



**GOVERNANCE COUNCIL**  
Special Joint Meeting of SPLC and SILC  
Board Meeting Minutes of  
Monday, September 26, 2016

**SPLC Board Members Present**

Leah Graham, Meredith Winters,  
Ken Chapman, Elizabeth Armijo,  
Marvin Larsen

**SILC Board Members Present**

Cheryle Brody, Krista Keay,  
Steve Oberg, Deborah Lansdell

**Board Members Absent**

Amber Romero (SPLC), Kayleigh Wood (SILC)

**Also in attendance**

Kirk Hartom, Robert Pasztor,  
Sharon Huber, Dan Castille, Ronda Joyce

**Public in attendance**

Connie Blue, Chris Lutz,  
Joshua Merrill, Vic Fantozzi

These Minutes were approved on \_\_\_\_\_

By a vote of \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Abstained \_\_\_ Absent

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary Signature

**Submitted by  
Savannah Lopez**

Cheryle called the joint Southwest Intermediate Learning Center (SILC) Governing Council meeting with the Southwest Primary Learning Center (SPLC) to order at 5:00 pm in the Smart Lab of Southwest Learning Center located at 10301 Candelaria Rd. NE.

Leah called the joint Southwest Primary Intermediate Learning Center (SPLC) Governing Council meeting with the Southwest Intermediate Learning Center (SILC) to order at 5:01 pm in the Smart Lab of Southwest Secondary Learning Center at 10301 Candelaria Rd. NE.

## **ROLL CALL**

Cheryle asked Savannah to call roll for Southwest Intermediate Learning Center Governing Council. Savannah called Cheryle Brody, here; Krista Keay, here; Kayleigh Wood, absent; Steve Oberg, here, and Deborah Lansdell, here.

Leah asked Savannah to call roll for Southwest Primary Learning Center Governing Council. Savannah called Leah Graham, here; Meredith Winters, here; Ken Chapman, here; Amber Romero, absent; Elizabeth Armijo, here; Marvin Larsen, here.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Leah asked everyone to stand and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Leah Graham stated that it has been brought to her attention that some of the stakeholders still have concerns about how to move forward with the consolidation and it is her feeling that these stakeholders have a right to be heard before the final decision is made.

Leah stated that both boards need to agree to amend the agenda before making a motion to do so.

Cheryle had concerns that being the agenda issue/change was not addressed earlier, the general public would not be aware they had a voice in possibly changing the decision. Cheryle stated that given that the concern was brought at the meeting, the change in the agenda would not allow all of the public to be aware that they could make comments to impact the decision before the decision was made therefore knowing the Public Comment was at the end of the meeting (which is how the agenda was posted) they may have chosen not to come to the meeting because they could've felt that their comments would not have affected the decision; therefore she feels it was unfair to the general public to not know the change to the agenda was made ahead of time. Cheryle stated that she felt that the agenda should stay as posted to be fair.

Cheryle disagreed with the amendment of the agenda by stating that there was sufficient time for the public to express their opinions and thoughts.

Both presidents decided to conduct a vote with their fellow council members and if both boards agreed, they would amend the agenda; if not, they would leave it as is.

Leah asked for a vote of her SPLC board to amend the agenda to move Public Comment before (D. Final Charter Amendment/School Consolidation/Closing Decision). All voted yes.

Cheryle asked for a vote of her SILC board to amend the agenda to move Public Comment before (D. Final Charter Amendment/School Consolidation/Closing Decision). All voted no.

No agreement. Request to amend the agenda not passed.

Leah asked for a motion to approve today's joint SPLC Governing Council agenda. Meredith made the motion and Elizabeth seconded. Leah called for a voice vote, unanimous yes, Motion passed.

Cheryle asked for a motion to approve today's joint SILC Governing Council agenda. Steve made the motion and Deborah seconded. Cheryle called for a voice vote, unanimous yes, Motion passed.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Leah and Cheryle stated that they would like each of the Council members from both boards to introduce themselves. *Both SILC and SPLC Council Members took a moment to introduce themselves one by one.*

## JOINT BOARD BUSINESS

Cheryle moved on to the first item of business, ***School Consolidation Financial Overview/Discussion.*** Cheryle stated that Sean is not present to give the overview. Kirk volunteered to give a brief financial overview.

- Kirk stated that once consolidated and the two schools become one, there will no longer be four sets of small school funding.
- Kirk informed the Councils that each school receives about ½ of a million dollars in small school funding.
- Kirk stated that by consolidating the schools are increasing their enrollment.
- Kirk informed the Councils that the schools would be losing around \$150,000.
- Leah stated that after talking with the finance department, it is her understanding that there is no financial difference if one school absorbs the other. Cheryle agreed that financially there is no “better” way to choose.
- Marvin asked how the schools will make up the money being lost.
  - Ronda stated that the Vigil Group is paid \$60,000 per school which means if one school closes, they will keep \$60,000...
- Robert stated that the Small School Sized Funding is being taken away faster than five years, suggesting that the SLC schools would have to consolidate into one school – possibly within the next two-three years...
- Ken asked how certain is that... Robert responded, almost certain.
- Robert stated that they will gradually take the money away year by year, not all at once.
- Kirk stated that he spoke to the schools Lobbyist and she mentioned that they saved the small school funding in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour but knows it will eventually be taken away.

*Ken stated his opinion about delaying consolidation for a few years and the Council and administration responded by stating that the best option is to listen to PEC's recommendation to pursue consolidation.*

*Ken stated that there are two options, one being consolidation and one being going through the renewal without consolidation.*

*Leah asked Dan (lawyer) his opinion on the law on consolidation... Dan stated that there are no statues about consolidation because this is a unique school (having four schools under one umbrella) but he will not make an official legal opinion but said that it seems like it is the recommendation of the PEC to continue with consolidation before renewal.*

Leah moved on to the next item of business, ***School Consolidation Amendments Overview/Discussion***, and asked Robert to present the amendments.

- Robert stated that there are 3 amendments to the charter... (listed below)
  - Effective July 1, 2017. Serving grades K-8, presently offering 4,5,6,7 and 8.
  - Effective July 1, 2017 Southwest Preparatory Learning Center (name change)
  - Effective July 1, 2017. “Southwest Preparatory Learning Center provides the technology elective course for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, Smart Lab that is unique to the school. Southwest Preparatory Learning Center provides pre-algebra to all 7<sup>th</sup> graders and algebra 1 for high school credit to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Southwest Preparatory Learning Center provides a Community-based activity component to the academic curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Southwest Preparatory Learning Center provides one online course for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and two online courses for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Robert asked the Councils if they had any questions concerning the amendments.
  - Leah asked, if when the new schools opens will there have to be new contracts made – would the school with most employee contracts be better to absorb the other...
  - Ronda stated that every employee from both SPLC and SILC will have to have new contracts made and signed due to the name change.

Leah moved on to the next item of business, ***Future Member Commitment***.

Leah stated that she and Cheryle had previously discussed getting a verbal agreement/count of who will be continuing on with the boards after consolidation occurs. The Councils agreed to have a say of who will continue...

*Leah stated that Amber Romero had given her “YES, to continue” to Leah beforehand.*

Meredith stated, “YES, to continue”

Elizabeth stated, “YES, to continue”

Ken stated, “YES, to continue”

Leah stated, “YES, to continue”

Marvin stated, “YES, to continue”

Cheryle stated, “YES, to continue”

Deborah stated, “YES, to continue”

Krista stated, “YES, to continue”

Steve stated, “YES, to continue”

Leah stated that it was previously stated that a larger board is better to have. Cheryle stated that she and Leah are looking forward to working together with both boards.

Leah moved on to the next item of business, *Final Charter Amendment/School Consolidation/Closing Decision*.

- Leah stated that because there is no definite on which way is better (which school absorbs the other), they have decided to toss a coin, with the stipulation that both boards will have a say in the new board's decision making. Leah stated that the school that absorbs the other school will be the board that takes action although both boards will be included on that decision making.
  - The Councils passed out the agreement that was approved by the lawyer, Dan Castille, that states there will be an advisory committee and board members from both schools will be involved in decision making.
  - The Councils decided that there would be a committee formed with two board members from SPLC and two board members from SILC. This committee would meet and discuss all items that do not require action by the new board.
  - Dan commented that as long all members of both boards agree on the items up for approval, those items should be approved...

*The Councils and administration discussed having joint meetings or separate meetings and decided on having separate Council meetings until January, 2017.*

- Robert stated that the absorbing Board is the existing board with a “ghost” board as the other school for now, until July.
- Ronda stated that the absorbing board is the one to sign all of the documents.
- Kirk stated that it is very important that both Boards operate with strength because of the Lease Assistance; because it will take 3 sets of money...
- Kirk stated that he and Dan are working on the wording of the lease, whether it stated 3 schools or 2.

*The Councils stated that once the Boards come together and the absorbing board votes in all members from both boards, the presidents of both boards will step down... At this point there will be a vote for a new President, Vice President, Board Secretary, etc...*

- Leah stated that the conclusion is that a mutual party will flip a coin to determine which school will absorb the other. Leah stated that the Councils came to this decision because there had been given no better reasoning as to which school absorbs the other or vice versa. Leah stated that both Councils have come to the conclusion that they will agree on everything before moving forward with decisions after consolidation.

*At this point both SILC and SPLC Council members signed the “Agreement between Southwest Intermediate Learning Center and Southwest Primary Learning Center” document which states the following:*

*It is anticipated that the SPLC and the SILC will be combined into one new school beginning on or about July 1, 2017. The governing boards of SPLC and SILC agree that from this date, September 26, 2016 until the Charter for the new school officially goes into effect, all final and official decisions for the new school that require governing board approval will require the approval of each governing board independently. That is, the governing boards of each school must each approve the decision. Further, each board will select two members to form a committee for the purpose of conducting interim business that does not require action.*

**COIN TOSS:**

*SILC's Steve Oberg chose HEADS; SPLC TAILS.*

*Mr. Dan Castille (Lawyer) did the coin toss and called TAILS as the winner. Savannah also witnessed the coin landing on TAILS. Dan announced SPLC as the winners of the coin toss.*

***In conclusion SPLC will absorb SILC.***

Leah moved on to the next item of business, ***New School Name.***

- Leah stated that the new school name was discussed to be Southwest Preparatory Learning Center. Leah asked if there were any other comments or suggestions.
- Steve stated that he had an idea of (Southwest College Preparatory Schools) being the name.
- Kirk stated that the SSLC staff did have a suggestion of changing their name as well... (Southwest Academy) being the name.

After further discussion the Council agreed not to pursue any other names but to stick with ***Southwest Preparatory Learning Center.***

Cheryle moved on to the next item of business, ***Approval of Charter Renewal Amendments.***

Leah asked for a motion to approve the Charter Renewal Amendments. Meredith made the motion and Ken seconded. Leah called for a voice vote, unanimous yes, Motion passed.

Cheryle asked for a motion to approve the Charter Renewal Amendments. Krista made the motion and Deborah seconded. Cheryle called for a voice vote, unanimous yes, Motion passed.

Leah moved on to the next item of business, ***Approval of Charter Renewal Applications.***

- Leah stated that Robert sent the applications to the Council members via e-mail and they were looked over prior to the meeting.

Leah asked for a motion to approve the Charter Renewal Application for Southwest Primary Learning Center. Elizabeth made the motion and Meredith seconded. Leah called for a voice vote, unanimous yes, Motion passed.

Cheryle asked for a motion to approve the Charter Renewal Application for Southwest Intermediate Learning Center. Krista made the motion and Steve seconded. Cheryle called for a voice vote, unanimous yes, Motion passed.

Cheryle moved on to the next item of business, ***Duties of Administration Going Forward.***

- Leah stated that the parents, students, faculty, and staff need to be notified by administration of the decision made.
- Kirk stated that he does want the parents to know that it does not make a difference in which school absorbs which and they are two schools merging – not closing.

- Ken stated that there should be a letter sent out in July letting parents know the current state of the schools and the future state of the schools and where they are headed together.
- Sharon informed the Councils that two full 6<sup>th</sup> grade class parents will be very happy in knowing that they will not have to re-enter the lottery. Sharon stated that the notification to parents should be a positive one.
- Meredith stated that it should be known in the letter to parents that no programs are changing.
- Kirk stated that parents and faculty should know that money will be tight in the future but that it will be okay.
- Leah stated that she would like the notification to parents to be a positive notification; only focusing on positive outcomes of the consolidation although letting employees of the schools know about the financial stain.
- Robert stated that it is his opinion to wait until December, when the renewal has actually been approved.
- Deborah stated that there does not need to be a 5 page letter; there can be a notification letter and at the bottom of that letter state “if more information is needed please ask...” and have readily available a document with all fine details to provide to those parents who have many questions.

*After further discussion the Councils and administration agreed to hold off on announcement of consolidation until December, when the renewal is approved, to send a notification out to the parents.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Connie Blue (SSLC Language Arts Instructor) introduced herself to the Councils and stated that she appreciates the Boards for their professionalism and interest in the students.

Mr. Joshua Merrill (SSLC Social Studies Instructor) introduced himself and stated that he also appreciates the boards taking care of the students and staff. Joshua stated that, with Small School Size Adjustment going away, he wants to make sure the schools are maximizing their resources and saving money where it could be saved. Joshua stated that he would like the Councils to make sure that the “Sibling Rule” within the lottery is kept. Joshua stated that he is in charge of the Geography Bee and is concerned that there will only be one spelling bee versus two; he would like the Council to further discuss how the clubs are going to be dealt with. Joshua asks for communication with some of their thoughts throughout this process.

Deborah stated that the consolidation is affecting all parties including teachers and staff and board members and students... Deborah stated that she would like the teachers and students to bring fourth all ideas and thoughts about consolidation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Cheryle asked for a motion to adjourn the joint Southwest Intermediate Learning Center (SILC) Governing Council meeting with the Southwest Primary Learning Center (SPLC). Krista made the motion and Deborah seconded. Cheryle called for a voice vote, unanimous yes, Motion passed.

Leah asked for a motion to adjourn the joint Southwest Intermediate Learning Center (SILC) Governing Council meeting with the Southwest Primary Learning Center (SPLC). Elizabeth made the motion and Meredith seconded. Leah called for a voice vote, unanimous yes, Motion passed.

The joint Southwest Intermediate Learning Center (SILC) Governing Council meeting with the Southwest Primary Learning Center (SPLC) meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

DRAFT