

**STAR School Board Minutes**  
**Little America Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ**  
**October 3 & 4, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am by Chair Mark Sorensen.

Members present: Mark Sorensen, Chair; Thomas Walker, Vice Chair; Evelyn McCabe, and Rick St. Germaine, Secretary.

Others present: Ike Ozis (Principal), Nicole Burkhardt, Tom Tomas, Vicki Tomas, Pauline Butler, Robyn David, Lisa Kirkwood, Danny Begay, Alonzo, Steve Arras,

A motion was made by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Thomas Walker that the minutes of June 25, 2016 be approved. The motion was carried 4-0-0.

Director Mark Sorensen reviewed today's meeting agenda with Board members. This meeting will be a School Leadership Retreat to clarify school needs, congruence with policy and purpose, and communication.

A motion was made by Rick St. Germaine and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that the Board Meeting Agenda of October 3 & 4, 2016 be approved. The motion was carried 4-0-0.

Mark Sorensen reported on the STAR School statement of purpose, asking that Board members share their understanding of our School purpose. Board members expressed their view that the school is ever-changing, evolving, and this is an opportunity for reflection, to self-examine, hear the voices of stakeholders, identify needs, consider policy, transmit the value of Ke' to our children, hold collective conversation, and opportunity for alignment.

Principal Ike Ozis provided opening comments. He discussed his cultural values as well. He indicated we should celebrate the things we do well, examine the things we need to grow, and the need to look forward.

School department heads provided status reports.

Steve Arras discussed facilities and custodial status. The facility is in good condition. Danny Begay and Lorenzo are doing well. Work orders are being completed. Alchini Bighan facility mouse proofed, foundations added. Custodial work is done well. Carpets cleaned, shiny floors. Construction: met with architect, it is a two year process, actual construction will be 13 weeks, Native American preference in employment, timeline it is on track.

Robyn David reported on food service program. This is her first semester in her new capacity and things are going very well. She discussed staff relations, food services, training,

Pauline Butler reported on the community relations program. Communications with families. She discussed water drinking for students, literacy grant program to promote more reading, more books for students to read, one Saturday a week for a flea market reading corner, first Friday per month for 40-60 boxes of food for community donations, and the STAR School face page is doing well.

Lisa Burkhardt gave a report on 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grades report. 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are doing meaningful work and fully engaged in math & reading coursework. STEM areas are being built. Enhanced writing work is being done. Tool Box problem solvers and change makers work. Relationships, leadership.

Brianna Bennet is doing very well, especially with Dine language and culture. Peer assisting, leadership for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.

Kori Moore reported on iReady intervention program, Kori and Revaline are the interventionists. They track student reading diagnostics. Students are classified into three tiers. Our 118 tested students are 56% Tier 1, 16% Tier 2, and 28% Tier 3. Intervention screener is a graphic representation of where all of our students are at in tiers, by grades. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are 27% T1, 9% T2, and 64% T3. !! Diagnostic testing system, monthly progress monitoring. Tutors assess data daily. Provide RtI interventions. Discussed were technology needs. .

Lunch recess at 12:00 – 1:50 pm.

Vikki Tomas discussed the ELA and social studies programs for middle school students. Her graphic organizer described her thematic curriculum, units and lessons, VOICES literacy based program.. Student-directed learning, portfolio assessment, research (primary & secondary sources), which allows her to better prepare for their learning needs. Nizhoniga lina curriculum.

Tom Tomas discussed the middle school science program – STAR STEAM program. Data driven, Individual growth, Cluster/pod, Evaluation (DICE). Students integrate science with culture. Student individualized Action Plan should be coordinated among pod group more often. iReady intervention, data driven program is very helpful.

Beverly Paddock presented status of front office. She discussed student recruitment, parent contacts, 132 students are enrolled this year, athletics is doing well, Bev is coaching Cross Country, Volleyball team is doing well,

Garry Monroe gave a report on the Business Office. The new Quick Books accounting system has many online glitches and we need remedies. The STAR multi grant accounting system is complicated. Garry needs help for when the system goes down almost every day around 2:00 pm. Discussed the fact that the school has adopted the new accounting system and we need to make it work.

Ike Ozis and Nichol Burkhardt discussed feedback from school staff regarding strengths and weaknesses of the school. Nichole reviewed the results and responses to the STAR School Satisfaction Survey. There were indications of many positives and some negatives.

Board commentary: There is need to make improvements in a number of areas. Our primary function as a school is instruction in a culturally aware environment and teachers are a critical component of instruction. The rest of the staff are supportive to that end, but need recognition and assistance to help improve, as well. Board members viewed this self-examination process as healthy and more opportunity for coming together to share and reflect, collectively, should be a regular part of what we do as a school community.

Motion was made by Rick St. Germaine and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that the Board recess for the day, at 4:4 pm. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

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The meeting was resumed on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, called to order at 9:34 am by Chair Mark Sorensen.

Members present: Mark Sorensen, Chair; Thomas Walker, Vice Chair; Evelyn McCabe, and Rick St. Germaine, Secretary.

Others present: Ike Ozis (Principal), Nicole Burkhardt, and Steve Arras.

The Board met with Ike Ozis, Principal, to discuss issues identified in the staff survey. Improving school culture, employee evaluation, school accreditation process, PMP plan, iReady intervention program, construction plan, stakeholder inclusiveness, personnel policies, employee performance, and administrator-board relations

The Board meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 am.

The Board resumed its meeting at 1:43 pm.

The Board held a conversation with the STAR School administration (Mark Sorensen, Ike Ozis, Nichole Burkhardt, and Steve Arras) regarding policy issues. The Board discussed the vision of its ideal cultural mixture. The school is public and as such has an open enrollment policy. How do Navajo parents feel about the mixture of non-Native students? Where do we see STAR School in ten years? Discussed were matters of a high school program. Future qualities of STAR School.

The Board discussed issues of personnel and nepotism.

Steve Arras provided a report on school construction development.

Motion was made by Rick St. Germaine and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that the Board authorizes the revision to the renewal charter contract in which we agree to amend the terms of the Renewal Charter Contract executed on April 13, 2015 as follows: to delete paragraph 13.D and to delete paragraph 13.E and authorize Mark Sorensen, President of PDDP, to sign on behalf of our organization. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

Motion was made by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Thomas Walker that allows Board members to sign off on the charter school budget for this current 15-16 school year when it is prepared. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

Motion was made by Rick St. Germaine and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that Ike Ozis, Principal, be authorized to supervise Business Office employees and it be reflected as such in his job description/contract. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

Motion was made by Rick St. Germaine and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that the Board approves the Resolution # 16-001 regarding declares its support and approval to Regina Eddie, Ph.D. student at UNM to conduct her dissertation research project at the STAR School as part of her doctoral program. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

Motion was made by Rick St. Germaine and seconded by Evelyn McCabe that authorizes continued support for the Wellness Center and the related reserving of office space under Painted Desert Demonstration Project. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

Motion was made by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Thomas Walker that the Board authorizes the Construction supervisor to let out a bid notice for the IA construction project and that responses to the bid will be reviewed and selected by the Board. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

Thomas Walker left the meeting at 4:50 pm.

Motion was made by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Rick St. Germaine that the Board authorizes the emergency preparedness update. Motion was passed by a vote of 3-0-0.

The next board meeting may be in November, 2016. Another meeting may be needed in late December for purposes of reviewing project construction bids.

Motion was made by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Rick St. Germaine that the Board meeting adjourn at 4:54 pm. Motion was passed by a vote of 3-0-0.

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