



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 24, 2018 6:00 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 24, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m. to conduct a Special Meeting.

1. Roll was called by Suzan Martinez de Gonzales: Governance Council members Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Martin Lopez, Sherry Booth, Stephanie Haan-Amato, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales were present. A quorum was confirmed. Carrie Hamblen, Janet Acosta, and Yvette Turrieta, were absent and notified the board of their absences. Eric Ahner, Executive Director, and Gina Trujillo, Assistant Business Manager were also present.

B. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any conflict of interest. None stated by those in attendance.

C. Ric Hernandez 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. Stephanie Haan-Amato moved to approve the agenda for January 24, 2018 Special Meeting. Martin Lopez Name seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from: Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Acosta, Martin Lopez, Sherry Booth, Stephanie Haan-Amato, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

E. Minutes for January 10, 2018 were not available for today's meeting.

II. Public Input

A. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any public input.

1. There were two members of the public with no input at this time.
2. There were three staff members in attendance reporting that the students are excited about the playground and especially the progress of the track.

III. Finance

A. Stephanie Haan-Amato presented the Finance Committee report from the January 14, 2018 meeting. There were no BAR's as they were presented at the January 10th meeting. The check balance was reviewed during the Finance Committee as well as an audit of the check stock. The Procurement Policy was reviewed but was not ready to present for approval. The Finance Committee recommends the finance items on today's agenda for approval.

B. Martin Lopez moved to approve the November 2017 Financial Reports. Arthur Berkson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by: Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Martin Lopez, Sherry Booth, Stephanie Haan-Amato, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

IV. Governance

A. Governance Committee Report

1. Ric Hernandez announced that Yvette Turrieta has submitted her resignation effective the end of January 2018.

Ric Hernandez called for Nominations for New Governance Council Members, Suzan Martinez de Gonzales nominated Robyn Rehbein, after an introduction Stephanie Haan-Amato motioned to approve Robyn Rehbein as our newest member to the Governance Council, Martin Lopez seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous to accept by: Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Martin Lopez, Sherry Booth, Stephanie Haan-Amato, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

A discussion ensued regarding the two GC members who have resigned. If they do not complete their training before the end of the school year, we will be out of compliance. Ric Hernandez will continue to encourage them to complete their training obligation.

B. Charter Amendment, Instructional Hours

Eric Ahner reported that the Charter School Division wanted to see that multiplying the number of instructional hours by the number of days would be equal to or greater than 1080 which is the minimum. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of aligning JPTA school schedule with that of LCPS, among suggestions of what to do with the possible extra days, the New Policy gives us more flexibility. Sherry Booth made a

Motion to approve the Charter Amendment on Instructional Hours as presented Martin Lopez Seconded the Motion, the vote was unanimously accepted by: Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Martin Lopez, Sherry Booth, Stephanie Haan-Amato, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

Charter Amendment, Spanish Acquisition - Measure for the Charter's Performance
Eric Ahner reported that he has been actively inquiring into the possibility of changing our current IPT Spanish assessment test to one that would better assess the children at our Academy. The current IPT test is designed to assess students whose first language is Spanish. This is not reflective of our student population, so students will never be fairly assessed by the IPT. Mr. Ahner recommended that we should begin collecting the required 2 years of baseline data for the Performance Framework this year if we decide to change to a new test. It would be best to make the selection of a new test by March, when testing begins, to avoid having students take the IPT again and avoid having them take two norm-referenced Spanish standardized tests."

V. Policy Committee

- A. Discipline Response Matrix – The Policy Committee is proposing a change in the name of the Discipline and Suspension Policy to Discipline Response Matrix. A discussion ensued regarding the wording used to identify self and alignment of the numbering in the policy. This will go back to the Policy Committee. The proposed changes will be presented to staff, parents and public for input before final presentation to the GC for approval.

B. Rescind Portable Communications Policy

Ric Hernandez asserted that the current policy is obsolete and pertained to the Academy when it was housed at the former facility that had Portable facilities that required the Communications Policy. This situation does not exist at our current site and there are no plans for Portable Units at this time. Arthur Berkson Motioned that the Portable Communications Policy be rescinded, Stephanie Haan-Amato Second the Motion the vote was unanimously passed by:

Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Martin Lopez, Sherry Booth, Stephanie Haan-Amato, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

C. Uniform Policy

Ric Hernandez presented changes to the Uniform Policy. After a discussion including addressing the gender bias in the policy Sherry Booth said she would review the policy once again and make appropriate changes. The Uniform Policy must be posted for family input. Sherry Booth Motioned for the Uniform Policy to be Tabled, Arthur Berkson Second the Motion, the vote was passed unanimously by: Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Martin Lopez, Sherry Booth, Stephanie Haan-Amato, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

D. Executive Director Evaluation Policy - Stephanie Haan-Amato presented the changes to the Executive Director End of the Year Review & Evaluation the review increased from 10 to twelve areas for review including evaluating progress towards assuring Students Safety, Project Based Learning and Spanish Language Acquisitions to comply with the Performance Framework. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the GC's expectation that Mr. Ahner be expected to achieve some of the items within his current contractual year as these new items were not included from the beginning of the contract specifically the 5th item in # 12 implements practices that insure that JPTA receives a grade of B or higher on

the NMPD school grading systems. It was clarified during the discussion that the rating scale must align with the teacher's scale:

- a. 1 = Ineffective
- b. 2 = Minimally Effective
- c. 3 = Effective
- d. 4 = Highly Effective
- e. 5 = Exemplary

Members of the Evaluation Committee will email the GC with 3 options to substitute for item 5 in section 12.

E. National Board Certification for Stipend Policy – Policy was presented at the May 24, 2017 meeting but no formal vote on the policy took place, we are currently operating on the policy. Changes such as changing Teaching Contract to Teachers Contract after these changes are made the policy will be posted for input from the staff, families and the public.

F. Benefits Qualification Policy – Ric Hernandez presented the change to approve that part time employees defined as .5 FTE whatever the equivalent is would be eligible for benefits. **This new language will align with our Collective Bargaining Agreement.**

G. Policies Update Status - Ric Hernandez – stated that he will call a Policy Committee meeting, there are 4 or 5 policies regarding facilities that need updating.

VI. Executive Director Support and Evaluation

A. The Executive Director Report was displayed on the Promethean board.

- One item highlighted was the need to for the teachers to carve out time during their Wednesday mornings to work collaboratively dedicated to Project Based Learning, journals need to be kept documenting this time.
- Request for data of our Special Education students at our next meeting

B. The Executive Director Support and Evaluation Committee met with Mr.

Ahner on January 12, 2018 to present him with a summary of the

Governance Council's assessment of his written narrative and goals as per

the Executive Director Mid-Year Review Policy

VII. Facility

A. Facilities Committee Report was given by Arthur Berkson, there is still an issue with finding the water source and finding a Landscaper.

VIII. Academic Excellence

A. Academic Oversight Committee has not met so there is no report.

B. Parent Advisory Council

The Parent Advisory Council report was given by Stephanie Haan-Amato. PAC met on January 10th. A reminder that the Running Club will have a Ribbon Cutting Run/Ceremony on Friday February 2nd. Talent Show on February 23rd.

IX. Other Business

A. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any open discussion. Eric Ahner stated that he had not had the opportunity to give us the final results of the last review after he had submitted our

action plan. Ric Hernandez stated that he would add this to the Agenda for the February 7th meeting.

X. Closed Session.

It was determined that there was not a need to go into Closed Session.

XI. Closing Items

A. Arthur Berkson moved to adjourn the January 24, 2018 Special meeting. Martin Lopez seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously with affirmative votes by roll call from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Martin Lopez, Sherry Booth, Stephanie Haan-Amato, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.