

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
OF
NOAH WEBSTER SCHOOLS-PIMA

August 15, 2023

Held Virtually

DIRECTORS PRESENT:, Teresa Wales, Sharon Miller, Ronrico Miller, BJ Pennington

DIRECTORS ABSENT: John Tomasson

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Vicki Dry, Secretary, Jessica Friedermann; Robert Rodenbaugh, Tara Bittinger

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Noah Webster Schools-Pima, an Arizona non-profit corporation (the “Corporation”), was held virtually at 4:30 P.M. A quorum being present, and the meeting having been duly noticed and called, the meeting was called to order.

- Approval of the Minutes of the July 12, 2023 Board Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the July 12, 2023 Board meeting. Director R. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director S. Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with Director Pennington, Director S. Miller, Director R. Miller and Director Wales voting to approve.

- Specific Matters to be Considered

- Review the Internally Generated 6/30/23 Financial Statements and Related Documents

Ms. Dry had provided the materials to the Board prior to the meeting for their review. She explained to the Board that she was still waiting on some late invoicing as well as adjustments from the State to Equalization. She also pointed out that Pima’s year end cash was \$285,992.82 and that their days on hand cash came to 27.31 days. Since Noah Webster Schools-Mesa is a guarantor of the Pima 2014 Bond, Pima and Mesa will combine Days Cash for an average of 30.47 Days Cash. Director S Miller reviewed the financial position in reference to S & P’s review of our projects and discussed goals to be met for this year.

- FY24 Budget Updates

Ms. Dry had provided the Board with a summary of Budget Cuts made to date as well as in process. She reviewed the items listed and gave the Board an explanation for the cuts. In the case of Special Education, she reviewed current numbers and percentages and informed the Board of a provider change. She explained that we would have clearer numbers and program specific at the next Board meeting since the SPED department is still reviewing new IEPs and setting schedules. Pima is however, still showing an approximate 20% SPED population.

Of note, is that the school's population has gone from a poverty level of 60% last year to 68% this year. This jump is partially due to students being able to qualify for free & reduced lunch directly if they are enrolled in Medicaid.

While reviewing these budget cuts Ms. Dry brought up the question of continuing Pima's PK. PK is not supported by the State and is dependent on private tuition payments. Ms. Dry explained that the current PK enrollment is 5 students which would equate to \$33,300.00 in revenue for the year. Expenses for the program including salary, benefits, meals and snacks will be around \$54,000.00. Continuing the program also brings up the issue of the 2 students enrolled in the school who are siblings of PK students. If we close the PK, we could lose the 2 students who bring in funding close to what our PK loss would be. Ms. Dry asked that the Board consider the issue and provide direction.

The Board discussed the issue and each member brought up pros and cons to continuing the program. After additional discussion, Director Pennington made a motion to continue to operate the PK Program at Pima and make every effort to market the program to the surrounding businesses as well as our other areas of market focus. Director R. Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with Director Pennington, Director S. Miller, Director R. Miller and Director Wales voting to approve.

- FY 24 Enrollment to Date

Principal Rodenbaugh reviewed our current enrollment and she explained that even though we are short of our target, we are continuing to market and take students as they come in. Director Pennington and Director R. Miller asked to set up a meeting with them and the School Leadership team within the next 2 weeks to look at additional marketing and operation strategies that may not have been addressed in the past. The results of this meeting will be reported to the Board at the next Board meeting.

- 7th & 8th Grade Updates

Principal Friedermann reported that to date the team has met several times and has developed a timeline for the many items needing to be accomplished prior to a FY25

start date. They have reviewed mandatory instructional minutes, began working on schedules and have met with various curriculum companies to try to finalize curriculum that would follow Arizona State Standards. Principal Rodenbaugh discussed the scheduling concerns that need to take into account not only all the various classes, specials, and recesses but trying at the same time to keep older students separated from the younger grades during out of class movement. He explained that at future meetings they will be looking at options for electives and computer needs. We have also been marketing the program to all current families and on social media.

- Announcements

There were no announcements. The next Board meeting will be announced at a later date.

- Adjournment

There being no further business, Director Pennington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director R. Miller seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm passed unanimously with Director Pennington, Director S. Miller, Director Wales and Director R. Miller voting to approve.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2023



Vicki Dry, Secretary