

EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

August 10, 2022

1:00 p.m.

**Pechanga Resort Casino
45000 Pechanga Pkwy
Temecula, CA 92592**

Cottonwood Meeting Room - 2nd Floor

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:

Ivo Caouette, Chair Dianne Mendez-Cantu, Vice Chair Michelle Nagelvoort, Board Director Stephanie Vargas, Board Director Tracey Vela, Board Director	Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent Amy Podratz, Asst. Superintendent of Admin Ops Virginia Smith, Asst. Superintendent, Human Resources Natali South, Senior Director of Charter Relations Katherine Van Leeuwen, Senior Director of Admin Ops Linda Rhoads-Parks, Legal Counsel
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- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
 - Natali South called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
 - Ms. Nagelvoort moved to approve the agenda.
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
 - Vote: 4 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Nagelvoort, Vela; 2 Absent: Rodriguez, Schneider; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 3. Information: Appointment of Board Member**
 - Natali South informed the Board that Springs Inc. appointed Stephanie Vargas for a first, renewable term, expiring June 30, 2025.

4. **Oath of Office: Stephanie Vargas**
 - Natali South led Stephanie Vargas in the Oath of Office.

5. **Public Comments**
 - None

6. **Action: Approval of Revised Board Policy 5006.1 - Independent Study Policy**
 - Mr. Caouette moved to approve the Revised Board Policy 5006.1 - Independent Study Policy.
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
 - Discussion: Amy Podratz reviewed the changes to this policy and indicated that it is required to have the updated policy in place prior to the start of school.
 - Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Nagelvoort, Vargas, Vela; 2 Absent: Rodriguez, Schneider; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

7. **Action: Approval of County-wide Petition - Inland Empire Springs**
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the County-wide Petition - Inland Empire Springs.
 - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
 - Discussion: Amy Podratz explained to the Board that we are in the process of submitting a petition to the San Bernardino County Board of Education in pursuit of a county-wide benefit charter. The petition was available for review.
 - Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Nagelvoort, Vargas, Vela; 2 Absent: Rodriguez, Schneider; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

8. **Action: Approval of MOU with Barstow Community College**
 - Ms. Nagelvoort moved to approve the MOU with Barstow Community College.
 - Ms. Vargas seconded.
 - Discussion: Dr. Hermsmeyer explained that the partnership with Barstow Community College will allow our students to earn college credit.
 - Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Nagelvoort, Vargas, Vela; 2 Absent: Rodriguez, Schneider; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

9. **Action: Approval of Declaration of Need for Highly Qualified Teachers**
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the Declaration of Need for Highly Qualified Teachers.
 - Mr. Caouette seconded.
 - Discussion: Virginia Smith explained that the DON is certifying that there is an insufficient number of certificated staff with English Learner authorizations. Having the adopted DON in place will allow time for teachers to seek the necessary certifications.

- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

10. Information: Annual Board Training

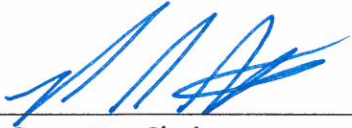
- Linda Rhoads-Parks, Esq., provided comprehensive training for the Boards on the matters of The Brown Act, CG1090, Conflict of Interest and other Board-related responsibilities.

11. Board Comments

- None

12. Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

- Ms. Vargas moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 p.m.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Nagelvoort, Vargas, Vela; 2 Absent: Rodriguez, Schneider; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted



Ivo Caouette, Chair

9/15/22

Date