



J. PAUL TAYLOR ACADEMY

Recapturing the Joy of Learning - Recapturar la Alegria de Aprender



**J. Paul Taylor Academy Charter School
Governance Council Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 19, 2017 6:00 PM (MDT)
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 July 19, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. to conduct a regular meeting.
1. Roll was called by Suzan Martinez de Gonzales: Governance Council members Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez (arrived at 6:09pm), Stephanie Haan-Amato (arrived at 6:02pm), Dolores Connor, and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales were present. A quorum was confirmed. Sherry Booth (previously referred to as Sherry McDowell and will be reflected in all documents proceeding from today as her legal name Sherry Booth) and Carrie Hamblen 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 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. Dolores Connor moved to approve the agenda for July 19, 2017 Regular Meeting Agenda. Arthur Berkson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.
- E. Approval of Minutes
1. Yvette Turrieta moved to approve the minutes for the June 23, 2017 Special Meeting with the following modifications. Arthur Berkson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.
- Modifications:
- Minutes need to be put on school letterhead.
 - Sherry Booth's name needs to be changed to Sherry McDowell for this set of notes. It has been noted in today's minutes that her legal last name is Booth and will be reflected as Booth for this year (SY 17-18).
 - On page 5 (of the meeting packet) item IV. Executive Director Support and Evaluation, letter A should read Janet Acosta made a motion to TABLE the Executive Director Contract.

2. Arthur Berkson moved to approve the minutes for June 24, 2017 Work Session. Yvette Turrieta seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.
3. Stephanie Haan-Amato moved to TABLE the minutes for June 30, 2017 Special Meeting until the August 16, 2017 regular meeting due to them not being able to be posted with the meeting packet due to technical difficulties. Dolores Connor seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

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. The Finance Committee Report was briefly discussed as it was displayed on the overhead and it was noted that there needs to be a few corrections to names at the top of the minutes. The last names should read Connor and Haan-Amato. Sheryl Barham's name also needs to be corrected.
- B. The Finance Committee has reviewed the May Cash Reports and recommended its approval.
Yvette Turrieta moved to approve the May Cash Reports. Dolores Connor seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.
- C. The Finance Committee has reviewed the May Bank Reconciliations and recommended its approval.
Yvette Turrieta moved to approve the May Bank Reconciliations. Dolores Connor seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.
- D. The Finance Committee has reviewed the May Revenue and Expense Reports and recommended its approval.
Yvette Turrieta moved to approve the May Revenue and Expense Reports. Dolores Connor seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

IV. Governance

- A. Stephanie Haan-Amato led the discussion of the 2017-18 Reasonable Notice of Meetings. This is voted on every first meeting of the year. A few important modifications: it should display today's date at the top and resolution number should read 7-19-171. Section 3 has the old standard of 24 hours but it should read 72 hours. The date at the bottom of the document should also read 19th day of July 2017. The Secretary's name also needs to be updated to Suzan Martinez de Gonzales

Dolores moved to approve the 2017-2018 Reasonable Notice of Meetings with the modifications mentioned above. Janet seconded the motion with the modifications. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

- B. Chairman Ric Hernandez led a discussion of the 2017-2018 JPTA Governance Council membership size target. This is new, because the Charter school division has pushed the mandate to identify a target number of positions for the council. Typically, it has been a range between 5-13 members. This will change how the Governance Council will recruit. Historically the council has preferred to keep it to an odd number. But if that was the case right now the council would have to go recruiting immediately, because the council is currently at 10 members. There was no specific target last year, besides the range mentioned above. Arthur Berkson stated that they had talked about creating a waiting list. This still might be a good idea. It was suggested to keep at 10.

Janet moved to approve the 2017-2018 JPTA Governance Council membership size target of 10 members. Stephanie Haan Amato seconded.

Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales. Arthur Berkson expressed thanks to the new board members for coming on board.

- C. Ric Hernandez called for nominations for JPTA Governance Council Board Secretary. Janet Acosta nominated Suzan Martinez de Gonzales for secretary. No other nominations were given. Janet Acosta moved by acclamation to approve Suzan Martinez de Gonzales to be the Governance Council Secretary for 2017-2018. Dolores Connor seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

- D. Eric Ahner led a brief discussion on the 2016-2017 Site Visit Final Report. Arthur Berkson suggested that it be reviewed in detail, one by one. Martin suggested we do a precursor discussion tonight but he would like to see a work session dedicated to go through it. Dolores Connor said she believes a work session would be helpful. Historically work sessions have been the first Wednesday of the month but those are not favorable for Mr. Ahner. There was some discussion on available days. It was decided that August 30th work session unless the deadline is earlier, if so Eric will notify. Eric will provide it to GC members by the 23rd (responses or narrative to the flags).

V. Executive Director Support and Evaluation

- A. The Executive Director's report was projected onto the screen for the Council to see during the presentation of the report. Going forward Mr. Ahner will supply the enrollment data in a table. Stephanie Haan-Amato asked about the attrition for 5th to 6th and Mr. Ahner will look into it compared to last year. The End of the year Cash Carryover as discussed. FY 17 EOY general ledger end up at \$119,438.30 and it was projected to be at \$120,920. This amount is inclusive of the required reserves. A big thank you was expressed to Gina Trujillo and Vicki Chavez this year for all their hard work.

VI. Facility

A. Arthur Berkson gave a brief Facility Committee Report. There hasn't been a meeting to discuss the minutes of but there are updates. There have been huge strides toward the playground development. LCPS workforce rendered the land and graded it and the basketball court and four-square courts have been installed. Thanks was expressed to LCPS, Gen Con and Asa Architecture for their time, donations and work. The track will probably be the next installment. The next Facility meeting is not scheduled at this time.

VII. Development

A. The Development Committee will be meeting at 12pm tomorrow (7/20/2017) and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales and Ric Hernandez will attend and serve as the council's liaisons for this committee. There are few things for this year that the council will be suggesting to the committee. A few suggestions for the committee: 1) pull-down shade for the cafeteria, 2) Apple TVs or a comparable device that would allow the teachers to utilize their iPads and projecting them for the whole class to view.

VIII. Academic Excellence

A. Stephanie Haan-Amato gave a brief report on the Parent Advisory Council. The PAC just met on Monday and had 25-30 people in attendance (which is fantastic). Running club starting on Friday, 7/21/2017, was discussed and all the events for the whole year were laid out and discussed. Right now, the PAC is working on a supply drive for the teacher/staff lounge.

IX. Policy

A. Chairman Ric Hernandez informed the council that the Solicitation in Schools Policy could not be voted on because it wasn't in today's meeting packet (due to technical difficulties). Dolores Connor moved to TABLE until the next meeting on August 16, 2017. Martin Lopez seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales. It was asked of the Chairman if the council can get a list of what policies are due this year soon so they can be on the lookout for these. (FOLLOW UP)

X. Other Business

Ric Hernandez called for any other business to discuss. Arthur Berkson on behalf of Sherry Booth informed the council that Sherry is still interested in setting up an active shooter training. Sherry needs a date A.S.A.P to help coordinate this training. Mr. Ahner noted that he would like more information on what this all entails.

XI. Closed Session

Dolores Connor motioned to move into closed session for the following reasons:

A. To discuss Collective Bargaining Strategies; *closed pursuant to Section 10-15-1-H(5). NMSA 1978*

B. To discuss Limited Personnel issues; *closed pursuant to Section 10-14.H(2), NMSA 1978*

The motion included an invitation to Executive Director, Eric Ahner to stay for this closed session discussion. The motion was seconded by Janet Acosta. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales. Closed session began at 7:13pm.

At the council came out of closed session with a roll call and Vice Chair Stephanie Haan Amato stated that no formal actions were taken and that only the following topics were discussed:

A. Collective Bargaining Negotiation

B. Limited Personnel Issues

Roll Call: Affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzalez. Executive Director, Eric Ahner, who was invited to stay for closed session was also present.

XII. Closing Items

- A. Janet Acosta moved adjourn the July 19, 2017 Regular Meeting. Stephanie Haan-Amato seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turrieta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Stephanie Haan-Amato, Dolores Connor and Suzan Martinez de Gonzales.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzan Martinez de Gonzales
JPTA Governance Council Secretary

Approved August 16, 2017

Ric Hernandez
JPTA Governance Council Chair