



# 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, May 10, 2017 6:30 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 May 10, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. to conduct a special meeting.
- B. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any conflicts of interest and no conflicts were stated.
- C. Roll was called by Janet Acosta: Governance council members Ric Hernandez, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, Arthur Berkson and Stephanie Haan-Amato were present. A quorum was confirmed. Yvette Turrieta arrived at 7:35pm. Sherry McDowell was absent. Eric Ahner, Executive Director, Vicki Chavez, Business Manager, and Gina Trujillo, Assistant Business Manager were also present.
- D. Executive Director Eric Ahner 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.*
- E. Arthur Berkson moved to approve the agenda for May 10, 2017 Special Meeting. Martin Lopez seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez and Sherry McDowell.
- F. Arthur Berkson moved to approve April 19, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes with modifications listed below. Martin Lopez seconded the motion with the modifications. Motion approved unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, and Stephanie Haan-Amato.

Modifications:

- Section II. Letter A. should read; Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any public input, and welcomed **Dr. Baylor Del Rosario, Ph.D.** from the Charter School Division of NMPED who was observing tonight's meeting. **Dr. Del Rosario** stood and introduced himself. There was no other public input.
- Section III. Letter C's first sentence should read: The Teacher Satisfaction Survey was also discussed before the vote, this survey was not in the packet, but **was shown with the projector for** the board to review.
- Section X. Letter D should read: The Personnel Files Policy verbiage comes from the union negotiations with two exceptions (and **the negotiations team** have been notified). Before the vote there was some discussion on what can be included in a personal file and what can be excluded. Martin Lopez will send Mr. Ahner a list of items. **(FOLLOW UP ITEM)**

- Section XI. Letter A should read: The May 3, 2017 work session is being moved to May 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. (following the PAC meeting) and will be a Special Meeting with voting and a closed session.

The May 17, 2017 Regular Meeting will be moved to May 24, 2017 at 6 p.m., due to a conflict with a school concert and to allow a week between meetings. **Arthur Berkson** will not be able to attend this meeting and cannot conference call into the meeting. **Martin Lopez** will not be in attendance in person but will be able to attend via conference call. Ric Hernandez will post these meetings and will provide the call-in number as soon as possible (one week before is the earliest) to facilitate **Martin's** conference call into the meeting. **(FOLLOW UP ITEM)**.

## II. Public Input

- A. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any public input. Janet Acosta welcomed Dolores Connor who is in attendance tonight and is interested in joining our Governance Council. Dolores introduced herself and has been a banker, a business owner and an elected official for the City of Las Cruces. Chairman Ric Hernandez thanked her for coming to observe and consider joining.
- B. Chairman Ric Hernandez called for any staff input. Staff expressed appreciation for staff appreciation week and all that was done and given to staff.

## III. Finance

- A. Gina Trujillo briefly presented and discussed the 2017-18 School Year Lease Application and fielded questions from the Governance Council members in attendance. Governance Council members asked questions about whether we are a local charter, if an attachment of all governance Council members would be attached and why there was a square footage discrepancy on the application. The square footage figures on this application were copied from last year. Gina will seek clarification from PSFA/LCPS.  
Janet Acosta moved to approve the 2017-18 School Year Lease Application. Stephanie Amato seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, and Stephanie Haan-Amato.
- B. Eric Ahner presented the Bilingual Program Application. This application is seeking funds for K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, the initial application was submitted but the final completed packet in its entirety is due by July 15, 2017. They process applications as they come in completed. Mr. Ahner believes that the way we will execute the Spanish language instruction to 6<sup>th</sup> grade will not allow us to use the funding for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If that is the case then we will notify them that we need to reduce our numbers to only include K-5<sup>th</sup> grade.  
Janet Acosta moved to approve the Bilingual Program Application as presented (with the ability to make necessary corrections to things like the school year and spelling). Stephanie Haan-Amato seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, and Stephanie Haan-Amato.

Governance Council Member, Yvette Turietta arrived at 7:35pm.

- C. The Budgeted Adjustment Request 535-000-1617-0031-I is for professional development. Janet Acosta moved to approve Budgeted Adjustment Request 535-000-1617-0031-I. Arthur Berkson seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turietta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, and Stephanie Haan-Amato.
- D. Eric Ahner led a big picture discussion of the 2017-2018 School Year Budget. The school held a parent night for input on this school year budget. The specials (music, art and physical education) and their teachers in relation to the budget was what was important to the families that attended the parent meeting or emailed Mr. Ahner. Staff will be submitting their input momentarily through two staff members who will serve as liaisons. Last year's budget was \$1,257,840.00, and we are looking at \$1,282,153.00 next year based on 200 students, and that is about a \$24,313.00 increase. The Finance Committee will meet with Eric Ahner on May 16, 2017 at 6pm to help facilitate the discussion of this budget and the possibility of the approval of it at the May 24, 2017 meeting.

IV. Executive Director Support and Evaluation

- A. There was no Executive Director Report tonight as his focus was to present on the 2017-2018 Budget and the Bilingual Application. A written Executive Director report will be provided at the May 24, 2017 meeting.

V. Governance

- A. The JPTA Parent Satisfaction Survey will be reviewed at the next meeting on May 24, 2017.
- B. The JPTA Teacher Satisfaction Survey will be reviewed at the next meeting on May 24, 2017.
- C. The JPTA PEC Meeting Observation Report from the last meeting was briefly discussed. Overall this was a positive observation, and will work on the few things that were noted.
- D. The PEC Changes to Board Training Requirements was briefly discussed. The next meeting on these proposed changes will be held on May 30, 2017. This is a big issue for a lot of Charter Schools and their Board Members. It was mentioned in the discussion if more hours are required in the future, it would be nice if they offered training in different areas of the state to help facilitate that training.
- E. The Charter Performance Framework is still in the last cycle, so this will be discussed at the next meeting on May 24, 2017.
- F. The review of proposed changes to By-laws was not discussed as there was nothing to report at this time.

VI. Closed Session

Janet Acosta moved to go into closed session at 9:07pm. The motion was seconded by Arthur Berkson. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turietta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, and Stephanie Haan-Amato to move

into closed session to discuss Limited Personnel Issues, closed Pursuant to Section 10-15-1.H(2), NMSA 1978.

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to reconvene in to Open Session at \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turietta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, and Stephanie Haan-Amato. Chairman Ric Hernandez affirmed the Governance Council that no formal action was taken during the Closed Session and the only topic discussed were limited personnel issues related to the Executive Director annual evaluation.

VII. Closing Items

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to adjourn the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ pm. Motion seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote with affirmative votes from Ric Hernandez, Arthur Berkson, Yvette Turietta, Janet Acosta, Martin Lopez, and Stephanie Haan-Amato .

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Acosta

JPTA GC Secretary

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