



Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School
Governance Board Meeting Minutes-APPROVED

Date May 24, 2021

Approved: May 27, 2021

Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School, 2211 N. Valley Drive

The Meeting was conducted via the Zoom Meeting Platform

Time: 8:01 PM – 9:02 PM

Roll Call and Call to Order:

The following Board Members confirmed attendance and stated their full name via Roll Call:

Governance Board Members						
	Name	Office	Present	Absent	Arrived Late	Departed Early
1	Jane Asche	Chair	X			
2	Holaya Ponce Acosta	Vice-Chair	X			
3	Tonya Hall	Secretary	X			
4	Emma Armendáriz	Director at Large	X			
5	Daniel Ferraro	Director at Large	X			
6	Ray Reich	Director at Large	X			

Upon determining the presence of a quorum Board Chair Jane Asche called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM.

Others in Attendance: Interim Principal, Christy Takacs; Staff - Regina Miller, Lucia Carmona, Elva Varela, Filo Rigales, Issis Inzunza; Parents - Yvonne Lozoya, Martin Calva, Karla Martinez, Irma Lopez, Nahtasha Garza

1. *Conflict of Interest Declaration* – None Declared
2. *Consent Agenda - includes approval of the following:*
 - a. *Agenda for May 24 Meeting, Governance Board Meeting*
 - b. *Minutes of the April 22 Board Meeting Governance Board Meeting*

Motion: Ray Reich moved to approve the consent agenda. Second by Emma Armendáriz. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
3. *Public Input* – None Requested
4. *Declaration of Closed Meeting:* On May 18, 2021, in compliance with the allowable exceptions within the NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2-8) of the Open Meetings Act, the Raices Governance Board held a closed meeting to discuss the ballot results which were cast for the three candidates applying for the open principal position and which

were interviewed from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on that evening by three groups: Board Members, Staff Members, and Parents. No votes were taken during the closed meeting on any possible actions discussed.

5. *New Business* –

- a. Discussion and possible action on the candidate that will be invited to fill the open principal position at Raíces.

Comments/Discussion from the board

- Holaya – one thing that stands out with Ms. Tapia is that she comes across as very competent but also very humble. This would be a good model for the students and would make her very approachable to the parents.
- Emma – we need to be open to the input that was provided by the groups that would be impacted by our choice (staff, parents & our board) Open to following their recommendations. The tally is very clear.
- Ray – Ms Julia Rivera Tapia was a principal at an IB school and educated in a very good school in New York. The IB school teaches similarly to our approach. Mr Octavio Casillas is certainly qualified, but his presentation was not as well prepared and did not allow groups to ask as many questions as they would have liked.
- Jane – Ms. Tapia’s bachelor’s degree is in elementary ed and she has work experience in elementary and bilingual education. The other candidates have a more mixed work background. Staff recognized Laura Salazar Flores strength as an instructional coach, but her lack of experience as an administrator was significant as a charter school principal acts not only as head of the school but also as head of the district fulfilling the superintendent role as well.
- Daniel – both Mr. Casillas and Dr. Rivera Tapia are very qualified. Based upon only what we could see in the board interviews, red flags were raised as far as time management and communication skills for Mr. Casillas. Wanted more information from him that we did not have time for. For example, Mr. Casillas brought up other businesses but we were not able to pose the question about how much time he would spend on them.

Floor open for staff / parents – Board Chair noted that this would normally happen at the beginning but due to the importance of the topic under review parent/staff feedback is welcome at this time.

- b. Karla Martinez (parent) - Thank you Mrs Emma for taking everyone into account, the three prospects are highly qualified but the most important thing is the vocation as teachers and directors, the fact that they do not see the position only as a challenge for personal improvement but as a vocation!! I Mr. Casillas is a professional who changes the lives of students and that for me is invaluable!!

- c. Nahtasha Garza-Swindle (parent)– Not enough substance to the second candidates responses (Laura). She did not relay how she could improve the school, and she did not communicate what she could bring to the school. Julia on the other hand made it clear what she could bring to the table. Her educational experience, her work experience, living in multiple places/countries and fluency in Spanish are all things Ms. Rivera Tapia can bring to the school.
- d. Issis Inzunza (staff) - I think that they are both great. As student teacher intern at NMSU, I had Casillas as my supervising teacher in middle school. He was great but I do second the concerns of Mr. Ferraro, how much time will he be able to give us? The second candidate (Julia), I feel has the experience in 90/10 bilingual model and could bring a lot to the table.
- e. Lucia Carmona (staff) – whatever the board decides, I appreciate the process and the effort to make sure every one is represented. I appreciate the extra time at the meeting for input.

Motion: Holaya Ponce Acosta moved to support the decision to elect the candidate with the most votes, which was Julia Rivera Tapia, to the position and to make the first offer to Julia Rivera Tapia. Second by Emma Armendáriz. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- f. Discussion of salary - We advertised we would pay a competitive salary to LCPS.
 - LCPS elementary school range (90,335 – 99,522). Middle school range (96,428 – 102,452).
 - It has been recommended that the board consider a pay between an elementary school principal and middle school principal since the principal of this charter school is also required to operate as a superintendent.
 - 3 years range of elementary to middle school would be 93,634 – 97,874. Halfway between those two salaries is 95,754.
 - This principal will not have as many students, grade levels and staff as an LCPS elementary principal. Considering this and the fact that we have only budgeted 90,000 for next year, we plan to offer the 93,634 and then can negotiate a little more if needed.

- 6. *Date of the Next Governance Board Meeting* – May 27, 2021, at 5:15 PM by Virtual Zoom Meeting.

Adjournment – Vote to adjourn by roll call voice vote at 9:02 pm.

Motion: Emma Armendáriz moved to adjourn. Second by Holaya Ponce Acosta. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.



 Signature, Raíces Governance Board Secretary

5/27/2021

 Date Approved

* Indicates Action Item