

**PPEP TEC HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
PPEP TEC High School Administrative Office
Via Zoom Meeting and Conference Call
1840 E Benson Highway
Tucson, AZ 85714**

**March 3, 2021
6:30 PM**

MINUTES

Notice

A notice of this meeting was posted at the PPEP TEC High School Administration Office, 1840 E. Benson Highway, Tucson, Arizona; the PPEP & Affiliates, Inc. Main Office, 802 E. 46th Street, Tucson, Arizona; the PPEP NFJP / DOL / Behavioral Health Office, 901 E. 46th St., Tucson, AZ; **March 2, 2021**

In Attendance-Board via Zoom Meeting

Gertha Brown-Hurd, Board President
Dr. Celestino Fernandez, Board Member
Maria Chavez, Board Member
Dr. Yvonne Perez, Board Member
Hector Sanchez, Board Secretary (via phone conference)

In Attendance -Administration via Zoom Meeting

Dr. John Arnold, CEO and founder of PPEP Inc.
Kari Hogan, Deputy CEO PPEP Inc.
Wayne Tucker, PTHS Superintendent
Jake Harrington, Director of Property & Maintenance
Jeffery Mace, PTHS Recruitment and Retention Coordinator

Call to Order

Madam President Gertha Brown Herd calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Superintendent Wayne Tucker leads rollcall via zoom. All board members are present for this meeting and acknowledge their attendance with a response of “here” or “present”.

Old Business

I. Approval of the October 2020 Meeting Minutes– Action Item

The motion is made to approve the minutes of October 7, 2020 meetings by board member Dr. Celestino Fernandez and seconded by board member Arnold Palacios. The vote is unanimous including members Dr. Yvonne Pérez, Maria Chavez via zoom and Board Secretary Hector Sanchez telephonically; the motion is carried.

II. Approval of the December 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes-Action Item

The motion is made to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting by board member Maria Chavez and seconded by board member Celestino Fernandez. The vote is unanimous including members Dr. Yvonne Perez, Arnold Palacios via zoom and Board Secretary Hector Sanchez telephonically; the motion is carried.

New Business

III. Approval of PPEP TEC High School Annual Disclosure Statement-Action Item

The motion is made to approve The PTHS Annual Disclosure Statement by member Maria Chavez and seconded by board member Dr. Celestino Fernandez. The vote is unanimous including members Dr. Yvonne Pérez, Arnold Palacios via zoom, and board secretary Hector Sanchez telephonically; the motion is carried.

Miscellaneous

IV. Five Year Review and School Site Compliance-

Superintendent Wayne Tucker explains the necessary procedure as a charter school to complete a five-year review of its program. Mr. Tucker sent a summary of the points that the review will cover. Samples are requested and sent to Charter Board.

Item number three which is the occupancy requirement is necessary to ensure that charter school students and staff are housed in a safe building. Mr. Tucker has asked Jake Harrington, director of property and maintenance to speak to the board regarding the situation at our properties, specifically the Colin Powell Learning Center in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Mr. Harrington states that as they reviewed all the PPEP TEC High School properties they discovered that the property does not have a certificate of occupancy over the course of the 25 years that PPEP TEC has been renting the property. Mr. Harrington is working with the city of Sierra Vista and various stakeholders including the landlord, to determine if a certificate of occupancy can be issued. The various inspections have determined that a certificate cannot be issued until various upgrades to the property are completed. Due to this discovery and the time frame necessary to complete the upgrades PPEP TEC High School has decided to look for an alternative location for the Colin Powell Learning Center.

There are several locations in Sierra Vista that have potential either renting or purchasing a building. The current cost of the lease is a concern since most properties are more expensive. The lead teacher from the school has been taken on tours of properties and one property specifically is in an area that is closer to many currently enrolled students which would make it more convenient for student transportation and potential increase in enrollment. A final decision has not been made as of this meeting as many options are in review at this time.

Board member Palacios asks if there is concern about a timeline for the upcoming school year and the move to a new building. There is no timeframe that has been presented to PPEP TEC as to when the move is necessary however, any movement would happen over the summer of 2021 to have the property ready for the 2021-22 school year. Superintendent Tucker does state that the Colin Powell Learning Center has been a problem area as well as the Cesar Chavez Learning Center in San Luis, Arizona is both properties that need addressing. The property in San Luis Arizona was in the process

of constructing a new building but has been put on hold due to the urgency of the property in Colin Powell. What helps with the decision of finding a new property is that the lead teacher in Sierra Vista has grown her student population by over fifty percent since the beginning of the school year. Superintendent Tucker will keep the governing board informed of any decisions or changes regarding the Colin Powell Learning Center.

V. Best Practices for the Return to In-Person Learning at PPEP TEC High School-Action Item

Superintendent shares his screen to show a presentation with COVID-19 data across PPEP TEC High School from the beginning of the 2020-19 school year. The data showed that although there were positive COVID-19 cases among students, parents, and staff none of cases were transmissions in the schools. The data presented also show the number of staff members that have been vaccinated and those that have chosen to not be vaccinated.

Mr. Tucker speaks to the board about a new Executive Order from the Governor of Arizona stating that all students must be back in school no later than March 15 or the Monday after Spring Break. The Yuma schools will return later than the rest of the schools. Directly after the statement by the Governor the Superintendent Kathy Hoffman had a zoom meeting clarifying that parents and students do have the option to choose if they will return to the schools or choose a hybrid plan. PPEP TEC High School has a plan that can be modified to accommodate virtual, blended, and face to face instruction.

All PPEP TEC High Schools have had some students attend school in-person to partake in special services provided by the program. The number does vary by site due to community spread and mitigation requirements in each county. This shows that the PPEP TEC High School's hybrid plan has been in effect and will continue to do so with some modifications that includes extending the class time from thirty minutes per class to one hour per class and combining both the classroom instruction and zoom instruction.

Although Superintendent Tucker has asked the board to allow modifications to the plan, Madam President states that it would be appropriate for the school administration to determine when it would be best to extend class time from the current thirty-minute model to the one-hour model. Mr. Tucker acknowledges this and clarifies that the board agrees with the statement made by Madam President. Both members Dr. Fernandez and Palacios both agree to allow the administration the flexibility to adjust the mitigation plan as needed since there are so many moving parts.

Madam President then refers to the PPEP TEC High School Mitigation Plan, in section IV regarding any COVID notifications to students and parents to also include informing the PPEP TEC High School Governing Board. She also requests with the support of the board to include the need to have flexibility to adjust the school day as needed and when necessary.

Board Secretary Hector Sanchez asks about the plans for the new school in San Luis. Jake Harrington speaks to the board about the change in plans. Because the land is on a fault-line the construction would be much higher than anticipated. It has been decided that instead of a two-story building with a target enrollment of three hundred students, a more feasible design of a one-story building with an enrollment of one hundred and fifty to two hundred students is more in target with the budget of 2.5 million dollars. Also, with the disruption of COVID-19 it caused a time-laps. The

timeframe for a smaller building is also much shorter than the original design which also helps with costs. Mr. Harrington will communicate any new information for the site as plans move forward.

The board redirects the meeting to make a motion to approve the Returning to School COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Plan with the following changes to the document:

- Insert the statement to allow staff to modify the student instructional day according to the needs of the program
- Under the section, “COVID-19 Case Notification and Quarantine”, number five to include the board members in addition to the students, staff, and parents

The motion is made to approve the changes in the Risk Mitigation plan with the noted changes .by board member Dr. Fernandez and seconded by member Maria Chavez. The vote is unanimous including member Dr. Yvonne Perez, Arnold Palacios via zoom and Board Secretary Hector Sanchez telephonically; the motion is carried.

Before the board moves on to the last item on the agenda, Superintendent Tucker announces that the organization that is assisting the Celestino Fernandez Learning Center achieve accreditation, Cognia has provided their findings. An index was used to grade the educational quality which is 20 points higher than the average program across schools in the United States.

VI. School Updates-

Jeffery Mace reports the state of the district regarding recruitment to the board. All sites have grown in enrollment, yet two sites will graduate half of their population so pre-enrollments will be very important for the location in San Luis and Douglas, Arizona. In Sierra Vista, the Colin Powell Learning Center is growing exponentially in enrollments to almost one hundred students due to the lead teacher’s ability to tap into the community and create a positive learning environment. Mr. Mace states that the current enrollment numbers are good especially because almost sixty thousand students have not returned to school due to COVID-19.

Call to the Public-This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01 (H), action taken because of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

Adjourn-Board member President Gertha Brown Hurd

Board member Hector Sanchez moves to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM