

**Special Meeting of the
High Desert “Partnership in Academic Excellence” Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors**

**Minutes
February 29, 2016**

1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Bud Biggs called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Foundation Board Members, Duberly Beck, Regina Bell, Bud Biggs, Buck Goodspeed, Andrew Jaramillo, Robert Lovingood, Kirt Mahlum, Kevin Porter, Tom Rosenbaum, Donna Siegel, Russell Stringham, Marcia Vargas and Rick Wolf were present.

Foundation Board Members David Bains, Scott Johnson and Jose Palafox were absent.

Staff members Ryan Dorcsey, Teresa Dowd, Darren Dowd, Guadalupe Girard, Lisa Lamb, Stacy Newman, Paul Rosell, Jim Southwick and Gordon Soholt were also present.

3.0 Public Comments: None

4.0 Ground Rules: Facilitator/Consultant Dr. Pat Caldwell went over the ground rules for planning.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items on Strategic Planning:

.01 Foundation Board Job Description

- Russ commented that he felt attendance by teleconference should be allowed and that funds should be raised by consultants. He also doesn't have time to visit the schools.
- Kirt would like to add "unjustified" to the line “defend against criticism” in the Code of Conduct.
- Rick W. would like to take out the word "directly" in the line “bring any concerns to the President/CEO” and add "chair or committee chair" as well.
- Copies of listed items “I have received copies of” will be given to all board members.
- Robert would like to add "establish policy” to the line “I will govern and not manage”. He would also like to add “chair or committee chair” to the line “If I have any questions about reports or action items I will contact the President/CEO”. He would also like the option to opt in/out of fundraising.
- Donna suggested adding "and/or support" to the line “I will actively participate in one or more fundraising activities”.
- Kevin agreed with the teleconferencing as an exception for Jose. He would also like to include the school tour in board meetings.

.02 Facilities Use: 4 proposals of use of the Thunderbird campus were presented to the Board.

1. Blended Learning Program - Rick W. noted that it is similar to the High Desert Premier Academy. It would create an adverse relationship with AVUSD as the charter states use of the Thunderbird campus must be mutually agreed upon, and the Superintendent has let us know they do not support this. It would require large start up costs and ADA wouldn't come in until February.
2. TK Program - having 2 TK classes at Thunderbird would compromise the lottery. AVUSD only supports AAE having 1 TK class. It would require additional staff and take us back to 2 campuses. We could do 1 TK class at MRC.

3. Joint Use STEM Program - this would open up program opportunities and partnerships. We would work with AVUSD and VVC. CSUSB is interested in partnering with us in this way as well. We could reconstruct the flight simulator with new technology and expand the observatory program. It would be a fee based program and we could look for grants as well. A survey could be done to assess participation. We could also start it at AAE and expand it to NSAA.
4. No longer use TBC – Kevin noted we would want consideration for improvements. There would also be a cost savings in maintenance.

A straw vote was taken to see what direction the Board would like staff to pursue.

Option 1 - 1

Option 2 - 0

Option 3 - 10

Option 4 - 2

.03 NSAA – 3 proposed charter revisions. The NSAA will be submitting a revised charter to the County by October. Several issues were discussed.

1. Pursue as K-8 for 5 years to strengthen program and plan for K-12 - the Board would like to strengthen K-8 as K-12 is developed and would like the charter to remain K-12.
2. School identity – the program is dual immersion and the name is confusing. Should the name be changed to something such as Norton Language Academy or Norton Academy? The NSAA School Board Committee will work on this and bring back to the full board.
3. English only strand for 5-8 to increase enrollment – this would help greatly. Marcia does not want the phrase to be "English only". NSAA will work on redesigning the program with parents, staff and the NSAA School Board Committee and will bring back to the full board.

On a motion by Kirt Mahlum, seconded by Tom Rosenbaum, vote 13-0, the Foundation Board of Directors moved to modify the NSAA charter to TK-12, including a planning timeline to implement 9-12 by the end of the charter term.

Discussions during this section were:

- Duberly - parents like K-12 and we don't want to give up on the idea. There has been a lack of planning/vision for the last 5 years. Parents recognize it will take time. CCSA is willing to help with facility funding.
- Marcia - feels support from the board but not from staff. Someone would need to be hired for planning so we need to look for funds. It will take 5 years of planning so we need to start planning now and look at alternative high school concepts. She acknowledged the committee hasn't moved forward on this.
- Andy – there has been no planning and we haven't pursued property. Ted Alejandre will help us financially. We need to meet with him.
- Kirt – we need to ensure action is taken and put verbiage in the charter with a feasible timeline.
- Rick – 9-12 is not a simple matter. It is very complicated with staff and curriculum. He suggested a 9-12 blended program to start and then build the program.
- Stacy – noted that dual immersion was added at the last minute and wasn't in the original charter. This has caused unforeseen enrollment issues. Enrollment wasn't an issue as a space and aeronautics academy. The expense to run a high school is astronomical. We need to beef up the middle grades to get to a HS program.
- Lupita - Duberly and Marcia are our advocates. Parents have not followed through since the meetings were held. They don't feel vision from admin.

- Paul – we will need a cost analysis and know what it's going to take.
- Gordon – can resend his original cost analysis for a traditional 9th grade. We should look at blended learning as well. Staff is in full support of going 9-12 in a successful manner. The last direction from the board was for the NSAA School Board Committee to come back with 9-12 proposal. It has been status quo.
- Tom – asked how AAE established a high school. AAE started as a K-12 home school program. It wasn't a college prep school but is now as we moved to a full time program.

04. LCER Organizational Structure – There is confusion on the Foundation vs. LCER vs. the school board. The Foundation and the LCER are the same. LCER functions as a district office. Pat discussed the board committees. Each has its own staff support and own authority. She would like us to look at possibly pulling the fundraising committee into a separate fund development foundation. It could include community volunteers with only the chair being required as a board member. It would need to be funded. We will explore this option.

05. Bylaws revision – The bylaws need several revisions. We are not following best practices by not having term limits. Pat will work on the revisions with Bud Biggs and Kirt Mahlum .

06. Develop Values/Belief Statements – the group was separated into smaller groups and a values and beliefs statement was worked on. Pat will work with Lisa, Ryan and Regina on formulating the statement based on the exercise and bring a final draft to the full board.

07. Discuss Mission Confusion/Review, Modify or Develop Mission Statement – the group was separated into smaller groups and discussed being a lab school and research center. A new mission statement was developed, which is:

“The purpose of the Lewis Center for Educational Research is to ensure our schools and programs prepare students for success in a global society through data driven, innovative and research proven practices in a safe and inclusive culture.”

08. Develop Vision Statement – the group was separated into smaller groups and a vision statement was worked on. Pat will formulate the statement based on the exercise and bring a final draft to the full board.

09. S.W.O.T. – the group discussed our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

The following items were tabled to the next meeting:

10. Identify Critical Issues

11. Turn Critical Issues into Goals

12. Develop Measureable Objectives for Each Goal

13. Assign Responsibilities for Each Objective/Next Steps

6.0 Adjournment: Chairman Bud Biggs adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.