



Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School

Governance Board Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

Date: February 24, 2022

Approved: (date of meeting here when approved)

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

The Meeting was conducted via the Zoom Meeting Platform

Time: 5:30 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	Holaya Ponce Acosta	Chair	X			
2	Daniel Ferraro	Vice-Chair			6:38	
3	Sabrina Zamora	Interim Secretary		X		
4	Ray Reich	Treasurer	X			
5	Patricia Lopez	Director at Large		X		
6	Maria Luisa Gonzalez	Director at Large	X			

Upon determining the presence of a quorum Board Chair, Holaya Ponce Acosta called the meeting to order at 6:40

Others in Attendance: Terrance Hester, Business Manager- SWREC; **Staff:** Julia Rivera-Tapia, Head Administrator; Lucia Carmona, Director of Operations and Community Engagement , Jessica Castro-Buelna;3rd Grade Bilingual Teacher; Anita Lara- OST Coordinator, Elva Varela, Filo Regilages SPED **Parents:** Julia Marquez, Roberto Moctezuma, Diana, Karla Walton, Lesley Ortiz, India Hernandez, Maria Realzola **Student:** Jovanna

6:48 Ray Reich had a comment about the requirements the PED has and how Xinachtli is a curriculum and how we are getting our children to read and write. He wanted to make sure that we know what Xinachtli is and how critical it is.

1. *Conflict of Interest Declaration* – None Declared

2. *Consent Agenda* – includes approval of the following:

- a. Agenda for February 24, 2022 Governance Board Meeting
- b. Minutes of the February 24, 2022 Governance Board Meeting
- c. The Monthly Finance Report to include:
 - i. January 2022 Account Summary of Expenses,
 - ii. January 2022 Account Summary of Revenue
 - iii. January 2022 Bank Statement
 - iv. January 2022 Bank Reconciliation Statement
 - v. January 2022 Update in Preparation for the Quarterly Cash Report
 - vi. January 2022 Voucher by Warrant Report
 - vii. December 2021 Finance Committee Meeting Notes from Finance Committee Chair
(The notes are for the actual month of the Meeting)

Motion: Dan Ferraro moved to approve the consent agenda. Second by Maria Luisa Gonzalez. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).

Motion: Moved to approve the meetings of Maria Luisa Gonzalez. Second Daniel Ferraro

3. Public Input- **Filo Rigales** is representing the staff. I would like the board to vote in favor of giving the kids the choice to wear or not to wear the face mask. She read an email on behalf of the staff members. **Karla Walton**- continue wearing the mask, the vaccination rate for kids is not good because the little kids are not eligible for the vaccine. The little kids depend on us. The children who are immunocompromised should continue wearing. **Lesley Ortiz**- I am completely against wearing the mask. We were told by the law to wear the mask and now we should have the choice to remove the mask. **Julia Marquez**- we are parents of a kindergarten student because we are not like the other schools and they may have chosen to lift the mask mandates. We care about the community and this includes taking care of the families. She wants to vote to keep the mask mandate. **Angie Vega**- I would like to give my opinion. Since she wears her mask I have had to call in every month for some virus, our family wants to vote on the option of wearing masks. She has been moody and the doctor says this is typical of folks wearing a mask. **Diana Godinez**- natural immunity, she would like a choice. **Jovanna** would like to stop wearing masks. **Lesley**- it is not comfortable and I would like to take the mask off.

4. The Monthly Finance Report to includes:

- I. January 2022 Account Summary of Expenses
- II. January 2022 Account Summary of Revenue
- III. January 2022 Bank Statement
- IV. January 2022 Bank Reconciliation Statement,
- V. January 2022 Update in Preparation for the Quarterly Cash Report
- VI. January 2022 Voucher by Warrant Report
- VII. January 2022 Finance Committee Meeting Notes from Finance Committee Chair

5. *Finance Committee and Audit Committee Report* by Terrance Hester, SWREC, and GB Treasurer

- a. Discussion of any GB member questions on the Finance Report.
 - b. Discussion and possible action on Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs).

BAR #	BAR #	BAR #	MOTION
577-000-2122-0016-I	11000	\$312,244.00	Motion: Maria Luisa Gonzalez moved to approve BAR # Second by Ray Reich. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).
577-000-2122-0017-M	11000	Operations	Motion: Maria Luisa Gonzalez moved to approve BAR # Second by Ray Reich. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).
577-000-2122-0018-M	28211	Covid 19 to move funds around	Motion: Maria Luisa Gonzalez moved to approve BAR # Second by Ray Reich . Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Acosta, Ferraro, Lopez, Gonzalez).
577-000-2122-0019-M	24308	ESSER 2, CARES Maintenance Bar	Motion: Ray Reich moved to approve BAR # Second by Dan. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).
577-000-2122-0020-T	24308	Transfer bar, CARES ESSER Bar	Motion: Ray Reich moved to approve BAR # Second by Maria Luisa Gonzalez. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).
577-000-2122-0021-T	24101	Title 1 bar	Motion: Ray Reich moved to approve BAR # Second by Maria Luisa Gonzalez. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).
577-000-2122-0022-M	24101	Instructional set up	Motion: Maria Luisa Gonzalez moved to approve BAR # Second by Ray Reich. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).
577-000-2122-0023-IB	25153	\$ 3,500.00 Title 19 Medicaid Fund	Motion: Ray Reich moved to approve BAR # Second by Maria Luisa Gonzalez. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Acosta, Ferraro, Lopez, Gonzalez).

6. *Principal's Report* – By Head Administrator, Julia Rivera-Tapia:

- a. **See Addendum A** for more information

7. *Concilio de Padres and Community Engagement Reports* – By Concilio Co-Chair, Veronica Lucio, and Director of Operations and Community Engagement, Lucia Carmona:

- a. **See Addendum B** for more information
- b. There was a question from Ray Reich if the GB is informed before we ask questions or send surveys.

8. Reports from Committees -

- a. *Academic Performance Committee –*
 - i. *Julia and Dr. Gonzalez has been working on the Principal Evaluation for this year.*
 - ii. *Julia has been working on the DASH and gathering data from last year and this year. WIDA scores, Istation and teachers made evaluations.*
- b. *Governance Board Development Committee – Dr. Maria Luisa Gonzalez*
 - i. *We can take action on this idea on the next agenda.*
- c. *Facilities Committee - By Committee Chair, Ray Reich*
 - i. *The portables are moving by leaps and trips. We have time and I do not see a problem in putting ourselves in a position to have what we need and prepare for the 4th grade and all the special needs that the school has.*
- d. *Safe School Committee – Chair Needed*
 - i. *We can take action on this idea on the next agenda.*
- e. *School Development Committee - This committee is still under development.*
 - i. *We can take action on this idea on the next agenda.*

9. Unfinished Business - (items tabled from last meeting for lack of time, or an item that could not be effectively addressed without further study at the last meeting)

- a. Motion to accept Dr. Daniel Ferrero's resignation from the board beginning in May 2022.

Motion: Ray Reich moved. Second Maria Luisa Gonzalez. Motion passed by roll call vote from present- Ponce Acosta, Gonzalez, and Reich. Ferraro abstained.

10. New Business - (Other business as determined by Governance Board Chairperson, other Board Members, and Principal, Director of Operations and Community Engagement, or Office Manager).

- Introduce Jaqi Baldwin- Julia
Experience of 10 years of Charter Experience, Title 1 school and she serves students of color. NACA inspired networks invited her to work with principals. The Facilities Master plan will be outgrowing itself in two years. She just purchased two buildings. She is here to support us and to answer any financial questions regarding purchasing our own building.

- Motion to remove Tonya Diane Hall's signature from our bank documents. Since Tonya Diane Hall resigned, she will no longer be a signer on the Raices del Saber signature card for The First American Bank.

Julia E. Tapia- Head Administrator at Raíces del Saber, **Ray Reich-** Governing Board Treasurer at Raices del Saber and **Lucia Carmona-**Director of Operations and Community engagement will be the **only signers** at First American Bank for Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School.-Julia

Motion: Maria Luisa Gonzalez moved to remove Tonya Diane Hall. Second Daniel Ferraro. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).

- Principal Evaluation for 2023-2024- Dr. Gonzalez
June self-reflection, July final summative. No focused evaluation on the administrators at the charter school from the NMPED. Dr. Gonzalez will meet with Julia to come up with a plan on her evaluation/ The HOUSS does not cover the work that a principal at a charter school does. March midterm.
- Motion and possible action; Raices del Saber mask wearing directive after the Governor lifted the mask wearing mandate at 1:00pm February 18th and gave LEA's the choice to continue wearing the masks, or making it optional.-Julia

Dr. Gonzalez asked if there was a survey done for the mask? We did not have one sent formally because it was very recent.

President Holaya Ponce Acosta opened up the floor to hear the parents.

Mr. Moctezuma would like to keep the masks on for at least one more month until we have a vote. He shared that he would like to not wear a mask, but he wants to be cautious.

Ray, he will not vote unless the parents sign a form.

Dr. Dan, we need to do risk management. The mask is the most important way to reduce the risk. As a community we have to do what is best for the community. The children are at the highest risk of contracting MISC, Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. It causes inflammation in the major organs and the long terms are scary. The children have to get oxygen, this has been debunked by health care organizations. He will not vote against taking the mask off.

Ray would like to have a survey.

Anita would like not to wear the mask outdoors. Outdoors would be a good spot to remove the masks.

Karla Martinez, no entiende porque tenemos que votar. Porque la ley dice que tenemos que votar. Respetando a las demás personas

Ray, can we send a letter to each kid tomorrow giving them the option to do outdoor indoor? Something that compromises. There is so much discussion of the masks. In every instance there is an absurdity. They can say yes or no with a survey. Whatever the majority chooses we can do.

Motion: Ray Reich moves to give Julia the liberty to develop a policy for mask based majority rule survey based on the parent survey. **Second:** Maria Luisa Gonzalez. Motion passed by roll call vote from present- Ponce Acosta, Gonzalez, and Reich. Ferraro abstained.

A survey will be sent and asked for it to be returned by next Friday.

- Motion and possible action to accept the following volunteers to be covered by NMPSIA's 2021-2022 Raices del Saber POMS insurance;
 1. Martin Calva
 2. Luis Ramos
 3. Biana Mirabal
 4. Guadalupe Hernandez
 5. Anyssa Gabaldon
 6. Estrella Sedillo

Motion: Ray Reich moved. **Second:** Daniel Ferraro. Motion passed

unanimously by roll call vote from all present (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).

11. Agenda items for Next Meeting –

a. *Safe School Committee – Chair Needed*

b. *School Development Committee - This committee is still under development*

12. Date of the Next Governance Board Meeting - Thursday, March 17, 2022 @6:30.

Adjournment – Vote to adjourn by roll call voice vote at PM 8:55

Motion: Maria Luisa Gonzales moved to adjourn. Second by Ray Reich. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote (Ponce Acosta, Ferraro, Gonzalez, and Reich).

Signature, Raíces Governance Board Secretary Date Approved

Raíces Del Saber Xinachtli
January 24, 2022 Principal Report
[Julia Rivera-Tapia](#)

Academic Performance

1. A new toolkit was released- January 1st- we are adjusting our quarantine requirements per PED and DOH guidelines
2. We continue to Covid test every Friday
3. A vaccination clinic has been scheduled for students and parents
4. Staff went to Lucero canyon. Diego took them there and shared how it was a river which was diverted to make Elephant Butte.
5. Staff is learning Xinachtli on a monthly basis on Friday and Once a month, Carlos is modeling in classes or giving feedback to each teacher
6. Strategic Groups are meeting on a weekly basis. Forward progress.
7. Partnering with all charter schools to host an outreach downtown Las Cruces
8. Julia attended a statewide virtual charter School Fair to promote our school and recruit teachers
9. Formal evaluations are occurring during January and should be done next week
 - a. Xinachtli elements are included within the formal evaluations
10. New special education teacher will be hired halftime at the end of January
11. Curriculum and assessment- Able to get some subs -
 - a. Subs will come in on Wednesday AM so that teachers for K and 1 will do some planning and collaboration. Wednesday PM will be 2nd and 3rd.
 - b. If this goes well, this will happen 2 times per month
 - c. I-station scores will be analyzed and we will work on ways to increase academic scores

Addendum B: Concilio de Padres and Community Engagement Reports

Lucia Carmona and

January 24, 2022

Concilio de Padres Report

I. Concilio's Executive Committee Meeting

AGENDA - NOTES

Date/Fecha: January 20, 2022

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Via Zoom Meeting

- a) **Call to Order/Chair** Mrs. Verónica Lucio / In her absence, Mrs. Karen Chavez, Vice-Chair conducted the meeting.
- **Welcome and remarks, objectives and agreements**
 - **Adoption of previous meeting notes from December 20, 2021**
 - **Public Comment:** This is an opportunity for parents to address the Concilio Executive Committee (CEC) for up to two minutes with comments or issues, whether or not they are posted on the agenda. The maximum total time to be spent on this item is not to exceed 3 minutes. The CEC cannot take action nor have any discussions or deliberation on any presentation made to it concerning an item not listed on the agenda. Any item presented may be noticed on a future agenda for deliberation or action
- b) **Participants** (a list will be taken by Lucia during the arrival to the session in silence)
- **Parents and guardians/Padres de familia y tutores(as):** India Hernandez(1st), Karen Chavez(2nd), April Marquez(1st), Daniel Aguilera(1st), Georgina Badonie(3rd), Jennifer Craig(2nd), Katie Hernandez(1st & 2nd), Roberto Moctezuma(X), Norma Orrantia(1st), Veronica Lucio(1st), Yadira Soriano(2nd)
 - **School Staff, faculty member/Miembros del Personal:** Julia Rivera-Tapia, Anita Lara, Elva Varela, Lucia Carmona
 - **Governance Board Liaison member or any other Board Member present/representante de la mesa directiva como enlace entre el CEC:**
 - **Parent Board member who represents the Concilio at the GB/ Padre de familia representando al Concilio de Padres en La Mesa Directiva, Dr. Daniel J. Ferraro**
 - **Other community member/otros miembros de la comunidad**
- c) **Discussion item 1. Input on the new layout of the Portables and a solid structure in the building after the renew of the charter for another five years (see attachment), by Ms. Tapia.**
- **Portables:** changes to the original layout; original plan was to place them parallel to the existing, but they were turned 90 degrees, closer to the ditch, will provide more space for students to play, trees will be moved, garden will be moved, these portables have been promised since last year, once the water line is running sprinklers can be put in, possible workday (invite parents, etc. to help move garden) coming up, charter renewal is every 5 years (ndscs is in 3rd year), discussions have started regarding permanent structures on campus, maybe a big garage door type building?, parent (Karen Chavez) asked about playgrounds (will the new K playground replace existing? No, campus will have playgrounds for different age groups), shade structure will happen once construction is done, looked at site plan which includes classrooms/garden/playground/parking

- d) **Discussion item 2. Review of the Black Education Act - HB 43 to be adopted by Raices, by Ms. Tapia.**
- Black Education Act Policy (how will rdsxcs combat racism?): GB is working with Julia to send to state (required), online training OR professional development for staff/GB/concilio members, Julia found free online trainings (vs very expensive ones), shared possible policy language for school handbook, will share document (via email) with all parents and gather feedback, but it will be submitted soon ****several people commented in support of the training, many agreed it should be offered to the general public****
- e) **Discussion item 3. Brief discussion about the need to re-structure the Equity Council by, Ms. Carmona.**
- The need to restructure the Equity Council: councils were started right before the COVID shut down, put on hold, are now back up and running (group of community members discussing important items—reps for sped, lgbtq, natives, bilingual, etc); will be involved with funding/equity/racial healing, more information to come, parents will be invited to participate (meetings would be as needed, info reported back to state), Lucia is preparing info packets for those that are involved, no training required to join.
- f) **Discussion item 4. Discuss the next steps about the possibility to wear uniforms or establish a dress-code. Last meeting we discussed about two options: either 1) pick one or two colors of a T-shirt for all school and have jeans or caqui pants; or 2) establish a dress-code, by Ms. Tapia.**
- Uniforms/dress code: if you had to choose today: t-shirts OR collared shirt? (answers given through chat), one parent asked for possible prices and/or visual, bottoms would not have to be a specific color/style, (one parent suggested students bring a smock/large shirt for art class), one parent asked if this is a done deal, Miss Julia referred to the discussion that was had at the last meeting and pointed out several benefits to uniforms (mainly the fact that the focus will be on learning and not appearance & that uniforms eliminate the distinction between clothes/class), did parents receive a questionnaire?, ****this is for next school year****, Karen Chavez and Mr. Moctezuma will work with Julia/Lucia on a survey to send to families, Mr. Moctezuma suggested having a fundraiser to help with the cost of uniforms, Ms. Julia will add fundraising to the agenda for the next meeting, but money & schools = regulations + approval + bank s+ by the book...; one parent objected to the language that spaghetti straps are unsafe, one staff member suggested that students be included in this decision.
- g) **Discussion item 5. Field Trips, we are asking parents to become a volunteer at school, some hours during the week and also join us during field trips, for that purpose there is a requirement for background check by Ms. Carmona.**
- field trips: chaperones must have a background check in place. clearances are good for one year, parent asked if substitute background check would be allowed (yes)
- h) **Discussion item 6. Updates on new toolkit for COVID-19, by Ms. Tapia.**
- Updates on new COVID toolkit: 10 day quarantine has been reduced to 5 (neg test not required to come back after quarantine period), test-to-stay is in place (only applies if exposure was at school), Ms. Julia loves reading the updated versions of the toolkit, one parent asked a question about testing at Raices, fully vaccinated people do not have to get tested if exposed (also don't have to show a neg test to return), one parent asked via chat if at-home tests are accepted, the answer was no. One parent asked if we're thinking about going online, Ms. Julia said we are ready to do that if we have to. One parent asked if tests from other schools will be allowed/accepted, Ms. Julia said yes but please share the info because the 'system' isn't always functioning. One parent asked: if a student tests positive who notifies the parent?, Ms. Julia said it depends (if tested at school, immediate response; side-note: family will face penalties if child is knowingly sent to school with positive test, (this is under the law by NMPED)

i) **Lucia's Updates.** –

- School for Parents are ready to start registrations. 1) English classes; 2) Spanish Classes; 3) Computer Literacy classes; 4) 1st Teacher at Home
- Charter Schools Fair, January 29, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm – at La Plaza of Las Cruces
- Organizing the “Xinachtli Spring Summit” April 23, 2022 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (more details to come)

j) **OST Updates.** –

- Registration for new after-school classes is underway, these new classes start next week, waiting list will be necessary, 64 students currently enrolled, upcoming garden work day (mentioned above) cannot happen until water access is there, but hoping to get the garden moved by end of febrero??

k) **Dialogue/Diálogo/Tlahtocan / Positive and Constructive Reflections.**

- Ms. Julia- Thank everyone for being here, thanking for your time.

**special announcement: Dr. Ferraro is resigning from the Board effective end of this school year, will help with transition, suggests another parent steps up, top requirement is to represent all parents while serving on the board, acts as liaison between Board and Concilio, new member will get trained.

Announcements/: JANUARY EVENTS/Anuncios-Eventos para Diciembre

January:

20 Concilio de Padres meeting at 6:30 on Zoom

24 Governing Board meeting at 5:30 on Zoom

29 Charter Schools Fair, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at La Plaza of Las Cruces

Adjournment and Current Meeting Schedule Reminder- /Next Meeting-Próxima Reunión: February 17, 2022.

II. **Community School Coordinator, administrative, and community engagement activities:**

- o The Community School Strategy final report is finalized. Action Teams are advancing their Action Plans
 1. Awareness & Outreach-Action Plan
 2. Sustainable Operations Practices-Action Plan
 3. Community Engagement-Action Plan
 4. Replicability of Model-Action Plan
 5. Stakeholder Involvement-Action Plan
 6. Improve Student Outcomes-Action Plan
- o The 800 CS Implementation Plan report was submitted
- o As part of the Awareness & Outreach Action Plan, Raices is taking the lead to organize the first annual Charter Schools Fair - “Charter Schools - Unique Options in Education”. March 29, 2022 at the Plaza of Las Cruces (Downtown Mall area) from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- o Organized an interview at KRWG – Puentes de la Comunidad, radio program by Emily Guerra. Julia Rivera-Tapia our principal, and Sylvy Galvan, La Academia Dolores Huerta’s principal (click [here](#) to hear the interview) <https://www.krwg.org/post/las-cruces-charter-schools-fair-excellence-education>
- o Submitted a snapshot to promote the event at the Sun News appearing in the “Community” section on Sunday, January 23, 2022 (see attached article)