

Minutes / 9-23-21**Location: P.A.S.S.**

A. Attendance: Marcos Martinez, Nick Avila, Sarah Melendez, Nicole Chavez, Robert Ripplinger, Cherise Atkinson

B. Approval of Agenda

1. Sarah motion to the approve agenda (6:14pm); affirmed unanimous

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Sarah motion to approve minutes (6:14pm); affirmed unanimous

D. Public Comment

1. No public comment at this time.

E. New Board member nominations

1. Candidate introductions
 - a. Nicole Chavez – born and raised in Cheyenne, graduated from Univ. of Wyoming, was sitting on the board previously but was pulled away for military duty. Loved the board experience, values education, believes in the mission at PODER.
 - b. Robert Ripplinger – born in Montana, grew up in north Dakota, saw active duty in the Air Force, aeronautics, currently works for the state, helps businesses with safety programs, kids go to PODER, sought out alternative school, had a great experience at PODER, believes there is a need for charter schools.
 - c. Cherise Atkinson – born and raised in Cheyenne, has a daughter that attends PASS, granddaughters at PODER, went to LCCC, was looking for alternative schooling options, toured PODER and was amazed by the quality of education, does a lot to support the schools from her job.
2. Sarah question to candidates: If there was a charter when you were going to school, how would that have impacted where you are today?
 - a. Nicole – parents always valued education, a program like PODER would have propelled her further, career path would have advanced faster.
 - b. Cherise – wishes there was a charter school available when her children were growing up in Cheyenne.
 - c. Robert – Grew up in North Dakota where he attended a small school with a one room school house, very intimate, 2 people in the class, then went to the next town for high school, and did not get the education that he needed. Joined the

service because he couldn't afford college, was the only person in his family to get a bachelor's degree. He has since observed most people out in the workforce cannot read well, deals with a lot of folks in the workplace, wants to be part of the solution.

3. Sarah motion to approve nominations (6:30pm); approved unanimous

F. Board member dismissal

1. Marcos: Board will need a motion to dismiss Trish Linton from the Board as she is no longer in the country
2. Nicole motion to dismiss Trish Linton from the board (6:32pm); approved unanimous

G. School / COVID Update

1. PASS currently has a waitlist in some classes
2. Students have taken the MAPS and WY-Topps interim
 - a. Provides an academic baseline
 - b. PASS students are well conditioned for testing
3. Extracurriculars
 - a. Some students participating on South teams
 - b. WAC club – students compete in academic challenges with other schools
 - c. PASS is looking to expand on clubs and activities
4. PASS had few issues with behavior this year
 - a. School culture is good
5. Robert – how is school mentoring them for public speaking?
 - a. Marcos: Schools not only cover the standards, but all teachers are taught how to ensure students are responding with a 'college voice' (professional response)
6. Red Carpet event – decided to cancel for now, gym construction still not complete, may do it in the spring, Chamber of Commerce does red carpet events
7. COVID – school has adopted the district's mandate of everyone wearing masks, mask required for all visitors, some parents not happy about that
8. Sarah – what about exposure in classrooms?
 - a. Marcos: we do our best with spacing but there's no guarantees
 - b. Less students need to quarantine when masks are worn
9. Charter Application – requesting a five-year contract
 - a. Applications were submitted for both schools
 - b. District will send back feedback
 - c. Marcos requests that PASS Board members attend the LCSD1 Board meeting

H. Financials Approval (through July 21')

1. Marcos summary
 - a. No financial issues with 1.2 million in reserve
 - b. Nicole: are you required to spend a certain percentage?
 - i. Marcos: No. Looking to maintain a strong carry over balance for unanticipated contingencies

- c. Nicole – with a nest egg this big, what will you invest it in?
 - i. Marcos: will continually look at options
 - ii. Robert – would advise being more conservative given the current economic situation, works with other school districts and budgets are being cut
 - iii. Marcos anticipates potential cuts in funding
- 2. Marcos: Financial statements are only a snapshot, always in the arrears, need to close out the month prior
 - a. Robert: Are you planning for another increase in retirement requirements?
 - i. Marcos: those increases have been accounted for in the budget
- 3. Robert motion to approve financials (6:53pm); affirmed unanimous

I. Audit 20-21' Approval

- 1. Marcos: Have history of clean audits, most recent audit is clean, no flags, independent audit is done by a Colorado firm that works with other charters
- 2. Robert – how long is the building lease?
 - a. Marcos: 10-year lease
- 3. Nicole motion to approve the Audit 20-21' (6:57pm)

J. Executive Session

- 1. Nicole motion to enter executive session (6:57pm); affirmed unanimous
- 2. Robert motion to exit executive session (7:14pm); affirmed unanimous

K. Next Board Meeting

- 1. Tuesday, November 9th (6:00pm) – PASS

L. Adjourn - Nicole motion to adjourn (7:16pm); affirmed unanimous