

Minutes of Board meeting for August 16, 2017

President Mark Sorensen called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. In attendance: Thomas Walker, Evelyn McCabe, Mark Sorensen. Rick St Germaine was called but did not answer the phone.

Thomas Walker offered words of wisdom.

Motion by Evelyn McCabe to accept the agenda and defer review of the minutes of the last meeting. Second by Thomas Walker. 3-0-0 motion carried.

Action/Discussion items:

Mark and Thomas presented on the results of the meetings with the staff, administration, students and parents that have been held in the past week at STAR School regarding the eclipse and how we should handle the serious cultural implications of this event. Motion by Evelyn McCabe and second by Thomas Walker to adopt the following policy:

As authorized by ARS 15-901 (A) (1), the STAR School shall consider an absence for students whose families choose to observe a religious holiday as an excused absence. Families must provide written consent to the school front office for their child to be excused. A form will be made available to families to use to meet this requirement.

Vote 3-0-0, motion carried. Rick St Germaine indicated prior to the meeting his support for this policy change.

Based on the extensive feedback the Board received from staff, students, parents and community members, a motion was made by Thomas Walker and seconded by Evelyn McCabe to cancel school on Monday, August 21, as a respectful response to traditional Navajo cultural teachings and for the Board to send a letter explaining this decision to all families of the school. Vote 3-0-0, motion carried.

Motion by Evelyn McCabe and seconded by Thomas Walker to adjourn the meeting. Vote 3-0-0 motion carried.