



Minutes / 11-5-20

Location: PODER Academy

A. Attendance: Marcos Martinez, Nick Avila, Robert Salazar, Carlos Reyes

B. Approval of Agenda

1. Carlos motion to approve agenda (6:11pm); affirmed unanimous

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Carlos motion to approve minutes (6:11pm); affirmed unanimous

D. Public Comment

1. No public comment at this time.

E. School / COVID 19 Update

1. School had positive cases due to exposure outside of school
 - a. A staff member had to take leave due to being a close contact
 - b. Trying to find a balance in the leave policy
 - c. Staff has been disciplined about social distancing / masks
 - d. Is getting tough to track close contacts
 - e. Dealing with COVID has been a learning experience for the school
2. Not a large online contingency at PODER
 - a. About 15% of students in each class are remote learners
 - b. Students are generally cooperative, attendance policies followed
3. WY-TOPP accountability may be changed due to COVID
 - a. Marcos is going to get clarification on what is required
 - b. Bob read schools may be able to defer testing
 - c. Carlos: what are the benefits of not testing?
 - i. Bob: test results are not reliable during this time
 - ii. Marcos: it's difficult to get full participation
4. LCSD#1 Superintendent is stepping down
 - a. Hoping the new candidate is an advocate for school choice
 - b. Candidates don't always come from within Wyoming
5. Marcos contacted District to see if they are going to close
 - a. As of now, they are not
6. Schools are starting to face hardships in operating due to COVID
 - a. Bob: how do you handle COVID leave?
 - b. Avila / Marcos: We monitor for verifiable symptoms

- i. Employees go test and then return to work until results, unless they have high fever, low oxygen, or loss of taste
 - c. PODER is trying to find a balance between safety and holding employees accountable
- 7. Blue Ribbon Ceremony
 - a. It was a small gathering / event
 - b. Went well and was suitable for the circumstances (COVID)

F. Financials Approval (Sept 20')

- 1. School has revenue of about half million dollars
 - a. Revenue will fluctuate
 - b. A lot of money was spent on COVID items (computers)
 - c. Look to reach a million-dollar balance heading into summer
- 2. Bob: what is the capital lease line item?
 - a. Marcos: money we pay Rande for the lease
 - b. We are closing out the old lease and starting with the new one at which time zero will be owed by PODER
- 3. Bob: was there an approval process that Rande had to go through?
 - a. Marcos: yes, he had to go through the State before the Board signed off
- 4. Bob: what did you buy with CARES money?
 - a. IPADS, touch-screen boards, laptops, Enterprise licenses for Google G Suite, projectors, sound devices for classrooms
- 5. Carlos: are the computers insured?
 - a. Marcos: we have general coverage on everything under the roof
 - b. Carlos: School should look into charging parents a fee for insurance coverage on each laptop
 - c. Avila – we will look into it, as of now we are charging parents for broken or non-returned laptops
 - i. Have not suffered a large loss yet
 - ii. May need to start requiring a fee up front as insurance if losses increase
- 6. Bob: is there a substitute cost for when teachers are gone? An additional expense that can get reimbursed?
 - a. Marcos: there are no subs available, we have our own staff fill in
 - b. We do not count this as a lost cost
 - c. We are looking to hire another sub just for COVID coverage, we hope to get that approved by the District under federal earmarked funds
 - d. Carlos: who needs to approve it?
 - i. Marcos: district needs to approve any expenditure for CARES Act
 - ii. One for PASS and one for PODER
- 7. Bob motion to approve financials for Sept 20' (6:49pm); affirmed unanimous

G. Audit Approval (19-20')

- 1. Clean audit, no deficiencies
- 2. Thought school would have some flags due to COVID spending
- 3. Bob: Did auditor incorporate COVID expenditures into this audit?
 - a. Marcos; no that will be in next year's audit for current year's spending
- 4. Bob: Where are the insurance and pension liabilities?
 - a. Marcos: Page 7, right in the middle

- b. Also talks about it earlier in the report
- 5. Bob: Audits only analyze a sample of spending based on audit experience at LCCC
- 6. Marcos: deficiencies are reported to the district, PODER is held accountable
- 7. Bob motion to approve Audit 19-20' (6:47): affirmed unanimous

H. Budget Review 20-21'

- 1. Marcos: Budget will see more change than usual due to anticipated funding cuts
- 2. Marcos: PODER not under a count day anymore
 - a. Now under an average daily membership count, and always in arrears
- 3. Bob: per pupil revenue is the same as what the district gets?
 - a. Marcos: yes
 - b. Middle school and high schools receive more per student
- 4. Bob: Athletic coaches: who fits into that category?
 - a. Marcos: Chess and tennis teachers
- 5. Bob: you are still doing chess?
 - a. Marcos: doing chess classes but no tournaments due to COVID
- 6. Bob: what is FTE?
 - a. Marcos: number of full-time staff
- 7. Bob: What is considered full-time support?
 - a. Marcos: Custodian and support staff
- 8. Bob: What is Title 4?
 - a. Marcos: this accounts for students we are trying to close the gap, this is not a significant amount of money
 - b. The more significant pot of funds is Title 1, PODER lost a lot of funding due to not meeting the required number of eligible students
 - c. Used to 6 figure, now nothing
- 9. Bob: What is GEAR
 - a. Marcos: Governor allocates CARES technology
 - b. The feds allocate the (GEAR) funding, which can be used through next year
- 10. Marcos: PODER is anticipating more revenue cuts from the state
- 11. Bob: how does the school get Title 1 funding?
 - a. Marcos / Avila: Parents need parents to submit applications
 - b. This has been a challenge for the school, some parents do not want to submit the applications even when they qualify
- 12. Marcos: PODER will need to cut travel due to COVID
- 13. Bob: what does transportation encompass?
 - a. Marcos: this is the amount of money for our bus services
 - b. That money gets reimbursed
- 14. Bob: do the kids pay for their uniforms?
 - a. Marcos: Yes, school breaks even, prices are reasonable
 - b. However, school sometimes holds uniform inventory for years so the cost is not recovered immediately
- 15. Bob: when is the time to revisit the budget going to be?
 - a. Marcos: Could be anytime, depends on when the cuts hit
- 16. Bob: are the employee raises going to be the same?
 - a. Marcos: Yes, they will remain at 7.5% for the time being
- 17. Bob: does the school contribute to the pension plan?

a. Marcos: yes, PODER does a match with employees

18. Bob motion to approve the Budget 20-21' (7:26pm); approved unanimous

I. Executive Session

1. Carlos motion to enter Executive Session (7:27pm); affirmed unanimous

2. Bob motion to exit Executive Session (7:39pm); affirmed unanimous

J. Next Board Meeting

1. Thursday, January 14th (6:00pm) – PODER

K. Adjourn – Carlos motion to adjourn (7:41pm); affirmed unanimous