

EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to Safer at Home Orders, this meeting was held virtually.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Our mission is to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engaging their parents, and promoting optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.

Present:

Craig Schneider, Board Chair (arrived at 9:20) Michelle Nagelvoort, Vice Chair Jason Rodriguez, Treasurer Ivo Caouette, Board Director Dianne Mendez-Cantu, Board Director Jessica Large, Board Director (arrived at 9:21 a.m.)	Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent Amy Podratz, Asst. Superintendent of Operations Tanya Rogers, Asst. Superintendent of Business Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent, Education Doug House, Interim Asst. Superintendent, Personnel Natali South, Director of Executive Support
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- 1. Action: Call to Order**
 - Natali South called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and established a quorum.
- 2. Action: Approval of Agenda**
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the agenda.
 - Mr. Caouette seconded.
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: 4 Ayes: Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu; 0 Noes; 3 Absent: Schneider, Vela, Large; Motion Adopted
- 3. Action: Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2020**
 - Ms. Nagelvoort moved to approve Minutes from the April 16, 2020 meeting.
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: 4 Ayes: Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu; 0 Noes; 3 Absent: Schneider, Vela, Large; Motion Adopted

4. **Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**

- Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Warrants, Personnel Action Report, and OPS Contract Ratification.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu; 0 Noes; 3 Absent: Schneider, Vela, Large; Motion Adopted

5. **Public Comments**

- None

6. **Information: Superintendent Report**

- Kathleen Hermsmeyer reviewed the Superintendent's Report and gave updates regarding the steps we have taken to continue to educate our students through Distance Learning. Additionally, she mentioned that plans for returning in the fall are still uncertain until we know what the specific requirements will be in terms of how many students can be in a classroom, and other factors that have not been determined yet. Dr. Hermsmeyer indicated that we have received an award by the National Charter School Alliance for our OPEN Classroom, which we created to provide access to free educational courses and resources to anyone, without having to be a Springs' student. Additionally, Dr. Hermsmeyer gave an update regarding how our marketing efforts have transitioned from an emphasis on in-person events to other avenues to reach families while at home. Dr. Hermsmeyer concluded with an update on the state educational budget as known at this time.

7. **Information: Budget Assumption Report**

- Tanya Rogers reviewed the Budget Assumptions Report, and indicated that many things have changed regarding the revenue expected for next year. Additional information will be released in the coming weeks, but clearly, the State of California is expecting a significant shortfall in funding, including education. We are expecting a negative impact on our funding for next year as well as deferral of funding owed to us for the remainder of this year. While this is not encouraging news whatsoever, plans are being made to adjust as necessary. Meanwhile, we are accessing all forms of available funding including lottery funds, Payroll Protection Plans, and any other grants or revenue streams available to us. Additionally, we do not plan on being able to give our typical 3% annual salary increase to our staff members and will have to make many other undesirable cutbacks.

8. **Action: Approval of Revenue Anticipation Note**

- Ms. Large moved to approve the Revenue Anticipation Note.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.

- Discussion: Tanya Rogers reviewed the resolution which authorizes Empire Springs to obtain a Revenue Anticipation Note to help cover cashflow for the upcoming year.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Large; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela, Motion Adopted

9. **Action: Approval of Consolidated Application for Funding**

- Mr. Caouette moved to approve the Consolidated Application for Funding.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that this application allows us to apply for various forms of funding without having to complete individual applications.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Large; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela, Motion Adopted

10. **Action: Approval of Payroll Protection Program Resolution**


- Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the Payroll Protection Program Resolution.
- Ms. Large seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that the PPP is part of the recently adopted CARES Act which allows small organizations to acquire a loan or a grant to assist with payroll during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Large; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela, Motion Adopted

11. **Board Comments**

- Ms. Large: I apologize for joining the meeting late so I didn't get to comment on the Superintendent's report. I wanted to express how impressed I am with how quickly staff was able to implement additional marketing efforts after our recent marketing meeting. Great job!
- Ms. Mendez-Cantu: A big thank you to all for all of the great work during this situation.
- Ms. Nagelvoort: Thanks to everyone for working so hard.
- Mr. Rodriguez: As everyone has said, thanks to everyone for all of the extra effort right now.
- Mr. Schneider: Yes, thanks to all for everything you're doing. I hope we are able to meet again in person soon. I will be staying on Empire Springs for one more year.

12. **Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

- Ms. Large moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 a.m.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Large; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela, Motion Adopted



Jessica Large, Secretary

6/11/2020

Date

