



SOUTHWEST PRIMARY LEARNING CENTER

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Special Meeting of the Southwest Primary Learning Center Governing Council on

Thursday, May 18th, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Leah Graham, Meredith Winters, Ken Chapman, Amber Romero, Marvin Larsen

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Patszor

PUBLIC

Lisa Mora, JayLynn Knight, Barbara Bachecci

These minutes were approved on June 22, 2017

By a vote of 4 yes 0 no 1 absent 0 abstained

Leah Graham President
Aasha Durain Secretary

I. Call to Order

Leah called to order the Special Meeting of the Governing Council for the Southwest Primary Learning Center on **Thursday, May 18th, 2017 at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room at Southwest Learning Center, 10301 Candelaria Road Northeast, Albuquerque, New Mexico.**

A. Roll Call

Leah asked for Amber to call roll. Amber called Leah Graham, Meredith Winters, Amber Romero, Marvin Larsen, and Ken Chapman. All present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Leah led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you, Leah.

C. Adoption of Agenda

Leah called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Amber made a motion to adopt the agenda. Meredith seconded the motion. Leah called for a voice vote to approve the agenda, all board members present approved. The motion carried.

II. Title I Application

Robert announced that we have always been a targeted program, being restricted in a lot of ways. But now, with Title I has more flexibility with a schoolwide waiver. It opens the doors to spending money on all students. This covers summer program, staff development, etc. The activities increase for all students to have qualified teachers and instruction, this is for SPED, economically disadvantaged, ESL and now all students. Title I is developed by the teachers. Preparatory is considered new because of the brand-new grades and programs. There are going to be enough things about that are different regarding the structure of it. It opens up the door for vision and hearing tests. He included educational assistance. We have the UNM students that run the after-school program and he included tutoring. He can get six work-study students. The application is due May 26th, 2017.

There was discussion about Preparatory being viewed in the right light to PED. There was assurance that it would be. The board was curious about the repercussions of the waiver, and were assured there was none.

Meredith made a motion to approve Robert Pasztor as the Title I Coordinator and to approve the Title I application as presented, providing summer programs, UNM tutors, educational assistants, nursing services for vision and hearing, and other services and materials to maintain equity and support for all students. The focus of the Title I supports is to help all students meet state standards on the PARCC and to promote success by meeting their individual needs, academic and otherwise. Title I activities will also increase equitable access to highly qualified teachers and instruction for economically disadvantaged, minority, English language learners and students with disabilities.

Ken seconded the motion. Leah called for a voice vote and all present approved.

III. 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget

There was no presentation of the budget.

IV. Public Comment

Lisa Mora is a fifth-grade teacher. Do we have news or any finality or whether or not the cash assets from intermediate will be transferring with Preparatory?

Leah noted that there has been no answer and PED has made it clear that is not our decision. We can make a recommendation and a request, but they really have all the authority to decide. Technically, the school is closing and when a school closes, the assets go back to PED. They distribute them the way they see fit.

Amber: However, PED's original request for a letter from the school boards describing the assets did not occur, was not generated or submitted, to our knowledge.

Lisa: Along that same line, given some of the difficulties adding the new grades to the school and consolidating, we don't have currently have any closure for budget purposes on what we are doing without a Head Administrator?

Leah: Not tonight.

Lisa: Some suggestions or requests, a few of us have discussed what we would like to see happen is that our Special Ed teacher is currently working with students in the hallway, and sometimes here in the conference room. We would like to request a divider of some sort that would allow her a classroom. She's currently trying to pull students to work with them in a very unfocused environment, and she really needs the space to be able to effectively work with those students. I've heard only rumor, from Robert, that they may be looking at a portable, looking at a divider wall. We would like to request that something be done to give her a space to work from. Do we know currently if we are anticipating any reduction in staff for Preparatory?

Leah: We don't know. It is a possibility.

There is conversation about administrative staff and what that entails. It is hard to decipher exactly what is said, but a general tone of worry of who is going to be employed for the coming year.

Robert: It is important to note that 50% or more of the budget is supposed to be spent for instruction. 58% of the SEG revenue that we are going to get is instructional from the preliminary numbers.

Leah: Ken and Meredith are going to the budget meeting, as well as Ronda, Robert and Kirk. As well as the SILC board, if they decide to come to that meeting. If Ken and Meredith come back to the board and say, we don't approve of what they did, I won't vote to approve of a budget that these two don't approve of. It's really important that you guys let them know what your concerns are. We are concerned about academics, definitely, and we are going to do the best that we can. We just have to make sure we have the money for it.

Robert: APS is getting a salary reduction. We are much smaller and we don't have to deal with it that way, but the budget decrease will impact us.

Lisa: Did the SEG decrease, stay the same, or go up?

Robert: The SEG went up a little, but we lost most of it.

Lisa: I did ask Mr. Hartom for clarification on the budget based on notes we were sent from last Friday's meeting, where it says (*inaudible*) to ask Mr. Hartom for clarification. I did ask him; his response was that there would be some shifting and that we were counting on growth units which the governor did not approve. I do not understand the growth units. Were they just because we were adding new grades?

Leah: yes

Lisa: So, it wasn't approved for our school specifically or it wasn't approved for everyone?

Leah and Robert: Everyone.

Lisa: That was additional money above and beyond SEG because we were adding new grades. Is that what it would have been?

Meredith: Like a certain amount of money that would grow between this number and this number over a year, because we are growing and increasing in grades we were going to get that.

Barbara: But the governor declined it so nobody gets it.

Robert: After the 40-day, if you have grown, you get a certain amount of extra money. We will grow by 112 students. So, we could have gotten that extra money, but they did eliminate it for everybody. That was to make the education budget even work at the state level.

Lisa: A final question that I have before I will be quiet and let you guys speak is for the student assistance team. I understand because of the consolidation of this school, that we will be making one coordinator for the whole school. Which makes sense, since it's a pretty small school. And that will double the number of students for the staff coordinator. So, do you expect it to remain the same, are you looking at decreasing it, increasing it? Or if... *(she fades out)*

Robert: We don't know anything about that. *There is an inaudible conversation about the speculated money to receive.* That would be a good question for Ronda and Joseph.

Lisa: Thank you, those were the main concerns that I wanted to address.

JayLynn Knight: One of my concerns, especially the 7th and 8th grade classes. We've been very fortunate. We have an educational teacher for 4th and 5th. We have an assistant for 6th grade. For 7th and 8th grade, educational assistant actually runs the class in the monitoring while the kids are on their online courses. And the two new teachers coming in next year, for the math and language arts, this is a very difficult school to adjust to as a teacher. The demands are very different. If there is some room in the budget to lend more support to the classrooms, because they do not have an educational assistant to help support them. That position used to be held a science teacher. Which is another question, with having all these middle school classrooms, without having science teacher, I don't know if that's an option or not? We used to have one.

Amber: So, there's an EA, but that EA has to be in the lab.

JayLynn: She runs just the intermediate kids in the lab.

Ken: The point you are making is that we need assistance in the classroom for the new teachers?

JayLynn: Yes, they had the EA that now runs the main lab. I know our classroom needs are invaluable. We have not had that for quite a few years. I think bringing in two new teachers at the level of responsibility of the school would benefit from having additional support.

There was a discussion regarding staff. And a possibility of classroom help involving voluntary parents.

JayLynn: Classroom moms are great in elementary, they don't necessarily translate to middle school. The kids don't want them there. Our EA's do a lot of our grading and getting things into power school for us. Putting them a lot into gradebooks.

Leah: Another thing I thought of, when Robert said, the college students. We might use some of them in that capacity.

There was some discussion regarding this.

Barbara Baccheci: I have a question for you, fifth grade teacher, question of the EA, she's not a certified teacher. And yet she teaches the science on the computers. I know the kids really struggle with that because they don't have anybody to ask questions to. I am just intrigued how an EA is teaching. Chris is a science teacher and can help with science, but...

Robert: I have never heard of a student who is not getting an answer to their science question, because Kathryn can't answer it. *A very inaudible conversation ensues.* Her presence in the classroom makes a difference.

Barbara: It does, the reason I ask is because some of the, I heard behind closed doors, I guess. She belongs to SSLC and not to SILC, so they are not utilizing, I guess, the staff? *An inaudible conversation ensues between Barbara and Robert.*

Robert: Another thing is that these students have computers in their classrooms, they don't have to go to the main lab for online courses. They could stay right in their classrooms. They could have their language arts, math, whatever. And then their teacher right there. That's so they can have a certified teacher, it may not be in that specific area. The thing with edgenuity, it's really more about showing how to use your resources.

Barbara: The students don't have to go into the main lab. Kathryn has been in this position for so long I think she's pretty familiar with all of the material at this point. Hearing what you guys are talking about, at one point the eighth-grade teachers did talk about revamping their schedules. I'm open to, if you want, I know with the turnover, you don't really have the staff support to really revamp that schedule.

Robert: They have the idea of Barber teaching all of the math 6th-8th grade. And possibly having a science teacher instead of a math teacher. *More overlapping conversation between those present.*

Ken: If there is something that Meredith and I can look into, going in next. Like head count, it's available.

Amber: Are the EA's working towards education degrees? Are the UNM students working on their required internships?

Robert: They are, but it's more of helping them, because the minute they have to go, they are gone.

Barbara: Their program revolves around their semester schedule. And their classes end two weeks earlier than ours, and they are under no obligation to return. It takes a lot to adjust to here, for the new teachers.

Ken: One question that was brought up last month, by Michele Adams, was about the furniture. We took care of primary, and we need to look at that.

Robert: That is pending on all the capital money that could come up. When we are looking at the budget, it's like a checking account and saving account. Whatever gets cashed into the checking account is what is being considered. Whatever is in the savings account, is not even being considered. So, balancing the budget is getting this much revenue, how are we going to structure our program, so we only spend our revenue money. Ignoring our "savings account".

Leah: Legally there are things we cannot use that money for.

An overlapping conversation ensued about possibilities about the budget. Leah asked that the conversations be only one person at a time speaking, because the person it makes it hard on the person doing the minutes. (Thank you, Leah)

Lisa: Are we going to be able to do the lease-to-purchase? Or does that depend on the cash carryover from SILC?

Leah: At this point, we've kind of put that on hold. We will have to re-address it later. We are trying to figure out the budget and staffing at this point, and then it will come up again.

V. Adjournment

Leah called for a motion to adjourn. Amber made a motion to adjourn, Meredith seconded the motion. Leah called for a voice vote and after hearing no objection, the motion carried.

The special meeting for SPLC on Thursday, May 18th, 2017 ended at 5:54 pm.