

**La Academia Dolores Huerta Charter Middle School**

**“A Dual Language Charter Middle School”**

**400 W.Bell St.**

**Las Cruces, NM 88005**

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Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 5:30 PM, LADH

General GC Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order by Adrian Gaytan at 5:38 PM
2. Roll call and establish quorum:
3. GC Members Present: Adrian Gaytan, Elaine Palma, Robert Palacios, Yoli Siva, and Michael Sena

**Quorum established**

1. Guests: Melissa Miranda, Head Administrator; Mirna Rodriguez, Business Specialist; Sylvy Galvan de Lucero, Instructional Coach/Assistant Principal; LADH teachers, parents and students (please see attached sign-in sheet); Mia Sosa Provencio, UNM professor (participated via telephone conference)
2. Approval of agenda

**Adrian Gaytan moved to approve the agenda; Yoli Silva seconded**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Adrian Gaytan: yes**

**Elaine Palma: yes**

**Robert Palacios: yes**

**Yoli Silva: yes**

**Michael Sena: yes**

**None opposed, motion passed**

1. Open forum-public input\*

-Elaine Palma read letter received from PEC. Then summarized Susan Fox’s email opinion.

-Adrian Gaytan spoke to the disappointment of not getting the renewal application approved and the disappointment of hearing that Ms. Fox does not feel there is a legal basis for an appeal.

-Mia Sosa Provencio asked what student progress is based on. Melissa Miranda responded that it is a combination of student test scores and LADH school performance goals. Ms. Provencio stated that there are multiple studies that outline the bias of standardized test when as it applies to bilingual students. LADH has a diverse population that is not taken into account by these tests.

-Mr. Gaytan stated that the new NM Governor is not supportive of current standardized states. Perhaps the new administration will be open to reconsidering.

-Lily Leyva (parent): What can parents do to help the Governing Council (GC) keep the school open? Mr. Gaytan recommended parents contact those in power.

Ms. Provencio: The community has the power. Kids can speak at the legislative session. Need to work with legislators and people in higher education. Stated that she could pull support from UNM and NMSU. You need to pull teachers together and LADH alumni as well. Knows the power of rallying the community. Parents know better than anyone what their kids need and therefore parents need to be at the heart of this movement. She noted that she would happily partner with anyone who is willing to start the ball rolling on an appeal. She is not familiar with the appeal process and would need to speak with the school attorney. Referenced Judge Singleton’s decision which stated that PED is not adequately meeting the needs of our children in the state.

-Alejandro Quezada (parent): There are members of the Las Cruces City Council that advocate for education. One is Angelica Rubio. Representative Nathan Small is also a strong advocate. Also, NM Dreamer team would help. He studied in public school and felt discrimination against as teachers couldn’t say his last name, which made him feel separated/different from the other children. Even if the school only met one of the five goals, then it is doing well. Is this an attack on our ethnicity? Our culture? Our kids need a school like this. We need an elementary school like this. We need a high school like this.

-Sandra Navarrete (parent): ¿Quien les dio las cinco metas a la escuela? Ms. Miranda noted that the five school outcomes/goals were created by the previous LADH administration. She identified all five goals.

-Eric Navarrete (parent): Will the GC appeal regardless of what the attorney recommends? As far as the appeal goes, who hears the appeal? Mrs. Palma responded that the NM Secretary of education reviews the appeal and makes a determination. The Governor has not yet appointed the new Secretary, but Howie Morales, Lt. Governor is currently serving in that capacity.

-Veronica Garcia (parent): As parents do we start the appeal letter? I am at a loss? We all know people in the city? Where do we start? My daughter is having panic attacks. I can contact city council members. I just need to know what you need me to do. We cannot stay silent.

-Mr. Gaytan stated that he was personally surprised that the school was not put on probation as we have a new administration and new GC.

-Robert Palacios stated that he understood that the school needed to focus on things moving forward but the PEC seemed to focus on things that happened in the past. As a GC we need to focus on the legal appeal process but as parents you need to focus on the students

- Sylvy Galvan de Lucero: We need letters and phone calls to anyone who will listen. It needs to come from the parents. Ms. Miranda stated the building is open to all parents if they want to meet.

-Mr. Gaytan: Last month a set of parents attended the GC meeting and told the story of their son that was prepared for Arrowhead Early High School by the instruction he received at LADH.

-Yoli Silva: You are a strong group and you have the power. Talk about the experiences your children have had at the school. This is great for your children to see…activism is a great lesson. Get the word out regarding how you feel and what your goals are for the school. The GC will do what we need to do, but we are looked at as the educators the ones trying to keep the school open to maintain jobs, but you can tell success stories.

-Ms. Miranda: The first motion that was put forward by members of the PEC was to renew for three-years. Three voted in favor and three against. The chair Patty Gibson was the tie-breaker vote and she decided non-renewal. She represents the area and is an elected official. The second motion was nonrenewal, which passed. There were some commissioners who understood the dynamics of the school, the population of the school.

-Ms. Provencio: The current administration is going to understand the bias, the racism in other schools. Tests are not a reflection of what the kids can do. Gov. Lujan Grisham does understand that. She put on many community events to look at the bias of systems. I can head up or be part of the research. One of the goals, improvement by one year, is difficult. These tests are not normed on our community.

-Roberto Renteria (teacher): I am a teacher here for the past three years. They do not look at us the same up there due to our ethnicity. When we are about to reach a standard and then they increase the standard. What as teachers and GC members can do to facilitate the participation of parents that do not speak English? Mrs. Palma stated that parents are welcomed to write in Spanish.

-Jesus Escobedo (parent): It seems cruel to me that we reach one standard and then it is changed. Let’s remember that USA is a country of immigrants. It is difficult to understand how people who do not understand our school have the power to judge it. It is sad as they should really look deeper into the school. I have a son in elementary and a daughter in high school and although I do not see much difference, I know that the schools do not strive to develop the relationships between parents, teachers, and students as LADH does.

-Carina Carrillo (parent): Many bilingual students are bullied b/c they speak Spanish in other schools. Many parents in the community are excited and waiting for their students to start at LADH. LADH allows for students to identify with their culture. All my children who have attended LADH are advanced. It would be beneficial to form a group of those who can attend and to have a petition signed.

-Fernando Hernandez (parent): I have been very fortunate to have my children attend this school. I have seen great progress in them academically and socially. I do not think that we should follow the recommendation of the attorney to stop us from fighting. We need to fight for the school. We as parents and teachers and GC should fight for the students and the school. We can’t bend just because someone says we should not file an appeal. We need to find out what options the school has and let the parents know so that they can participate and fight for what we believe in. What good does it do us to send our children to a school with higher grades if they are discriminated against or bullied?

-Sandra Navarrete (parent): By what date do we need to file appeal? Mrs. Palma stated January 21st. Ms. Navarette volunteered to collect letters, call parents who did not attend meeting, and create a video with Mr. Renteria. She stated that first signatures, letters, and then YouTube. We need a plan because we have very little time. She added that she is a bilingual teacher and understands the population. She can write an example letter or a template.

-Eva Hernandez (parent): ¿Tenian un plan the apelar? Mrs. Palma described the appeal process: lawyer completed process and sends it to Secretary of Education who reviews. If he doesn’t reverse the decision, then it can go to court

-Jesus Escobedo (parent): Need to highlight the culture of the school

-Maria Ramos (parent): What happens to the school in the interim?Mrs. Palma noted that the school stays open until the end of the year. The State has provided administration with closing procedures, but the school does remain open through last day of school.

-Cynthia Tellez (parent): The staff is amazing. My son was very shy in elementary but when he came to LADH he flourished. Not all kids are the same and this school has worked for him. Where else would he get this? I hope we can do something about this. This is not just a school, it is a family. It is a good school. I am hoping we can do something about this. My son is really happy with all his teachers and he wants to go to school.

-Paulette Dueñas (parent): My son was learning the same math as friends in high school were learning. I wasn’t taught the correct Spanish in LCPS, this school has helped my kids a lot. I am willing to do whatever it takes. I am outraged.

-Mr. Gaytan: All your stories are impactful and powerful.

-Ms. Silva: Do not wait to see what happens with the appeal. There needs to be so much movement than when he sees the appeal on his desk his reaction is that he better look into it. So please start as soon as possible

-Eva Hernandez (parent): I am a teacher at another charter school. About 4-5 years ago they almost closed us down. There is not a large support in Las Cruces for charter schools. I am going to advise you that you contact the parents that are not here and empower them. It is very important that your voice is heard loudly. If you do not unite, they will close the school.

-Adrian: We can pass on information to those parents.

Berenice Lasoya (parent): The students are expressing some anxiety because they know the school is closing. What can we do to support these students?

Ms. Silva: I think it is key that your children know we are fighting for them. I think it is important that they see you fighting as well. However, it is important that you are honest in case we lose the fight. We need to be prepared. Teachers and parents need to be honest and have these conversations.

Nain Hernandez (student): We need this school b/c its part of our culture, our language, and they cannot take this away from us. We are not just Hispanic, we are humans and they need to understand us. They need to listen to us b/c we have good teachers and we feel like a family. We need to keep LADH in our community. We need to speak. I like this school.

- Maria Ramos (parent): It is obvious that we want to fight. When my son entered, he was at a 4th grade level in 6th grade. Teachers helped me and him. He is not very social, but he learned the guitar, to dance, and better Spanish skills. He is in his 3rd year of high school and knows English and Spanish and is now learning German and Japanese. He continues with guitar. And my daughter is about to graduate from LADH with A’s, who in other middle schools might not have been an A student b/c of the lack of teacher involvement. So, parents we have LADH graduates and we need to ask their story and their parents’ assistance. Parents use social media.

-Mr. Gaytan: Visualize the future that you want.

- Alejandro Quezada (parent): I would like for Howie Morales to know that the appeal is coming. I would also like to have a rally after the letters are sent.

- Jesus Escobedo (parent): Would like television coverage at a meeting. So that people can see what we are doing.

-Sandra Navarrete (parent): We can add family testimonials on YouTube channel. We can meet tomorrow at 4 to generate letters for those who need help.

-Mariana Ceballos (parent): I can create legal documents. All letters need to have name, address, phone number, name of student, date, and signature.

-Socorro Soriano (LADH Social Worker): we are here to support the students. If you as parents feel that your child needs additional support, then please contact me. There will be some students who will need more support than others.

Public comments and observations regarding education policy and governance issues, as well as the strategic planning are heard at this time. Time limit per presenter may be imposed by Chair

1. Approval of December 20, 2018 Regular Governing Council (GC) Meeting Minutes

**Adrian Gaytan moved to approve the December 20, 2018 Regular Governing Council (GC) Meeting Minutes; Michael Sena seconded**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Adrian Gaytan: yes**

**Elaine Palma: yes**

**Robert Palacios: yes**

**Yoli Silva: yes**

**Michael Sena: yes**

**None opposed, motion passed**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review, discussion, approval of appeal process:
2. Review/discussion Susan Fox opinion

**Robert Palacios moved to authorize the GC to appeal to the PEC decision to nonrenew LADH’s charter; Michael Sena seconded**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Adrian Gaytan: yes**

**Elaine Palma: yes**

**Robert Palacios: yes**

**Yoli Silva: yes**

**Michael Sena: yes**

**None opposed, motion passed**

1. GC Statement to media:

The GC has unanimously voted to appeal the PEC decision.

NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY – NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

1. Head Administrator’s Report
2. Review of report provided to GC members

-Career Fair postpone due to various last-minute cancellations. It has been rescheduled for 1/31/19.

-Parent asked about D.A.R.E. Ms. Miranda noted that the D.A.R.E program is for elementary schools but would check into what programs are offered for middle schools.

-Mrs. Palma will make sure and post that a quorum might be established at the 2/2/19 performance.

1. 6th-8th Illuminate Performance Summary Reports for ELA & Math

-November assessment results. Overall achievement in the areas of Language arts and Math. These were aligned as closely as possible with PARC. This is not a good indicator as Illuminate was implemented later in the semester because we didn’t have the pacing guide. Teacher and students didn’t have the full pacing guide available and therefore some skills were not taught in time frame but might have been tested. Pacing guide shuffles concepts to get students ready for March PARC and not aware until October.

Eva Hernandez (parent): La Montañas focused on bubble kids and large growth was noted in each grade level.

6th

Language Arts: 16% not meeting; 18% meet

Math: 48% not meeting; 2.86% met

7th

Language Arts: 13.33% not meeting; 23.33% meet; 3.33% exceed expectations

Math: 10.34% not meeting; 6.90% met

8th

Language Arts: 23.91% not meeting; 8.70% meet

Math: 86.67% not meeting; 0% met

Algebra: 64.29% not meeting; 0% met

After school intervention being provided. Based on teacher observation and testing.

-LADH received a memo at 2:45pm noting that there is a training on Monday to get more information as to what assessments will replace PARC. Time frame for testing is April 22nd-May10th.

1. Financial Committee Report

-Received reimbursements: HB33; SB9; PSCOC first quarter; USDA

-Kyle from the Vigil Group mentioned there will be some BARs coming up

-Funding has been set aside for the appeal process if needed

1. GC Secretary Update:
2. Review/update GC training log:

-PEC has tentatively scheduled a training in Las Cruces for continuing GC members. All GC members stated they would attend, except Elaine Palma as she is out of town with her daughter at a volleyball tournament. Mrs. Palma will send the PEC an email with everyone’s name.

1. Bylaw changes: Has not received any communication from the PEC stating that the changes were accepted.
2. **Robert Palacios moved to adjourn the regular GC meeting at 8:07pm; Michael Sena seconded**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Adrian Gaytan: yes**

**Elaine Palma: yes**

**Robert Palacios: yes**

**Yoli Silva: yes**

**Michael Sena: yes**

**None opposed, motion passed**

\*Any individual attending a board meeting may sign in to participate in the Public Input section of the Agenda, if any. Such persons may speak on any item after the individual is recognized by the President of the Board and introduces himself/herself at the podium. The Governing Council of La Academia Dolores Huerta will not take action on any item presented under Public Input, until an opportunity to do so is afforded. La Academia Dolores Huerta will provide an interpreter for the Hearing Impaired and simultaneous Spanish translation upon request. Requests should be submitted to the chancellor’s office three days prior to the meeting.

Principal’s Report

January 10, 2019

**Current Enrollment**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Enrolled |
| 6th | 43 |
| 7th | 30 |
| 8th | 47 |
| Total | 120 |

No changes in enrollment

**LADH News:**

* LADH Staff returned to work on Monday, January 7, 2019. Staff worked on various items in preparation of students returning on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Staff received PD regarding high quality assignments vs. filler assignments and testing updates.
* Beginning January 14th, students will be given the Green Illuminate Assessment (second assessment given this school year) in the areas of Language Arts & Math.
* Finance Committee Met on Wednesday, January 9th to review bars (budget adjustment requests) and expenditures (what has been spent) for the month of December. Finance Committee will discuss/report at January’s GC Meeting.

**Student Achievement:**

* See Illuminate 6th – 8th ELA & Math Orange Performance Summary Assessment Reports attached

**Professional Learning Community (PLC):**

* Testing updates
  + Illuminate Assessment
  + Access Assessments
* High quality assignments
  + Review components of high quality assignments

**Upcoming Events:**

* Career Fair
  + Friday, January 11th
* 8th Grade Next Step Parent Night
  + Parents will receive information regarding 8th grade transitions to high school.
* Annual Music & Dance Performance
  + - Saturday, February 2, 2019
    - 2:00-5:00 pm
    - Oñate Performing Arts Center
* High Schools Visits
  + All LCPS high school will be available for high school registration

**Fundraisers:**

* World’s Finest Chocolate
  + LADH receives 50% of sales
  + Until all chocolate sold

**Student News:**

* ELA & Math Green Illuminate Assessment (2nd Assessment of school year) will be administered January 14th

**Teacher News:**

* Staff Luncheon
  + Lunch provided on Tuesday, January 8, 2019

**Community Collaboration:**

* LCPD-Officer Rodriguez of the TNT Program
  + Increasing security & safety at LADH
  + Community Outreach Program-K-9 presentation, walk throughs, various presentations etc.

