



## Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Special Session

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 5 PM

Via Zoom

### Executive Committee

Dr. Jessica Lopez Lyman (Chair / community)

Mark Ahrens (Treasurer / community)

David G. Stanton (Secretary / community)

### Members

Julia Brandes (teacher)

Aleida Enriquez (parent)

Enrique Estrada (community)

Dr. Osiris Gómez (community)

Dusty Lee (teacher)

Comdr. John Lozoya (community)

Semita Perez (teacher)

Malicia Villegas (parent)

### Ex-Officio Members:

Staff/Guest(s): Jessica Perry, Head of Middle School; Marita Moran-Wildenauer, Head of Primary School; Martha Dominguez, Family/Community Director; Aaliyah Hodge, UST authorizer

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### \*\*\*AGENDA\*\*\*

1. Call to order by Board Chair
  - a. *The meeting was called to order by Jessica Lopez Lyman at 5:01pm*
2. Attendance (roll call)
  - a. Quorum was established
  - b. Board members present: *Mark Ahrens, Aleida Enriquez, , Osiris Gómez, Dusty Lee, Jessica Lopez Lyman, John Lozoya, Semita Perez, David Stanton, Malicia Villegas*
  - c. Board members absent: *Julia Brandes, Enrique Estrada*
  - d. Staff/Guests present: *Martha Dominguez, Aaliyah Hodge, Marita Moran-Wildenauer, Jessica Perry, Rudy Avina, Ramona Rosales, Lindsey*

*Jorgenson, Lucinda Costilla, Sarah Johnston, Betty Rodriguez, Vanessa San Jose*

3. Welcome guests and staff in attendance by Board Chair
4. Recite ACC 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.*
5. Grounding and check-in
6. Public Comment Forum
  - a. *Ramona asks the Board to acknowledge and thank Dr. Lopez Lyman for all her time volunteering this past year*

Action Items (for Board Approval)

7. Executive Director
  - a. *Jessica Lopez Lyman provided context for the ED search: In the past 5 years ACC has had a decline in state academic performance standards, and we have been and are in danger of being shut down.*
  - b. *Aaliyah Hodge: I am the primary liaison for UST, the charter authorizer for ACC. We hold the contract for ACC, we push for high standards. In 2018 ACC was put on probationary status, which is one step from charter revocation. ACC's performance was low relative to comparable schools. ACC was put on probation, and changes were suggested. UST encourages ACC to implement a research-based bilingual program, and not to continue with the early-exit model currently in effect. UST is committed to supporting ACC, and wants to give ACC the time it needs to make positive changes. For that reason UST has given ACC a 2-year extension before the next contract renewal.*
  - c. *Jessica Lopez Lyman says that ACC needs to work quickly to make the changes necessary to improve ACC's student performance. Standard & Poors is the rating agency that gives a bond rating for ACC, and S&P has spoken with the executive committee about their concerns that we do not have an ED. S&P is waiting until the end of June before they update our rating. If we do not have an ED, S&P says they are likely to lower our bond rating.*
  - d. *Jessica Lopez Lyman is concerned about enrollment. We are down, and without an ED we have no one who can oversee enrollment.*
  - e. *Jessica Lopez Lyman is no longer able to dedicate the time she has in the past toward ACC. If we do not hire an ED she will likely step down as Board chair because she does not have the ability to continue covering many of the official duties of the ED.*
  - f. *Mark Ahrens: Staff and administration have stepped up and done amazing work, but ACC is at risk if we continue to not have an ED.*
  - g. *John Lozoya: We need a leader at the school.*
  - h. *Semita Perez: We have many leaders at ACC, and there are current ACC staff who can step up and provide leadership.*

- i. *Jessica Lopez Lyman: She agrees that there are many leaders at ACC, but the ACC charter mandates that we must have an ED, and UST and MDE require that ACC have a leader in the ED position.*
- j. *David Stanton: I agree with Semita Perez that there are many leaders at ACC, but in my work on technology and the bilingual committee I have been frustrated that ACC does not have an ED to set a vision and make long-term plans. ACC needs an ED to make those decisions and to engage in shared leadership with the many leaders that ACC has*
- k. *Jessica Lopez Lyman: the search committee recommends that ACC hire Norma Garces. She is the recipient of the prestigious Bush Fellowship; She has strong ties to the Twin Cities (TC) Latinx community; she has a long history of work with the TC Latinx community. She has a degree in ethnic studies; she has a history of working with parents at El Colegio*
- l. *Discussion:*
  - i. *Question for the search committee: What are some strengths that Norma has? Norma right away noted the importance of the disposition of the Cruz-Guzman case, she said that she would take time to see what the strengths and needs of ACC are, she has experience working with a Board of Directors and teachers, she is collaborative, she has cultural competence, she asks questions and is not quick to change things, she works as part of a team, she brings her knowledge and expertise--but listens to staff, she will hold staff accountable for their work, she is knowledgeable about bilingual education, she has proven experience as a leader at El Colegio, she will be able to hit the ground running, she is a great fit for ACC's familia--she works with familia all the time*
  - ii. *What is the biggest challenge for Norma as ED? ACC is in need of relationship-building at the board and staff level, ACC's low academic performance is a challenge, time is of the essence for ACC--we need an ED now*
  - iii. *Did Norma mention any particular ways/approaches that she would take to lead ACC in dual language? The committee did not ask for specific plans, but she has a strong background in bilingual education and ethnic studies; she also was highly successful at El Colegio in supporting student success--their 100% graduation rate is impressive,*
  - iv. *Mark Ahrens moved to extend an offer to Norma Garces to be the new ED; Dusty Lee seconded; the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.*
  - v. *Jessica Lopez Lyman asks that the Board empower the executive committee to engage in contract negotiations*
  - vi. *John Lozoya moved that the Board Executive Committee negotiate the contract with Norma Garces; Osiris Gómez seconded; the motion was adopted by unanimous vote*
  - vii. *Jessica Lopez Lyman thanks all for moving forward so quickly; she is grateful for all to be here to make those hard decisions in a timely manner.*

8. Announcements

*a. There will be a regular board meeting on June 23, during the retreat*

**9. Next Board Meeting will be the annual Board Retreat on June 23, 4-8pm at ACC**

10. Meeting adjournment (Board Chair)

*a. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54pm*

**Approved and Signed by ACC Board Secretary David G. Stanton**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_