

**La Tierra Community School
Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Director Minutes
Monday, May 12, 2014**

Present: Brian McVickers, Russ Erickson, Claire Louge, Linde Lisbona

Staff: Jennifer Roderick, Beth Cottle

Meeting called to order: 4:37 pm

I. Brian McVickers called the meeting to order.

II. Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes -

Brian McVickers moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the **April 22nd 2014** Governing Board meeting minutes. Russell Erickson seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

III. Community Celebrations and Presentations -

La Tierra Community School students kicked off the first Cinco de Mayo celebration dancing traditional Mexican dances in the town square on Sunday, May 4th. Our Kinderingergarten class had their first overnight fieldwork trip, tied to their tree expedition, where they overnighted at Lynx Lake, building a new learning and community building tradition.

IV. Community Forum/Participation - None

V. Director's Report (Jennifer Roderick)

- Celebrations of Learning will be held from 1:00pm-3:00pm at LTCS on May 21st. Students will demonstrate their learning products from their second semester expeditions, showcasing their work and learning. Open to the public.
- The interview committee met last Friday and has a group of solid candidates to interview for the 4th-7th grade math and science teaching position/4th&5th Grade CREW leader.
- We are beginning to wrap up the school year with some end-of-the-year fieldwork trips as our 5th and 6th grade class heads to Phoenix on the 19th and 20th for a trip to the aquarium and Wet and Wild. Our second grade class will host an overnight learning adventure on campus as they camp out at La Tierra on May 22nd.
- The director and our Expeditionary Learning School designer used feedback from the EL Implementation Review to develop work goals for next year. They have drafted the beginnings of a professional development work plan that will be shared with faculty and completed as a collaborative team during our teacher work week the first week of June.

VI. Old Business

1. Administrative Binders - Review School Academic and Governance and Leadership Programs

- Right now our school grade is based on our current 5th graders. It is based on the demonstrated academic growth of 8 students because they are our only class of students who have two years worth of testing results.
- We have piloted two benchmark assessment tools, Galileo and Odyssey. We are going to go with Galileo as our school-wide benchmark assessment tool. We can extract the data from the 2013-2014 school year that was compiled in Odyssey and compare and contrast it with Galileo data as well as combine the two to demonstrate growth and disaggregate standards based performance data school-wide.
- A goal with going back to Galileo is to have the capacity to assess the students - using their LearnPads. We are hoping is Galileo is not compatible with the LearnPad android operating system, that we could access the test in a "cloud" type platform. This would streamline the implementation process.

- All benchmark assessments are standards based,
- One of our school-wide goals for next year is to develop a Data Inquiry Team. This team will have tasks assigned by EL as we go through the accreditation process and will also meet to disaggregate data and make recommendations and findings to faculty.

2. Director Evaluation -

- Linde Lisbona to turn in Director Evaluation to Brian McVickers.
- Administration to turn in community feedback and teacher evaluations.

VII. Financial Report (Jennifer Roderick) -

- Reviewed cash-flow report. Demonstrates that we are in the green at the end of this month.
- LTCS just filed the AZCSP completion report; the amount owed back to AZCSIP is \$32,437.73. We will be able to make payments to return the unused funds.
- Looking into hiring a new account specialist/business manager. The board questioned how we go about setting up new accountant. Jennifer has a meeting with a proposed individual on Thursday, June 12th.
- We close out our fiscal year June 30th. All payments to employees are made final on May 31st with our last state allocation. Jennifer and Beth are only employees to be paid out in July.

VIII. New Business

1. New Program from Arizona Department of Education - ADE Connect -

- ADE Connect will be the new system for hosting school information, including, grants management, student data, teacher information systems, etc. ADE Connect has been generated by the Department of Education in hopes to streamline information and to connect with our student information systems (SIS). ADE Connects Dashboard will also become accessible in our SIS.
- LTCS has been asked to participate as a pilot school, piloting the state adopted Student Information System. We do not know what that system will be yet. It will be supported with technical reps and streamlined with ADE Connect as it develops.
- The 2014-2015 school year will be a "shift" year where ADE will be shifting over from Common Logon to ADE Connect. For a little while, information will be hosted in both places.
- Once streamlined, another component of ADE Connect will be the AZDASH, a dashboard system housing student information, state test score data, school wide benchmark assessment data, growth graphs, etc. The information on this site is beneficial to the school and to the Inquiry Data Team as we use data to inform instruction and develop our school programs for learning effectiveness.
- Aligned with the Student Teacher Course Connection (STC), teachers are tied to students' progress.

Board Feedback and Questions:

- Brian McVickers supports participating in the SIS PILOT program.
- Linde had questions about our school grade?

2. Demonstration of AZ Dash - Presentation of and Discussion of School-wide data.

- Tabled this discussion as the system upload of our data is in progress. It will be re-visited in August after our year-end data is reconciled. As we move into the 2014-2015 school year this will be a good tool for developing school-wide growth goals.

3. Sharing student progress report samples and Expeditionary Learning 2013-2014 Work Plan - Discussion.

- Shared samples of learning target driven school reports cards. Learning targets are developed in alignment with Common Core Academic Standards. There is an element of character education. We are hoping to develop a similar report card for SY15 in our Student Information System as we can generate reports in there and must report grades to the state. This streamlining will not affect the content of the reports.

4. FY15 Budget Proposal - Discussion and Suggestions for FY15 Fiscal Management Strategies - possible

recommendation to the Corporate Board.

- Budget is in draft form and is currently approximately \$12,000.00 over budget. As we move forward, the director proposes that the board scrutinize the draft budget for potential cuts and or areas in which we could increase our incoming funds.
- Questions and thoughts to consider - feedback from the board.
 - Additional projected funds in our annual Tax Credit Drive.
 - Frozen teacher salaries
 - Looking to diminish the MOU with Expeditionary Learning by half.
 - We can't go to PD
 - Create enrichment clubs and sports clubs (that are for a fee) for afterschool.
 - YCCF-grants
 - Fundraising for Fieldwork - developing classroom funds.
 - Online campaigning - "go fund me"

IX. General Announcements - none

X. Motion to Adjourn - Linde Lisbona motioned to adjourn, Claire Louge seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

Meeting ended at 6:37pm