

MINUTES

Six Directions Indigenous School Governing Council Regular Meeting

07 December 2016

2055 NM 602, Gallup NM 87301

In attendance:, Ben Soce, Madeline Leyba (via phone), Susan Estrada (via phone),

Absent:, Philmer Bluehouse, Neomi Gilmore

Others in attendance:

- Dr. Fonda Charlie, Head Administrator
- Lane Towery, Director of Operations
- Brenda Chicharello, community member

- I. The mission was read and everyone present introduced themselves.
- II. Approval of agenda:
 - a. Approved by acclamation
- III. Approval of 11-16-16 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: Madeline
 - b. Yes: Susan, Ben
 - c. No: None
 - d. Abstain: None
- IV. Public Comment
 - a. Brenda Chicharello said she heard about our students' participating in the Bureau of Land Management Public Input Hearing regarding the Pinon Pipeline.
 - b. Dr. Charlie confirmed that our students took a field trip, some of our students spoke during public comment and were interviewed by the Navajo Times and should be in the paper tomorrow. Ms. Purdy planned and led the trip. We were the only school or students there. Our students also asked questions of the peaceful protesters. They spoke with the BLM representatives.
 - c. Ben spoke about how excited he was to see students there, interviewing people, taking notes, illustrating the charts. People were very accommodating of them and impressed by them. They had lunch at the Window Rock Zoo afterwards and then went to the Museum there.
 - d. Ben showed a video of two students speaking during public comment.
 - e. Ben said we need to acknowledge Ms. Purdy for her curriculum work. And recognize Lane for being able to get a bus from Gallup McKinley County Schools for the day. Thank you to GMCS for renting us the bus.
- V. Reports
 - a. Financial Report from the Business Manager
 - i. Lane explained that we are no longer working with our previous Business Manager.

- ii. Kay Girdner took over last week.
- iii. She is on vacation this week and will join us at our next meeting. She will also notify Charter School Division of the change and her license.
- b. Report from Lane, Director of Operations
 - i. Up to 50 students again
 - ii. We had 47 students on the 40th day, so that's what we'll be funded for this year.
 - iii. Internet has been expanded on site
 - iv. We got a sign on our building, curtesy of our landlord.
 - v. We got a number of fire-proof file cabinets, desks, credenzas, and chairs donated from Wells Fargo Bank.
- c. Report from Dr. Charlie, Head Administrator
 - i. I have been here eight days now. It's been a good transition. I've been doing a lot of observing.
 - ii. I'm want to get a break for the teachers. They have been working non-stop from morning to evening and have been growing the school and have done a really good job. But they also need breaks.
 - iii. One thing we've been implementing is more consistent use of the reflection forms for students. And I've been charting the reflection sheets so that we can track who is doing a lot of reflection sheets. And I'm conferencing with those students. Right now we have some disruptive students and some students who don't want to go to class and we're working on that.
 - iv. Emotional wellness is another focus. I'm trying to access outreach programs from IHS, Navajo Nation, Zuni so that we have ways to provide assistance to students without having an on-site counselor.
 - v. Another focus is working on our food services. We're not getting the service our students need from our current provider. Two instances of them not bringing breakfast and we have to scramble. I'm working with the operations team at NISN to see the implications of seeking a new contract with a new provider. I've been addressing issues with the provider and they have not responded.
 - vi. We've been working on students not yelling out. We've been implementing a reminder for students based on Navajo tradition: "I will observe with my eyes, I will listen with my ears, I will be mindful with my voice."
 - vii. I'm also working on improving our internal financial procedures.

Action Items

- VI. Potential action on an MOU between SDIS and NACA-Inspired Schools Network
- a. 1.3.7 in particular seems like a section where NISN is asking things that ought to fall under the PEC or CSD, not NISN. If they want to come into our building, I'd like a clause that says we'll have at least 30 days' notice or something like that. And people who are coming in, are they knowledgeable enough to observe classrooms? Classrooms of Native students?
 - b. 1.3.11 – why is that even in there? They are taking responsibility for our financial management and they dropped the ball recently.
 - c. A recommendation was made to get legal opinion on our behalf before approving.
 - d. Dr. Charlie would like to read and understand it more since she just started, as well as research MOUs generally.
 - e. A question was raised about the requirement to go to Albuquerque whenever they ask. We have a mission in Gallup. It can't just be us accommodating to them.
 - f. A recommendation was made to add spiritual wellness in 5th paragraph.
 - g. 1.3.3 a request for clarity about who will participate.
 - h. 1.4.5 – a desire to really hold them accountable to that. We would like to keep the NIYLP relationship going for a long time, but we need to raise money to do that.
 - i. A desire is made to have Neomi's input.
 - j. The GC would like to hear from a representative from NISN about this documentation.
 - k. Dr. Charlie would like to visit NISN and understand their role and personnel more.
 - l. Motion to table any action pending more feedback and discussion:
Susan
 - i. Yes: Madeline, Ben
 - ii. No: None
 - iii. Abstain: None

Discussion Items

- VII. Discussion items
- a. Reminder that there will be no regular GC meeting on December 21st, as the school will be on Winter Break.

Motion to close the meeting: Ben
Yes: Madeline, Susan
No: None
Abstain: None

*Minutes approved by the Six Directions Indigenous School Governance Council
this 4th day of January 2017.*



Keeper of Records: _____
Susan Estrada

Date: 1-4-2017