

**Meeting Minutes for La Tierra Community School
Governing Board Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, June 15th 2016 @ 3:30pm**

Members Present: Brian McVickers, Russ Erickson, Jasmine Castigliano, Sierra Wilson, Julie Baker, Anna Barnum

I. Call to Order: *Meeting called to order by Brian McVickers at 3:37pm*

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Action Item: Approve agenda and [May Meeting Minutes](#)
Motion to approve minutes by Russ Erickson. Motion seconded by Sierra Wilson.

III. Public/Community Participation: None

IV. Financial Report:

- a. Information item: June Financial Report (see attached documents) -Russel Erickson
Presentation on current budget, cash flow and profit and loss summary.
- b. Discussion Item: Proposed budget for FY17
Brian proposed to begin repayment of loan from Doug Humes (total \$10,000). Proposal would include a lump sum of \$1000 at the beginning of the school year and then budget for an additional \$100 towards the principal balance each month thereafter. Anna will notify Kristy of this addition to the budget revision.
- c. Action item: Approve or Revise Proposed budget
Tabled until further discussion of staffing and programing for FY17

V. Enrollment, Hiring and Grade Level Configurations:

- a. Information item: new hires and enrollment numbers for each grade level
The teacher we had offered the 6th/7th grade position declined due to the possibility that a change in enrollment could or losing students could affect the position. Enrollment dropped significantly since the approval of the position. Currently our enrollment is at 94.5 We would need at least 100 FTE to hire a new teacher.
- b. Discussion Item: grade level configurations and staffing
*Board discussion on continuing with recruiting/hiring:
We have experienced many 'false starts' for opening 7th grade. The perception in our community is that we are 'wishy-washy.' Families might want to move their children now if there is the potential that 7th grade will not be there by the time their child is ready for that grade. This could hurt or enrollment.*

We also do not want to over extend our resources. We should saturate what we already have and grow from within. If we decide to open 7th grade (middle school) we should be recruiting all year.

At the original board meeting where it was determined that La Tierra would postpone opening 7th grade, the board said there would be a committee developed to research curriculums, behavior policies, and other effective middle schools before opening.

One option would be to use creative problem solving; not hire a new full-time teacher, but use a part time teacher or support for the middle school grades.

Could be take out a loan to cover the cost of a teacher or work on more aggressive grants and fundraising? There needs to be more marketing and PR brand development, but the marketing role is not assigned to any one person or group.

- c. Action Item: create a board policy for opening new grade levels and/or combining existing ones.

Tabled until next meeting

VII. Follow up on Old Business:

- a. Create a policy for attendance -
- b. Question about a board policy for not having too many parents on the board that would then create a quorum every time there was a school function. - *Only the Corporate Board can make changes to the Governing Board by-laws.*

VII. New Business/Future Agenda Items:

- a. Finalize Adopted Budget for FY15. All changes submitted to the state before July 15, 2016
Special Session of the Governing Board and Corporate Board will be held on Monday, June 20, 2016 at 3:30pm to adopt the FY15 budget.

VIII. Adjourn: 5:11 pm