

SCHOOL FOR INTEGRATED ACADEMICS AND TECHNOLOGIES
ALBUQUERQUE
Minutes of the
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, September 23, 2010
5:30 pm
SIATech
1500 Indian School Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

Council Members Present:

Emily Salazar
John Rodarte
Stacey Cooley
Jacob Kennedy
Greta Roskom

Council Members Not Present

Guests:

Curt Szarek, SIATech Business Manager
Kelly Callahan, SIATech Head Administrator
Virginia Trujillo, Job Corps OA/CTS Director

Minutes:

Donna Vanlandingham, SIATech Administrative Assistant

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 pm by Council President Emily Salazar.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of September 23, 2010 Agenda

Greta Roskom made a motion to approve the agenda. Jacob Kennedy seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of August 17, 2010 Minutes

Greta Roskom made a motion to approve the minutes. Stacey Cooley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Council Officer Elections

There is a vacant position on the Governing Council which Virginia Trujillo has expressed an interest in filling. Emily Salazar made a motion to nominate Ms. Trujillo as a SIATech Governing Council member. John Rodarte seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Virginia Trujillo was sworn in.

Mr. Szarek pointed out that when a majority (in our case, four or more) of SIATech Albuquerque Governing Council members come together for a meeting, which would include any Job Corps meetings (i.e. SLT), a public meeting notice may have to be posted to satisfy the Open Meetings Act. Violations of the Open Meetings Act would result in an audit finding as well as become possible grounds for future revocation. Dr. Salazar asked if there would be a conflict based on the fact that Ms. Trujillo is employed as a contractor for the Job Corps and not employed by Del-Jen directly. Mr. Szarek explained that it does not matter what entity employs whom; what matters is the majority of existing council members team up during Job Corps meetings and the potential for discussing the operation of SIATech Albuquerque exists. Even if SIATech business was not discussed, the perception remains that it could be, and it is important to conduct business in such a way that it leaves no doubt. This topic was discussed in further detail during the Council Development section of the meeting.

4. Graduation Waivers

Ms. Callahan is requesting a graduation waiver for Nicolle Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell passed the GED with the highest scores Ms. Callahan has ever seen. Greta Roskom made a motion to approve the waiver request. Jacob Kennedy seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The waiver will be sent to PED for approval.

5. BAR for 2010/2011 Lease Assistance Award

BAR 0008-IB in the amount of \$59,987. Mr. Szarek distributed a copy of the 2010/2011 Lease Assistance Award letter from the Public School Facilities Authority and signed by APS stating SIATech was awarded the funds. Greta Roskom made a motion to approve the BAR. Jacob Kennedy seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. BAR for ARRA Title I Carryover from 2009/2010

BAR 0006-I in the amount of \$4,246. These funds were awarded towards the end of the 2009/2010 fiscal year but were unable to be utilized before the year-end. The award will be applied towards the Instructional Coach's salary and benefits, which is an authorized use and which was duly discussed during a Title I meeting with Linda Perrott from APS on Friday, September 17, 2010. Greta Roskom made a motion to approve the BAR. Jacob Kennedy seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Finance Committee Report/Business Manager Report

- The financial statement as of July 31, 2010, was distributed and reviewed with the council.
- A Finance Committee meeting has not been held since the end of July. The committee will meet by the end of October in order to review the quarterly reports.
- An audit committee meeting was held on September 14, 2010. Mr. Szarek distributed and discussed the minutes from the meeting with the Council. Mr. Szarek also distributed the draft audit for review and discussion. After the audit was reviewed and discussed, Mr. Szarek asked for the report back since the audit has not been made public yet.
- Mr. Szarek shared that SIATech has worked with Moss-Adams over the last five audits and he believes a mutual understanding of what is required of both parties has a direct effect on the favorable audit outcome.
- Mr. Szarek has not received a definite date yet for the audit exit conference. The targeted dates discussed by the audit committee are October 15 and October 22. Once he receives a confirmation of the date, he will notify the council.

2. Academic Advisory/CIC/Council Development

- Dr. Salazar reported Job Corps had visitors from Saudi Arabia who toured the campus. The group was visiting at-risk student programs in the United States.
- The topic of the number of Job Corps staff on the Governing Council was brought up earlier in the meeting when Virginia Trujillo was elected to the council. With this placement, there is the potential of violating the Open Meetings Act when four or more (which comprise a quorum) council members meet during a Job Corps or any other meeting. Emily Salazar asked Stacey Cooley if she was still contemplating resigning from the council since she is now the Center Director. Ms. Cooley answered she would resign from the council if it would resolve the issue of violating the OMA. It was suggested the governing council be expanded to a maximum of nine members, with the additional members being non-Job Corps employees. Greta Roskom felt expanding the council would make it too large. She would prefer to see a smaller, stronger council. In addition, expanding of the number of council members would result in having to amend the charter. This item will be placed as an action item on the agenda for the October meeting.
- Kelly Callahan will have the school attorney, Patricia Matthews, look into the consequences of having a majority of council members who collaborate within a common entity and report to the council at the next meeting.
- Virginia Trujillo asked what kind of background a potential council member should possess. Mr. Szarek responded that due to the Legislative requirements for Finance and Audit Committees, a person with a strong finance background would be desirable.

3. Principal Report

The Principal Report was distributed for review. Mr. Bose was not in attendance at the meeting, so Ms. Callahan reviewed the report with the council.

- The next graduation will be held at the Hispanic Cultural Center on February 18.
- The ITA position is still vacant. Now, that the Education Jobs Bill has been signed by the President, the plan is to fill the position as quickly as possible.

4. Head Administrator Report

The Head Administrator report was distributed for review.

- Ms. Callahan gave overview of August meetings and workshops.
- She reviewed some of the immediate threats to SIATech and all charter schools from the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC)
 - The elimination of the small school size adjustment could mean a decrease of \$500,000 to SIATech
 - 30 – 40% of the charter schools could close, if they lost these funds.
 - The elimination of the lease reimbursement would mean a \$60,000 decrease to SIATech
- Ms. Callahan explained the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) is more charter friendly. She feels there is going to be a struggle between the two powerful committees. One of her goals is to educate legislators about the inaccuracies of the LFC report.
- She will be working with the Charter School Coalition to educate key stakeholders and decision makers on the importance of charter schools. One way of doing this is to encourage them to visit charter schools.
- Ms. Callahan asked the council for their support and help in talking to legislators to share how SIATech impacts the students.
- Dr. Salazar suggests all council members know the “elevator speech” so when speaking to legislators or policy makers, the message is the same.
- In order to accomplish what needs to be done Ms. Callahan feels there should be a distinct presence by the SIATech Head Administrator, the Governing Council, teachers, and students during the 2011 legislative session in Santa Fe.

5. Annual Charter School Conference

The New Mexico Charter School Coalition will be holding their 10th Annual Conference on November 18-20, 2010 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino (formerly Isleta). Ms. Callahan encouraged all members to attend in order to meet their required hours of training. Emily Salazar, Greta Roskom, Jacob Kennedy, John Rodarte, Stacey Cooley and Virginia Trujillo will attend the training. They will be registered for the conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next regular scheduled meeting is November 16, 2010.

John Rodarte made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greta Roskom seconded. Emily Salazar adjourned the meeting at 7:14 pm.