

# High Desert "Partnership in Academic Excellence" Foundation, Inc.

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**Minutes for Regular Joint Meeting of the  
High Desert "Partnership in Academic Excellence" Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors  
Academy for Academic Excellence School Board Committee and  
Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy School Board Committee**

**Meeting at San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools  
601 North E Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415**

**Additional Location:  
Lewis Center for Educational Research, Mojave River Campus, Bldg. G  
17500 Mana Rd., Apple Valley, CA 92307**

**September 8, 2014 - Public Meeting – 9:00 a.m.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Secretary Andrew Jaramillo called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:**
  - .01 Foundation Board Members David Bains, Duberly Beck, Bud Biggs, Regina Bell, Jack Hamilton, Andrew Jaramillo, Scott Johnson, Kirt Mahlum, Jose Palafox, Tom Rosenbaum, Donna Siegel, Marcia Vargas and Rick Wolf were present.
  - Foundation Board Members Buck Goodspeed, Robert Lovingood, Kevin Porter, and Russell Stringham were absent.
  - .02 AAE School Board Committee Members David Bains, Jose Palafox and Rick Wolf were present.
  - AAE School Board Committee Members Robert Lovingood, Kevin Porter and Russell Stringham were absent.
  - .03 NSAA School Board Committee Members Duberly Beck, Scott Johnson, Andrew Jaramillo, Tom Rosenbaum and Marcia Vargas were present.
  - Staff members Cheryl Dale, Ryan Dorcey, Darren Dowd, Teresa Dowd, Guadalupe Girard, Gustavo Congo, Lisa Lamb, Stacy Newman, Jim Quinn, Toni Preciado, Paul Rosell, Gordon Soholt and Jim Southwick were also present.
  - Linda Fabre represented the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS :**
  - .01 Ron Powell, Desert/Mountain Special Education Local Plan Area, presented guidelines for students in Special Ed. When he joined SELPA in 1981, the laws were 1/4" thick. Today the laws are 3" thick. There are federal laws, federal regulations, state laws, state regulations, and the courts, which have the final decision. Charter schools must follow federal regulations. Laws conflict as charter schools establish their programs per state and authorizer requirements, but federal law trumps them. Lotteries may be held if we are at capacity. What if requirements of an IEP go outside our model or we have a unique educational model? Enrollment policies can't discriminate based on disabilities. Placement doesn't have to be within our school environment, it could be at the County or other district school. As we aren't able to meet every need, we hold IEP meetings to determine the best placement. If we make a recommendation to an outside program we are responsible for paying for that program. SELPA can help find placement within geographic boundaries. It makes sense for the district to take back responsibility if the student is returning to that district. There is a collaborative relationship between districts and SELPA.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
  - .01 Scholarship thank you letters from Nick Natali and Brandon Peterson were included in the packet.
6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
  - .01 Some Board members have expressed interest in setting the time of the Board meetings earlier. As the AAE starts at 7:30, we would need to go to 7:00 a.m. to avoid traffic. It was also expressed that it is hard to hear with the meeting being held in 2 locations. It is best to connect sites from either school to school or county to county systems. Once construction is completed at NSAA, we could hold the meeting at the school site.

7. **INFORMATION:**

.01 Staff Reports - Included in Packet

.02 Internal Financials – Included in Packet

.03 Foundation Board Attendance Log – Included in Packet

.04 President/CEO Report – Gordon Soholt reported that AAE construction is coming along. Pads are poured, the culvert is going in and the parking lot/drop off area is being completed. There are 11 portables currently onsite. We are waiting for one property to sign off for the traffic light and the rest of the properties are progressing. Poles have been ordered. Edison's cost for the power lines to be put underground is significantly higher than estimated, close to \$300K. There is no definitive timeline for the projects. At NSAA the new parking lot is graded and asphalted, the portable area is fenced and the rock base has been installed.

At the December Foundation Board meeting, lawyers from YM&C will provide board training in the Brown Act, Conflict of Interest, and Board Responsibilities. We ask that everyone attend in person in Apple Valley for this important meeting, which begin at 8:00 a.m.

The Ambassadors held a blood drive and collected 88 pints of blood. AAE staff and students have been participating in the ALS ice bucket challenge to honor one of our former teachers, Steve Hollifield, who we lost to ALS.

Gordon has been asked to join the CCSA Member Council.

.05 AAE Principal's Report – Lisa Lamb reported that AAE has had a great start this year. Tim Shields presented to MS/HS students to continue research with the desert tortoise population. We have a partnership with Hardshell Labs for this. We are holding a 9/11 ceremony on Thursday at MRC and Corwin. Teachers continue PLC training and are doing more assessment and student interventions. Scores are higher in all departments and discipline incidents have increased. We have changed our student information system over to Illuminate.

.06 NSAA Principal's Report – Lupita Girard reported that their teachers are continuing PLC training and providing extra support and interventions. Middle school started a new sports program and their first game is Thursday. They are doing English language development for English learners. Recruitment efforts are ongoing - thank you to Scott Johnson and Duberly Beck for their help.

8. **STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

.01 (a) Budget/Audit Committee – Jim Quinn reported that the budget committee met and discussed the increased construction costs, including the Edison costs at just over \$300K. We may need to use our line of credit at some point, and are also working with Union Bank on a financing agreement.

(b) Fundraising Committee – Donna Siegel thanked everyone for supporting Rick's retirement party and roast. Rick and Linda were given a trip to Sedona as his retirement gift and we raised \$760 for our scholarship funds.

(c) Personnel Committee – Regina Bell reported that the committee has not met.

9. **STAFF COMMENTS:** none

10. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Andy Jaramillo reported that he had lunch with Ted Alejandre, Ralph Baker and Reed Montgomery and they are open to helping with NSAA going K-12. We would need to get in writing what our needs are and get NSAA parents, the Board, and Gordon involved. Scott Johnson noted that at the last Board meeting a consultant/employee to identify needs going forward was discussed as current staff has their hands full with operations. He would like HR to create a job description. Andy noted that due to budget constraints we haven't been able to follow up on this and Ted may have some resources. Gordon would like the Budget Committee to discuss this. Regina asked if we were ready for a FT person or a consultant to assess and make recommendations. Bud stated that the NSAA Board needs to work this out and bring it to the Foundation Board.

11. **FOUNDATION BOARD CONSENT AGENDA:**

- .01 Approve Minutes of June 9, 2014 Regular Meeting and August 5, 2014 Special Meeting
- .02 Approve July 1, 2014 Financial Reports
- .03 Approve Foundation Financial Reports for May, June and July 2014
- .04 Approve BP 1312.3: Uniform Complaint Procedures Revision
- .05 Approve Increasing Gordon Soholt's Credit Card from \$5,000 to \$8,000
- .06 Approve Increasing Ryan Dorcey's Credit Card from \$3,000 to \$5,000
- .07 Approve Credit Card in the Amount of \$3,000 for Stacy Newman
- .08 Approve Credit Card in the Amount of \$3,000 for Laura Hoffman
- .09 Approve Credit Card in the Amount of \$3,000 for Robert Anderson
- .10 Approve Credit Card in the Amount of \$500 for Kathryn Piercy
- .11 Approve AR 6158 - Independent Study Criteria Revision
- .12 Approve BP 6158 - Independent Study
- .13 Approve Petty Checking Account not to exceed \$1,000 for NSAA Athletics
- .14 Approve VVC and Lewis Center Ramp Up Program Agreement

On a motion by Kirtland Mahlum, seconded by Scott Johnson, vote 13-0, the Board of Directors approved consent agenda items 11.01 – 11.14.

12. **FOUNDATION BOARD ACTION ITEM:**

- .01 Authorize Gordon Soholt to Negotiate New Union Bank Loan up to \$2,000,000

On a motion by Scott Johnson, seconded by Regina Bell, vote 13-0, the Board of Directors authorized Gordon Soholt to negotiate a new Union Bank loan up to \$2,000,000. We could also access our \$2 million line of credit if needed. Union Bank is coming up with a proposal Jim and Gordon will look at.

13. **AAE SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDA:**

- .01 Approve Minutes of August, 2014 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve AAE Comparatives
- .03 Approve Pine Summit 6th Grade Science Camp – May 20 – 22, 2015
- .04 Approve Washington D.C. 8<sup>th</sup>-9th Grade Field Trip – September 28 – October 4, 2014

As the AAE School Board Committee did not have a quorum, consent agenda items 13.01 – 13.04 were not approved.

14. **NSAA SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDA:**

- .01 Approve Minutes of August 20, 2014 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve Updated NSAA School Board Committee Meeting Schedule

On a motion by Duberly Beck, seconded by Andrew Jaramillo, vote 5-0, the NSAA School Board Committee approved consent agenda items 14.01 – 14.02.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Biggs adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.