
- D. Ms Norma identified some opportunities at the school. Ms Ramona Rosales is very supportive. Judith will support balancing the budget and trying to recover lost compensatory revenue due to the Food Service fund. Eugene Piccolo from the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools will support board development.
- E. Ms Norma proposes that the school offer free lunch for all students regardless of socioeconomic status of the families. Mark supports the proposal pending review of the balanced budget. David and John also support the proposal.
 - 1. David moves that Academia Cesar Chavez provide free breakfast, lunch, and snack to all students for the month of September. Mark seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.
- F. COVID-19 Update
 - 1. John reminds the board that things may look and feel different moving forward.
 - 2. Ms Norma reports that 76-78% of the staff are vaccinated. The school is creating a decision-making tree based on vaccination status of those in the building affected in the event of an outbreak. Only 16 staff are not vaccinated: nine of which are not willing to vaccinate. MDE will likely leave it to individual district discretion to mandate vaccinations. David supports exploring a vaccination mandate in the future.
 - a) The district has to notify MDE about expectations of face coverings within the space. The nurse recommends, as well as MDH, everyone in the space wears masks at all times. All staff will be tested weekly.
 - 3. David moves that all persons on Academia Cesar Chavez property wear a face covering at all times. Aleida seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

4. Ms Norma shares that there will be no distance learning option this year unless the student is sick and therefore would require homebound instruction.

XI. Board Member Goals

- A. John highlights the need for board members to show up. John encourages all board members to use their official ACC emails for all board business, as a board goal.
- B. John shares that the Executive Committee met. Committees will be put on pause until the Executive Director meets with the chair of each committee.

XII. Announcements

- A. Middle School parent meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 5:30pm
- B. Back to School Night 5pm-7pm on September 1, 2021 and September 2, 2021

XIII. Next board meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2021 at 5pm.

XIV. Meeting Adjournment

- A. David moves to adjourn the meeting. Ms Semita seconds the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Board Secretary: _____ **Date:** _____