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## Mission

RFK Charter School prepares, motivates, and supports students to achieve their college and career goals.

in partnership with their families and the community.

**Governance Council Meeting Minutes Thursday,**

**May 16, 2024**

**4:30 p.m.**

RFK Governance Council Member, Lawrence Barela called a regular Governance Council Meeting at 4:38pm.

**ALL Board Members:**

April Gallegos, Secretary

Sylvia McCleary, Treasurer

Lawrence Barela

Carlos Caballero

Bob Edgar

Michele Coleman

**Excused:**

Mark Walch, President

Angel Garcia, Vice President

**Quorum:**

Yes

**Staff:**

Robert Baade

Irene Sanchez

Aaron Arellano

Aradeli Ibarra

Kristy Fernandez

Bernadette Arellano

Keith Sanchez

Linda Sanchez

Clara Rascon

Cindy O’Niell

**Guests:**

MS and HS Stipend Recipients and Parents

Rupal Engineer

Nu Ferguson

**Approval of Agenda:**

Michele Coleman made a motion to accept the May 16, 2024, Meeting Agenda. Sylvia McCleary seconded the motion. With a unanimous “yes” vote and no one opposing, the Agenda for May 16, 2024, is accepted and carried out.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2024 & Special Meeting Minutes for May 3, 2024:**

Regular Meeting Minutes (April 18, 2024)

Sylvia McCleary made a motion to accept the Apri 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. Bob Edgar seconded the motion. All in favor with a unanimous “Yes” vote and no one opposing. Regular Meeting Minutes are accepted and submitted.

##### Special Meeting Minutes (May 03, 2024)

Sylvia McCleary made a motion to accept the May 03, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes. Bob Edgar seconded the motion. All in favor with a “Yes” unanimous vote and no one opposing. Special Meeting Minutes are accepted and submitted

**Public Comment:**

Rupal Engineer principal of Design Plus Architects, presented to the GC members a proposal regarding the design of the Bridge location. RFK is looking to expand the Career Technical Programming opportunities.

**Gift Card & Student Stipend Presentation:**

Linda Sanchez awarded gift cards to RFK high school and middle school students who showed improvement in STAR testing for reading and/or math. RFK had 7 students who demonstrated growth in STAR Math from Winter to Spring, and 10 students who showed progress in STAR Reading during the same period.

Gift cards were provided by a partnership with Southwest Educational Partners for Training (SWEPT).

**Vote New Board Member:**

Treasurer, Sylvia McCleary made a motion to approve a new member LiNika Bullington. Bob Edgar seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” vote and no one opposing. The motion is accepted. LiNika Bullington will serve on the RFK Charter School Governance Council. Welcome LiNika Bullington!

**Middle School Report:**

MS Principle, Aaron Arellano reports:

* Teachers are in the final stretch of the school year, working to complete their units of study and prepare students for semester finals.
* Some teachers are also taking students out of the classroom to explore some environmental learning throughout the community. This week, the 7th graders explored the bosque of the Rio Grande River. Next week, the 8th graders will participate in team-building activities at Jungle Jam.
* Enlace Comunitario, PB&J and New Mexicans Against Gun Violence have concluded programs for the year and we are in hopes to continue the partnerships in the fall!
* Our 8th grade students are wrapping up the JHU 4S (Skills for Secondary School Success) curriculum as we conclude the pilot year. They are also completing their “Next Step” plans, (a state-required document) that includes yearly goals and a course tracker, which will follow them throughout high school.

\*Current Enrollment at the MS – 71 students (18 – 6th graders, 22 – 7th graders, and 31 – 8th graders).

**Finance Committee Report:**

Sylvia McCleary makes a motion to approve the Finance Report for April 2024. Carlos Caballero seconded the motion. With a unanimous “yes” vote and no one opposing. Finance Report for March 2024 is accepted and carried out.

**Cash Disbursements for April 2024:**

Sylvia McCleary makes a motion to approve Cash Disbursements for April 2024 for $523,129.92. Michele Coleman seconded the motion. With a unanimous “yes” vote and no one opposing, Cash Disbursements for $523,129.92 are accepted and carried out.

**BARS:**

Sylvia McCleary a motion to approve Bar #001-051-2324-0072-I, Fund for $7,410.00. April Gallegos seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” in favor vote and no one opposing. Bar is accepted and carried out.

**Executive Director Evaluation:**

Director, Robert Baade explains to the GC board members the process of his evaluation.

**High School & Executive Director’s Report:**

Executive Director, Robert Baade reports:

* Robert Baade extends his thanks to the board members who were present at the RFK high school graduation, which drew a full audience. With the school's continued growth, they are now in search of a new venue to accommodate the expanding community.
* Mr. Baade also extended his appreciation to the HS Dean of Students, Pete Ciurczak, for his visible presence at the front office throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Looking ahead to the next academic year, the school will be hiring a high school principal in July, with Kara Sanchez joining the team to assume this role.
* All staff members who will not be returning have been informed, and interviews are now being conducted to fill the vacant positions. Job offers will be extended in the upcoming weeks.
* Students from RFK were delegates in Washington DC through the John Hopkins "Everyone Graduates” partnership and showcased outstanding performance. Appreciation goes to GC President Mark Walsh, Student Success Coordinator, Cindy O’Neil, and staff member, for accompanying the students. Thank you to Mark Walsh for coordinating a “one on one” meeting with Senator Martin Heinrich.
* YCC (Youth Conservation Corp) is up and running. Students are working on the school farm as well as gardens at both the MS and HS.
* Partnerships with New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence and SWEPT. Students are being paid while they learn new skills. These programs include three mural projects, a career, exploration and entrepreneur partnership with CNM.

**Housekeeping: training hours & conflict of interest forms:**

Governance Council Member, Lawrence Barela encourages the board members to be mindful of their training hours.

**Adjourn**:

Sylvia McCleary makes a motion to adjourn the meeting April Gallegos seconds the motion. Governance Council Member, Lawrence Barela adjourns at 6:45pm.

**Next meeting:**

June 13, 2024

**Minutes by:**

*RFK GC Board Secretary, April Gallegos*

*RFK MS Office Manager, Aradeli Ibarra*

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***Governance Council Secretary Signature***

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***Date***