

MINUTES - REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009, AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE LOS ALAMOS HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH THEATER

The School Board held an Executive Session on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at 5:30 P.M. in the district office conference room A to discuss a specific personnel matter per Section 10-15-H(20) of the Open Meetings Act. No action was taken at this meeting

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Judge Pat Cascados gave the oath of office to new board members, Thelma Hahn and Melanie McKinley.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Los Alamos School Board held a Regular School Board meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. in the Boardroom. Vice President, Joan Ahlers called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

3. ROLL CALL

Present	Joan Ahlers, Vice President Kenneth Johnson, Secretary Jody Benson, Board Member Thelma Hahn, Board Member Melanie McKinley, Board Member Mary McLeod, Interim Superintendent Kate Thomas, Assistant Superintendent John Wolfe, Director of Business Services Cathy McAnally, Recording Secretary
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Ms. Ahlers called for nomination for President. Ms. Hahn nominated Ms. Ahlers for President. By a unanimous vote, Ms. Ahlers was elected President.

Ms. Ahlers called for nomination for Vice President. Ms. Benson nominated Dr. Johnson for Vice President. Dr. Johnson was elected Vice President by unanimous vote.

Ms. Ahlers called for nomination for Secretary. Dr. Johnson nominated Ms. Benson for Secretary. By unanimous vote, Ms. Benson was elected Secretary.

4. Recognition by the Board

The Board recognized “Music in the Schools” month by hearing a performance by the Los Alamos Middle School 7th grader Hawk choir, directed by Mr. Barry Beckett. The students sang three songs for the Board, including a song they will perform in their upcoming competition.

5a. High School Student Council Report

There was not a Student Council report.

The Youth Mobilizers, Josh Dolin, Annie Chroninger and Emily Weeks, made a presentation on their recent study of LAHS dropouts, which was titled, “Exploring the Motivation and Concerns of LAHS Dropouts”. The students reported a dropout rate of 3.36% at the high school during school year 2007-2008 and stated that President Obama has voiced concern over the high dropout rate in the U.S.A.

The group interviewed 23 people ranging from ages 15-18 years old that were previous students of Los Alamos High School or Espanola Valley High School. Of this group of 23, nine of the people were

males and 14 were females. The Youth Mobilizers provided the Board with a list of their interview questions.

Several causes for dropping out were identified including:

- Being bored at school
- Not challenged
- Graduation requirements
- Being bullied
- Being treated unfairly by staff
- Not enough flexibility

The students reported that when they decided to disenroll, they meet with his/her counselor. The counselor often helps the student get enrolled in GED classes but sometimes the counselor simply provides the paperwork for disenrollment without trying to assist the student in becoming successful at school.

The Youth Mobilizers concluded with several ideas to help students be successful in school instead of dropping out. These ideas included:

- Development of a mentoring program for both upper and lower level students
- Development of an Activities Fair this spring that would include clubs, sports and other organizations
- Consider the research and make a better environment at LAHS

Dr. McLeod told the students and the Board that she has personally met with every student who has come into the district office for GED paperwork and his or her parent. She indicated that she has identified two things these students have in common:

- A pattern of absence beginning at about the 5th grade level
- A loss of so many credits that the student is unable to graduate on time with his or her class

The Board and administrators thanked the Youth Mobilizers for their research and look forward to interacting with them to increase students' success at the high school.

5b. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Routine Business/Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Approval of Agenda

Dr. Johnson made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda after amending it to add 7.9 Los Alamos Public School Foundation representative and 7.10 Legislative Update. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

6.2 Approval of Minutes: Special School Board Meeting and Work Session, February 26, 2009

Ms. Benson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting and Work Session of February 26, 2009 as amended. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

6.3 Approval of Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs)

Ms. Hahn made a **MOTION** to approve the BARs dated March 10, 2009. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

6.4 Ratification of the February Cash Disbursements

Ms. McKinley made a **MOTION** to ratify the February 2009 Cash Disbursements. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

7. Presentations and Recommendations of the Superintendent and Information for the Board

7.1 First Reading of Policies

4043.2 Sick Leave Deferred Payment

4115 Evaluation – Licensed Personnel

2421 Document Retention Policy

After a discussion of these policies, Dr. Johnson made a **MOTION** to approve policies 4043.1 Sick Leave Deferred Payment and 4115 Evaluation – Licensed Personnel and to table policy 2421 Document Retention Policy. The Board passed the **MOTION** unanimously.

7.2 Sale of Bonds

Mr. Wolfe introduced Mr. Kevin Powers from RBC Capital Markets. Mr. Powers told the Board that due to timing issues, cash flow needs for projects and market conditions, he proposed three bond sales as follows:

\$25,000,000 in April of 2009

\$10,000,000 in 2010

\$5,000,000 in 2011

In response to a question, Mr. Powers told the Board that they could still be flexible in the amounts of the next two sales, which would total \$15,000,000. After further discussion, Ms. Hahn made a **MOTION** to adopt the resolution for the sale of bonds in April 2009. The **MOTION** passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

7.3 Superintendent Search

The Board and other committee members met on March 4th to select the semi-finalists in the Superintendent search process. The Board discussed the presentation by candidates on Friday evening of April 17th at the high school Speech Theater, which would be followed by a social event to be held in the high school lobby. The Board also directed the administration to include the candidates' spouses in the visits to Los Alamos in April.

7.4 Trinity Development Project

Dr. McLeod and Ms. Ahlers continue to meet with County officials to negotiate the final documents. Their next meeting with the County is scheduled for Monday, March 16th.

7.5 20-Year Facilities Renewal Plan

Dr. McLeod told the Board that she continues to meet with Mr. McLean to set the timelines for the construction projects and has completed a space usage study at the high school. Dr. McLeod clarified a false rumor that is circulating throughout the community. The repair of a wall in Griffith gym will not begin until after basketball season next school year.

7.6 Open Meetings Certificate

Dr. Johnson made a **MOTION** to adopt the Open Meetings Certificate for 2009. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

7.7 2009-2010 School Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Ahlers made a **MOTION** to approve the 2009-2010 School Board Meeting Schedule. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

7.8 February Journal Entry Report

Mr. Wolfe reviewed the February Journal Entry report with the Board.

7.9 Los Alamos Public School Foundation Representative

Ms. Ahlers deferred her appointment as a representative to the LAPS Foundation Board to Dr. Johnson. Dr. Johnson accepted the appointment and will continue to represent the School Board on the LAPS Foundation Board.

7.10 Legislative Update

Dr. McLeod informed the Board that House Bill 331 has moved out of the House and into the Senate Education Committee. The bill has two amendments. One amendment includes the hold harmless clause for ten years and the other amendment states that the new funding formula will not go into effect unless it is funded. Dr. McLeod and the district's lobbyist continue to follow this bill closely.

8. Unfinished Business

9. Board Requested Discussion or Action

10. Future Business

The Board scheduled an Executive Session at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19th to discuss leases and a Special School Board meeting immediately following the Executive Session to make a decision on the leases.

The Board scheduled an Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24th to discuss a personnel item and a property issue.

The Board scheduled an Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24th to select the finalists in the Superintendent search.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Ahlers adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Draft Prepared and Respectfully Submitted
on Thursday, March 12, 2009

Cathy McAnally, Recording Secretary

Approved:

Attested:

President

Secretary