



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023

- I. Call to Order
 - A. The regular meeting of the Academia Cesar Chavez Board of Directors was held at 1801 Lacrosse Ave, Saint Paul MN, 55119
 - B. The meeting was called to order at 5:25pm by Carlos Mariani (Chair).
 - II. Welcome and Roll Call
 - A. Board members present: Carlos Mariani (Chair), Mark Ahrens (Treasurer), Cmdr John Lozoya (Secretary), Diana Lopez-Diaz (Teacher), Analita Silva-Evans (Community), Dr Jessica Lopez Lyman (Community),
 - B. Board members absent: Dr Ramon Vasquez (Community), Maria Vallejo (Parent),
 - C. Staff and guests in attendance: Norma C. Garcés (Executive Director), Raquel Arismendez (Project Manager), Nubia Esparza (Executive Assistant)
 - III. Recite ACC Mission Statement
 - A. *Academia Cesar Chavez is dedicated to providing a quality dual-language education that prepares critically thinking, socially competent, values driven, and culturally aware bilingual and bi-literate learners by advocating Latino cultural values in an environment of familia and community.*
 - IV. Grounding and Check-in
 - A. All those present each check in with a personal anecdote.
 - V. Public Comment Forum
 - A. No public comment was submitted to the board.
- Action Items for Board Approval
- VI. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Mark moves to approve the agenda for the September 21, 2023 board meeting. Analita seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.
 - VII. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Jessica moves to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2023 board meeting and the July 26 board retreat. Diana seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.
 - VIII. Executive Committee
 - A. New Hires
 1. The Executive Committee reviewed the salaries for the 2023-2024 school year and recommended them to the board for approval.
 2. Ms Norma shares that we are hiring fantastic quality staff for this school year.

3. John moves to approve the new hires for the 2023-2024 school year. Jessica seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.
4. John moves to approve the salaries for the 2023-2024 school year in total of \$4,399,536.79. Jessica seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

B. 2023-2024 School Calendar

1. Ms Norma shares the small revisions in the school calendar.
2. Jessica moves to approve the revised 2023-2024 school calendar. John seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

C. UST Fall Site Visit

1. The site visit with UST is scheduled for October 26, 2023. UST will also attend the board meeting that evening.

IX. Finance Committee

A. FSP Transition Update

1. Mark shares that CSBM is trying to get caught up to date from the transition from BerganKDV, as some discrepancies emerged. CSBM has been submitting reports to the proper agencies on time, yet the financial statement is still a work in progress.
2. The board is aware of any discrepancies that may arise in the audit process, as it is a continuation of the mismanagement and lack of transparency on the part of BerganKDV, moreso an active refusal to work as a cooperative partner.
3. Ms Norma met with the President and the Chief Growth Officer of CSBM on July 13, 2023. The President & Chief Operating Officer stated that they would share a project plan with ACC, to ensure both organizations were in agreement of the priorities. The project plan has yet to be provided at this time.

B. Financial Statement

1. No financial statement was provided to the board at this time. It is an expectation of the board that CSBM will provide this information—or a statement describing any delays—a week prior to the board meeting.

Discussion Items

X. Academic Committee

- A. The Academic Committee did not meet.

XI. Executive Director Update

A. Enrollment

1. Ms Norma shares the current enrollment is 517 students PreK-8th.
2. About half of the preschool students this year are from homes that primarily speak English and are Heritage Spanish students, where families are re-learning their language at home as their children do at school.

B. Academic

1. The middle school is now a true dual language program. Each subject has one teacher teaching in English and one teaching in Spanish.
2. Ms Diana shares that it feels good to be back to school, with staff from a variety of countries and diverse backgrounds.
3. We have three staff from Teach for America as well.
4. The Mariachi Band will be opening for the Latino Film Festival!

C. Grants

1. Ms Norma shares that we were accepted as part of Cohort 9 for 21st Century Community Learning Center with the Children's Defense Fund as the fiscal agent. The total grant amount is \$193,331.
2. The Padres Comprometidos grant through UnidosUS was awarded in the amount of \$10,000.

XII. ACC EC Partnership Committee

- A. Diana shares that the partnership committee has met twice, and typically meets twice a month until December. She shares the key highlights from the meetings, and what the merger process would look like.
- B. Diana recommends the board consider a resolution for an intent to merge at the October 26 board meeting.
- C. Carlos shares that a resolution for an intent to merge is not an absolute commitment. Such a commitment would be voted upon when the formal resolution takes place when reviewing the Plan of Merger.
- D. Mark moves to resolve that Academia Cesar Chavez intends to merge with El Colegio Charter School, contingent upon no items emerging that would prevent it from being advantageous for both schools, per ongoing and continuing conversations.. Diana seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

XIII. Announcements

- A. ACC Mariachi Band opens for the Latino Film Festival, Saturday October 14, 2023 at 4pm
- B. Ms Norma was featured in a spotlight article with the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools!
 1. <https://publiccharters.org/newsroom/blog/conversation-with-academia-cesar-chavez-school-leader/>

XIV. Next board meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023 at 5pm.

XV. Meeting Adjournment

- A. Mark moves to adjourn the meeting. Analita seconds the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.