

**La Tierra Community School  
Regular Monthly Meeting of the Governing Board**

**Wed. Dec 2nd, 2015 at 3:30pm**

**Board Members Present: Russell Erickson, Brian McVickers, Julie Baker, Sierra Wilson**

**Staff Members Present: Anna Barnum, Dawn Klaiber**

I. Call to Order: Russell Erickson @ 3:37

II. Consent Agenda:

1. October meeting minutes approved.

III. Community Forum/Public Participation

1. Yavapai County Health Dept (Cherry Virry did not attend)
  - a. *Anna shared that originally a representative from the Yavapai County Health Dept was planning to attend the board meeting and share information with our school board regarding the potential financial impact to our school if a case of measles, mumps, whooping cough, etc should occur in our learning community. The state of AZ requires all schools to report the number of student exemptions from vaccination and La Tierra Community School has a very high percentage of families who choose not to vaccinate their children. Any student not up to date on their vaccinations would not be allowed to attend school for several weeks (or until the epidemic was over) and this could potentially close down La Tierra Community School due to our enrollment numbers.*
  - b. *Brian said that it was not necessary to have the representative attend a board meeting and if the school as interested in offering a flu clinic or other health related event, it would be solely up to the administration.*
  - c. *Russell expressed interest in hearing more about the financial impact of this scenario.*

IV. Action Items:

1. No action items were necessary at this meeting.

V. Financial Report: (Russell Erickson)

1. The school board reviewed the financial documents for October.
2. Discussion on possible budget cuts and/or ways to generate revenue:
  - a. *Look into an insurance trust that supports small charter schools and small businesses.*
  - b. *Don't want to cut teacher benefits as salaries are already low but we could possibly look into doing something different.*
  - c. *The "Other" column is mostly beginning of the year costs and is paid for the year.*
  - d. *We need to get action going on getting a grant committee to get grants to support our school- rather than having everyone stare at the budget we need to get people out there getting money- we can't keep talking about budget cuts*

- e. *we have a parent that is a professional grant writer who is willing to come in and help make an outline of basic information so staff and parents are more prepared to write grants.*

3. Discussion on student recruitment and retention: marketing strategies

- a. *It would be nice to have a board member who is connected to the Latino community to tap into recruiting students from that community.*
- b. *A big hurdle to getting students to come to our school is the curb appeal, once our school looks more beautiful more students will come.*
- c. *We could share with families that although the community just past a bond and override our charter school does not get any of the extra money that the neighboring schools are getting.*
- d. *Immediate action- get a board to hang right outside the gate for parents to see school updates.*
- e. *Tax credit information has been updated and fixed to show current year information and will be posted on the new website- Beth has the information on where we are at so far with our tax credit this year. Tax credit is open for schools until April this year, we still have another 5 months to continue the push.*

VI. Director's Report:

1. New Website:

- a. *New website is up and running check it out!*
- b. *It is more organized, please send mistakes or typos you see so they can be fixed as soon as possible.*

2. Parent Survey Results:

- a. *Many parents had comments about school beautification- in an effort to address the concerns call the parents out on their comments and rally support and action from them.*
- b. *Families liked the small class sized and were attracted to our Spanish, art and music programs.*
- c. *Anna will e-mail results of the survey to all board members.*

VII. Old Business:

- 1. Please review the [Open Meeting Law](#).
- 2. Strategic Action Plan. (Still waiting for the latest version from Jennifer)

VIII. New Business/Future Agenda Items:

- 1. *Adjust meeting dates for December and January. Propose a special session meeting to discuss the results of the survey. During this meeting craft a letter to the parents acknowledging the survey results, making mention of how we are funded and the action steps we are taking. (\*It was later determined, based on the Open Meeting Laws, that a special session was not valid for this type of meeting unless it was an emergency situation. The next general session board meeting date was instead set for Jan. 13, 2016, at which the survey results may be discussed).*

IX. Adjourn: 5:02pm