

Roots & Wings

Community School



Governing Council Regular Meeting

(3rd Wednesday of every month)

35 La Lama Rd, Questa, NM 87556

Approved Minutes**

5:30 pm, April 25, 2023

In-Person at school or via Google Meeting [Link](#)

By Phone (US) +1 904-580-9474 PIN: 475 226 824#

***The RWCS GC may take any agenda item out of order to better facilitate the business at hand ***

I. Opening Business

A. Call to Order: 5:36 PM

B. Roll Call: **GB Members:** Aline Robertson - here, Erica Lannon - here, Scotney Blackburn - here, Robin Mayo-absent, Elizabeth Anderson - here. We have a quorum.

Others in Attendance: Jon Orris & Sarah Pina

Members of the Public: Laura Geisen - Lama Water Board

C. Reading of Mission Statement:

Our mission is to inspire our students to academic & personal excellence. Our innovative learning community creates classroom, farm & wilderness adventure— Engaging the head, hands & heart – Enabling students to achieve more than they think possible & to take an active role in our ever-changing world!

D. Mission Moment: (Jon) 100% attendance for the SLC Meetings!

E. Approve, Amend, or Denial of Current Meeting Agenda: 4/25/2023 Aline Robertson moves to approve the agenda with the amendment of IIIA. Erica Lannon seconds. Aline Robertson - yes, Erica Lannon - yes, Scotney Blackburn - yes, Elizabeth Anderson - yes, Motion carries.

F. Approve, Amend, or Denial of Prior Meeting Minutes: 3/21/2023 Aline Robertson moves to approve the agenda with the amendments to the Budget Adjustment notes. Erica Lannon seconds. Aline Robertson - yes, Erica Lannon - yes, Scotney Blackburn - yes, Elizabeth Anderson - yes, Motion carries.

II. Public Comment: (3 minutes/public comment) If more time is needed, the GC suggests a letter/email be written & made available to all GC members, preferably 3+ days before the meeting. *The GC shall not respond to public comments presented at this time, but will take all comments under advisement.*

Laura Geisen - Lama Water Board. No Public Comment.

III. Informational/Discussion Items

A. ~~Big Brothers & Big Sisters presented by Jeff Rogers~~

B. Directors Report: Questions for Jon - Filled Kinder with 5 or 6 Kinder students with 13 on the waitlist.

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C. Finance Committee Report: (Aline/Scotney) Sarah and Aline met yesterday. No abnormalities. Reminder: we have to encumber ESSER 2 funds by June 30th for the funds to be spent by September 30th. Ending fund balance \$189,230 which is a 20% reserve. Questa Credit Union - needs savings and checking accounts to be open, wanted somewhere closer to for cash deposits. Requires cashiers checks to transfer funds to a new savings account. Will continue to explore more options and withdraw application for the account at Questa. Aline needs to lead contact since she is a signer on the accounts.

D. Budget info &/or updates: (Sarah & Jon) Key drivers for next fiscal year. Due Monday May 22nd at 8 AM. Special Meeting will be scheduled sometime between 18th and 20th. Would like to shoot for it to be ready by the 19th. State Mandates:

I. SEG Funding

- a. Unit Value - \$6,241.67 (13.02% increase compared to FY23 Final Unit Value of \$5,522.50)
- b. Average of 80 th and 120 th day membership report – 53.5 students
- c. Elementary PE Units – Added for Grades K-6 (RWCS not eligible)
- d. ELTP eliminated – K12 + Funding Available

II. State Mandated Changes for 2023-24

- a. Mandated Salary Increase – 5% Salary Increase + 1% Inflation & Health Premium Increase
 - i. 5% Salary Increase + 1% Inflation & Health Premium Increase (All School Employees)
 - ii. \$15.00 p/Hour Minimum (Continued Requirement)
 - iii. \$25,000 - Minimum Salary for Educational Assistants
- b. Educational Retirement & Retiree Health Care
 - i. ERB – Employer contribution to increase by 1% to 18.15% of gross wages. No change to employee contributions.
 - ii. RHC – No Changes
- c. Employee Insurance
 - i. High/Low/EPO Option Medical Plans – Increase of 7.24%
 - ii. Dental & Vision – No Increase
 - iii. NMPSIA Tier Changes – Based on Annual Salary:
 1. Less than \$50,000 – 80% employer/20% employee
 2. \$50,000 - \$59,999 – 70% employer/30% employee
 3. \$60,000 and over – 60% employer/40% employee

III. BUDGET DUE to PED – May 22, 2023

E. Legal Counsel changes for FY 23-24 - Continue Discussion for reissue of Patty's contract for another year.

F. FY 2023-2024 School Calendar - New total 1140 hrs per year 6.5 hrs a day = 178 days for new calendar year. 167 days in last year's calendar. We are over 25 days in the calendar this year. PED new issues last year we got contact credit hours for camping trips and now we don't get contact hours. Jon is still in contact to prove that these camping trips are a part of our curriculum. 2 versions of the new calendar go into June of 2024, which is not ideal. Hoping to shorten the number of days with the approval of contact hours and help from patty with explanation and waiver that contact hours apply to us. Last years teacher contracts were at (157 days and 20 PD days, 10 days of ETLP.

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ETLP days are paid on top of regular teacher pay) 187 days and now it would be calculated at 195 days causing the school to need to raise the pay for the teachers or they will be taking a pay cut. ELTP days are no longer allowed but the new k12 funding needs to be looked at to see if it will cover the extra hours the teachers will be putting in.

Review of 23-24 calendar A:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16EnDJfBxbF1RsMNCv_6KefFYx_1N57IK/view

2 Mondays off per month. Starts on Aug 15, 2023 and ends on June 7, 2024 for students. 2 Paid PD days on June 10th and 11th. Current PD days are at 20 next years will be 13. Same school hours unless Bus schedule changes. student contact hours 128, teacher contract hours increased to 191 days. Need to come to an agreement so that we can get the approval and work on our budget. We can get a budget adjustment if needed in the future. We will be meeting the minimum requirements for the year. Snow days will have to be made up unless PED will allow remote learning. SLCs on Nov 9th and 10th and the 18th and 19th K-6 can allow up to 60 hours credit toward PD staff days but only 30 hour credit for K-8 for student contact days. So our parent teacher conferences are not allowed to be counted as instructional days but the legislation says that SLCs meet the student contact hour requirement. SLCs will be reported as instructional days and frees up 30 hours of staff days to clear up some of the days in the school calendar.

September 18th - Staff day but still count as student contact hours to not lose a day. Prep days have been worked into the calendar to give the teachers more time to for planning and assessing students and to adjust curriculum based on where the students are coming in.

This version (A) of the calendar is taking advantage of the 30 hours. If approved and changes are made in the future, then Jon will present the changes to the calendar with 23-24 calendar.

G. Report from LLMDWCA water board working meeting about RWCS water membership (Jon) - 2 issues - Modular project and purchase of the property. Water will not be transferred with the purchase of the property and requires a board vote. Update that the water district will not approve the paperwork and they can cut off water to the school. Ballot issue needs to be finished by the May Lama board meeting. Laura - Acting as VP during transitional stage. They have a new board and they are all going through a learning curve. New special use agreement - Board wants to write a new special use agreement. From the email from LLMDWCA

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15i3Eb0Y0EW-QaTkdcctkyfpXKG_WlyD3gp5rr8_KiO-s/edit

(Voting will happen June 3rd)

“Ballot #1

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgzGsmNNrpkBGKdwcJPqIWRzwTmPj?compose=DmwnWrRspPZbPSjHFJBwPPkZXSXLnkNjNFcZCtTgPBDHBqhVtrccJRStPhNVCjQHbQDmDcjXrcfG&projector=1&messagePartId=0.1> is for the LLMDWCA Board members election. There are 3 temporary board members seeking positions on the LLMDWCA Board. Vote for up to 3. We currently have 2 elected board members (Laura Geisen and Keaton Karvas).

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Five board members is recommended. A simple majority is required for each board member to be elected (Ballot #1).

Ballot #2

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QdbHgBwBS3J4aCZ-353MWv_0hK6nAN40GOIFr8q3QwE/edit is for a proposed Bylaws amendment. This amendment would be a Special Use Agreement that would allow Roots and Wings Community School (RWCS) to apply for an LLMDWCA membership. Also attached, please find the Special Use Agreement with special terms and conditions and a RWCS proposed water conservation plan. A two-thirds majority of those present at the meeting is required to pass a Bylaws amendment (Ballot #2).”

Since RWCS isn't residential Ballot #2 would open up the school to a new special use agreement. The first agreement was granted because it was residential. School is a domestic user?

There are no other records of special use agreements that may have previously been agreed upon between other parties and LLMDWCA. They are overseen by the NMED Drinking Water Bureau and they report to the OFC State Engineer. Laura doesn't know who we could check with to see if RWCS is a domestic user. The Terms and conditions of the special use agreement says RWCS can only have 60 students and if we go over, they won't allow us water. If anything changes and RWCS wants to expand, LLMDWCA could be controlling the growth of the school. This could prove to be an issue in the future.

Laura presented data to the county and proved that water usage at RWCS is low per person and many other individual residential users in the community. 46 active and 4 inactive members 15,000 gallons of water per member per year. 42,000 gallons of water were used at the school last year. The terms and conditions were placed to cover conservation and limiting school growth. General membership vote - everyone that is a member of LLMDWCA has the right to vote on this issue. Jon is in approval of this amendment and the Terms and Conditions to accomplish the plans for the school and provide current students with water.

IV. Action Items:

- A. Budget Adjustment Requests (Sarah) - No budget requests.
- B. Approval of Payroll and Accounts Payable Vouchers. Payroll - \$60,878.75 Accounts Payable \$29,940.88 Erica Lannon moves to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable Vouchers. Aline Robertson seconds. Aline Robertson - yes, Erica Lannon - yes, Scotney Blackburn - yes, Elizabeth Anderson - yes, Motion carries.
- C. Legal Counsel - Tabled for the next meeting.
- D. FY 22-23 school calendar - Calendar additional hours, reduce hours by revising the calendar hours this year from the camping trip. Still in compliance with attendance and instructional hours which will reduce the number of hours that are required next year. Scotney Blackburn will make a motion to approve the changes to the 22-23 calendar. Erica Lannon seconds. Aline Robertson - yes, Erica Lannon - yes, Scotney Blackburn - yes, Elizabeth Anderson - yes, Motion carries.

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- E. FY 23-24 School Calendar - Erica Lannon will move to approve the school calendar version A. Elisabeth Anderson seconds. Aline Robertson - no, Erica Lannon - yes, Scotney Blackburn - yes, Elizabeth Anderson - yes, Motion carries.

V. Closed Session - Closed Session Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, the Board will meet in closed session to discuss the purchase of real property.

- A. Vote to go into Closed Session:
B. Following Closed Session the Council will return to Open Session and may take action.

VI. Closed Session - Closed Session Pursuant to NM Statute Section 10-15-1 H(2) limited personnel matters

- A. Vote to go into Closed Session:
B. Following Closed Session the Council will return to Open Session and may take action. The board will go into closed session to discuss *Closed Session Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, the purchase of real property and Closed Session Pursuant to NM Statute Section 10-15-1 H(2) limited personnel matters*, nothing outside of these items will be discussed. The board invites Jon and Sarah to come into the closed session. Aline Robertson - yes, Erica Lannon - yes, Scotney Blackburn - yes, Elizabeth Anderson - yes, Motion carries. The Board went into closed session at 7:47 pm and came out of closed session at 8:45 PM. Only the items listed were discussed in the meeting and no action was taken. The board conducted the directors mid-year review was completed and Erica Lannon makes a motion to approve the intent to rehire Jon for the 23-24 school year. Scotney Blackburn seconded the motion. Aline Robertson - yes, Erica Lannon - yes, Scotney Blackburn - yes, Elizabeth Anderson - yes, Motion carries.

VII. Board Development:

- A. Membership changes for FY 23-24 (Aline) Erica Lannon and Robin Mayo are leaving the Board. Please add to the school newsletter that we are still looking for new members.
B. Training updates: Continuing education plans to meet your training needs by the end of April. 😊 Completed: Erica & Elizabeth 😊

To be completed: Aline (1 hour); Scotney (Will be completed by Saturday- 4/29); Robin (? hours) Can be finished on Canvas! July 23-26 CSD conference to get all training hours. Aline will get more information and clarification. Jon is attending PCSNM training November 28- December 1. The week after Thanksgiving.

- C. Review ByLaws - Tabled until another meeting with the anticipated new GC members
D. GC Website updates from last meeting - Aline is saving documents in a specific spot.
E. Retreat date revisit - Please fill out the retreat survey. Elisabeth will fill out after password reset - Jon will help.

VIII. Closing Business

- A. Next Meeting: May 16, 2023, @ 5:30 pm
B. Adjournment: 9:00 PM