



# J. PAUL TAYLOR ACADEMY

*Recapturing the Joy of Learning - Recapturar la Alegría de Aprender*



**J. Paul Taylor Academy Charter School  
Governance Council Special Meeting  
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 6:30 PM (MST)  
402 W. Court Building 2 Las Cruces New Mexico 88005  
JPTA Media Room**

I. Opening items

- A. The J. Paul Taylor Academy Governance Council met in open session on January 10, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. to conduct a Special Meeting.
1. Roll was called by Suzan Martinez de Gonzales: Governance Council members Ric Hernandez, Janet Acosta, Arthur Berkson, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Sherry Booth, Suzan Martinez de Gonzales, and Carrie Hamblen were present. A quorum was confirmed. Yvette Turrieta, and Martin Lopez, were absent and notified the board of their absences. Eric Ahner, Executive Director, and Gina Trujillo, Assistant Business Manager were also present.
  2. There was a discussion about moving the next meeting (regular meeting) from the January 17, 2018 to January 24, 2018, due to the site visit on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and so that there is some time between meetings. The next meeting will be moved to the January 24, 2018.
- B. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any conflict of interest. None was stated by those in attendance.
- C. Arthur Berkson read the Mission Statement: *J. Paul Taylor Academy, in alliance with families at the school and community, will offer a rigorous, well-rounded Spanish acquisition, project based instructional program in a smaller school to promote excellence for the diverse students of the Las Cruces area.*
- D. Carrie Hamblen moved to approve the agenda for January 10, 2018 Special Meeting. Janet Acosta seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Janet Acosta, Arthur Berkson, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Sherry Booth, Suzan Martinez de Gonzales and Carrie Hamblen.
- E. Arthur Berkson moved to approve the minutes for November 15, 2017 Regular Meeting with the amendments listed below. Stephanie Haan-Amato seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes Ric Hernandez, Janet Acosta, Arthur Berkson, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Sherry Booth, Suzan Martinez de Gonzales and Carrie Hamblen.
- Amendments:  
Commas on IV (page 5) after the dates (to break up the sentence).

II. Public Input

- A. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any public input. There was no public input at this time.

B. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any staff input. There was no staff input at this time.

### III. Finance

A. Stephanie Haan-Amato presented the Finance Committee report (in Yvette Turrieta's absence) from the December 14, 2017 meeting. The committee is looking at the Procurement Policy. The Finance Committee recommends the finance items on today's agenda for approval.

B. Carrie Hamblen moved to approve the October Financial Reports. Janet Acosta seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes Ric Hernandez, Janet Acosta, Arthur Berkson, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Sherry Booth, Suzan Martinez de Gonzales and Carrie Hamblen.

C. Approve Budget Adjustment Request 535-000-1718-0016-M thru 535-1718-0020M 16-M. Arthur Berkson moved to approve Budget Adjustment Requests 535-000-1718-0016-M thru 535-1718-0020-M. Sherry Booth seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Janet Acosta, Arthur Berkson, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Sherry Booth, Suzan Martinez de Gonzales and Carrie Hamblen.

### IV. Governance

#### A. Governance Committee Report

1. There is a member resignation form Dolores Connor attached to the agenda. The Governance Council appreciates Dolores Connor for her service and her generous notice of resignation. There was discussion on whether to reduce the number on the board or to replace this vacant position. Options will be explored and will be on the agenda for the January 24, 2018 meeting.

#### B. GC Member Training Requirements

Governance Council Secretary Suzan Martinez de Gonzales is putting together a spreadsheet for GC members. This spreadsheet will have the training requirements listed for each member, so they can make the necessary arrangements to attend upcoming trainings if needed. Please let Suzan know what you plan to do to fulfill your requirements, so it can be recorded. These requirements are for the school year not fiscal year.

#### C. Annual Site Visit Preparation

The Annual Site visit is on Wednesday January 17, 2018. Mr. Ahner feels that we are more prepared for this visit. All student files have been reviewed and parents were asked to bring in missing documents from each file. There is a section of time (~8:15am) at the beginning of their visit, that parents and Governance Council members can attend. Chairman Ric Hernandez and Stephanie Haan-Amato volunteered to attend as Governance Council members.

### V. Executive Director Support and Evaluation

- A. The Executive Director Report was displayed on the Promethean board. These are October statistics. JPTA has had two students leave since the Fall 2017 semester, so these numbers will be updated. Mr. Ahner then fielded questions: There was a question about gender being included on school statistics and it was asked if attendance issues (specifically tardiness) had improved.

VI. Facility

- A. Facilities Committee Report was given by Arthur Berkson. They met yesterday they have about \$53,000 right now to spend on the project. A big THANK YOU to Liz Hamm for helping the school raise \$10,000 dollars that was then matched by the JPTA Foundation. The Facilities Committee has quotes from a couple of different contractors and they hope to vote by email by the end of this week or early next week. Once this phase is completed the next phase will be the placement of the playground equipment. It is estimated that around \$55,000-\$60,000 more will be needed to complete the project in its entirety. Arthur Berkson stated that he feels like this committee has been doing a great job. It was a tremendous help that LCPS rendered the ground (if that would not have been done the project would not be in its current state). Gratitude was expressed to everyone that has served on the committee and to Las Cruces Public Schools for their efforts in completing this playground project.

VII. Academic Excellence

- A. Academic Oversight Committee has not met so there is no report. This committee is looking to meet soon.

B. Parent Advisory Council

The Parent Advisory Council report was given by Stephanie Haan-Amato. The PAC met on December 13, 2017 and tonight before this meeting. The Barnes and Noble Book Fair was discussed, and a 4-H group being ran through the after-school program was also discussed. The PAC also helped coordinate the community caroling event. The Talent Show was also discussed (the show has been moved to February 23, 2018 and 6 p.m. (a notice of a potential quorum needs to be put up)).

VIII. Other Business

- A. Ric Hernandez called for any open discussion. Board Member Janet Acosta expressed appreciation (and kudos) Mr. Ronald Villabona for his first orchestra concert at JPTA.

IX. Closed Session.

Janet Acosta moved at 7:35 p.m. to go into Closed Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Strategies; closed Pursuant to Section 10-15-1-H (5). NMSA 1978 with an Invitation to Eric Ahner, Executive director to stay for the first half of the session Closed Session. Sherry Booth seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote, with affirmative votes

from Ric Hernandez, Janet Acosta, Arthur Berkson, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Sherry Booth, Suzan Martinez de Gonzales and Carrie Hamblen.

The meeting moved from Closed Session to Open Session at 8:54 p.m. Chairman Ric Hernandez stated that nothing other than Collective Bargaining Strategies (pursuant to Section 10-151-H(5). NMSA 1978) was discussed during the Closed Session.

X. Closing Items

- A. Janet Acosta moved to adjourn the January 10, 2018 Special meeting. Sherry Booth seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously with affirmative votes by roll call from  
Ric Hernandez, Janet Acosta, Arthur Berkson, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Sherry Booth, Suzan Martinez de Gonzales and Carrie Hamblen.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.