

ANTHONY CHARTER SCHOOL

Governing Council Meeting

Monday June 05th, 2017

At 6:15 pm

Anthony Charter School

780 Landers Rd

Anthony, New Mexico 88021

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The mission of Anthony Charter School is to work with students and families to identify student abilities, both academically and social-emotionally, using a Personalized Education Plan as a pathway to ensure graduation.

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

- a. GC President Wendler called the Governing Council Meeting to order at 6:15 pm.
- b. Invocation
- c. Roll Call- Claudia Quinonez called roll of the GC Secretary
- d. Pledge of Allegiance- GC President Wendler

In attendance were ACS Council Members:

Charles Wendler, GC President- Present

Claudia Quinonez, Secretary- Present

Rocio Rodriguez, GC Vice President- Present

Elsa Johnston, GC Member- Present

Eustacio Olivas, GC Member- Present

Barbie Garcia, GC Member- Present

Maria Delgado, GC Member- Present

ACS Council Members Absent:

NA

A quorum of the Council Members of Anthony Charter School was determined

ACS Charter School Staff Present

Denise Marmolejo- Minute Recorder

Jaime Armendariz, Dr. Kelly Aguilar, Karla Sepulveda, Juana

Miramontez, Hilda Arango, Jimmy Gonzalez, Delia Fragoso

Public in Attendance

Esai Armendariz, Jaime Armendariz, Ivan Barcenaz, Jonathan Trigos,

Gabriel Holguin, Mari Lozano, Loren Schoonover, Belen Enriquez,

Maribel Miramontez, Diamond Miramontez, Gloria Olivas, Arturo Mena,

Gilbert Garcia, Rita Gutierrez, Naomi Valenzuela, Ruben Valenzuela,

Veronica Lozano, Alberto Rojas, Max Padilla, Pricilla Matice, Claudia Pereyra.

- E. Action Item: Approval of Agenda 06/05/2017-** A motion was made by GC member Garcia and second by Vice President Rodriguez to approve the agenda 06/05/2017 as written. The motion carried. Votes Favor 6, opposed 1.

President Wendler- yes, GC Quinones- yes, GC Vice President Rodriguez- yes, GC Johnston- yes, GC Olivas- no, GC Garcia-yes, GC Delgado-aye.

President Wendler asked the GC members for a motion to convene into closed session. GC Member Garcia move that the GC of Anthony Charter School move into closed session pursuant to Section 10-15-1(h)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meeting Act to discuss Renewal of Director's Contract SY 2017-2018 and Renewal of School Community Coordinator's Contract SY 2017-2018 the motion was second by Secretary Quinonez. Discussion: GC member Olivas objected to the closed session. He responded to the GC "this meeting is not legal we have not evaluated him, he should be present". "Second the contract of the community coordinator contract I do not agree with that". "How can we vote on his contract? It is an illegal meeting. We cannot get sued, I object". Secretary takes roll call vote to move into closed session. The motion carried. Votes: Favor 6, opposed 1 abstain 0. President Wendler- yes, GC Quinones- yes, GC Vice President Rodriguez- yes, GC Johnston- yes, GC Olivas- no, GC Garcia-yes, GC Delgado-yes. Time: **6:25 pm**.

II. Executive Session-Closed Session

1. Renewal of Director's Contract SY 2017-2018
2. Renewal of School Community Coordinator's Contract SY 2017-2018

President Wendler asked the GC Members for a motion to reconvene in Open Session and affirmed that all that was discussed in closed session were the items stated on the agenda and that no action was taken. President Wendler Thanks the public for waiting.

Vice President Rodriguez moved to reconvene in open session and affirmed that all that was discussed were the items identified on our agenda and that no action was taken the motion was second by GC member Garcia and affirmed that all that was discussed in closed session were the items stated on the agenda and that no action was taken. The motion carried. Vote: in favor: 7, opposed 0, abstain 0. President Wendler stated the time **8:35 pm** meeting back to open session. President Wendler- yes, GC Quinones- yes, GC Vice President Rodriguez- yes, GC Johnston- yes, GC Olivas- yes, GC Garcia-yes, GC Delgado-yes.

III. Board Items- President Charles Wendler

A. New Business

1. **Action Item: Renewal of Directors Contract SY 2017-2018-** President Wendler asked the GC members for a motion to take action on Action Item #1 under New Business, Renewal of Director's Contract SY 2017-2018. GC member Garcia move to DENY the director's contract SY 2017-2018. The motion was second by GC Vice President Rodriguez to DENY the Director's contract SY 2017-2018. Discussion: NONE. The motion carried. Votes: in favor 6, opposed 1, abstain 0. President Wendler- yes, GC Quinones- yes, GC Vice President Rodriguez- yes, GC Johnston- yes, GC Olivas- no, GC Garcia-yes, GC Delgado-yes.
2. **Action Item: Renewal of School Community Coordinator's Contract SY 2017-2018-** President asked the GC members for a motion to take action on Action Item #2 under New Business, Renewal of School Community Coordinator's Contract SY 2017-2018. GC member Garcia move to DENY the School Community Coordinator's contract SY 2017-2018. The motion was second by GC Vice President Rodriguez to DENY the School Community Coordinator's contract SY 2017-2018. Discussion:

NONE. The motion carried. Votes: in favor 6, opposed 1, abstain 0.
President Wendler- yes, GC Quinones- yes, GC Vice President Rodriguez-
yes, GC Johnston- yes, GC Olivas- no, GC Garcia-yes, GC Delgado-yes.

IV. Public Input- Max of 3 minutes

Max Padilla- supported the kids with Dr Armendariz on a walkathon.

Jaime Armendariz, - Community School Coordinator

I am the school community coordinator of the student body and the community. Last year Dr. Armendariz raised the grade from an f to a C and successfully completed the school year. He has supplemented the school with other funds that add another 10% because of the gifted students. ACS now offers an internship with the faculty. There were only fifty students the previous year the following year it grew by 50 percent. He also built an awning area and acquired three portables, one of which is reserved for the school community coordinator—which am surprised that all staff does not use when ever needed it is needed. The school now has lighting and one of the commissioners personally called Dr. Armendariz to congratulate him and staff. This attendance is undermined by other staff is that is unloyal and unethical. To the public I say to review the bylaws and educated yourselves by them regarding legal proceedings.

Max Padilla:

I am a community member. Have you, as the school board, received the action items and related to the school director? My last questions is that in most public meetings, isn't public commentary supposed to be given before you take any action on the board?

Maribel Antuñez:

My daughter is Monique Franco- I brought my daughter from another school. Mr. (Dr.) Armendariz accepted my daughter at this school and what you are doing is a huge mistake. However, she successfully ended the school year.

Jaime Armendariz- Student

I am a former student and I think that what you're doing is wrong. I came here in 8th grade with some problems and Dr. A. helped me turn them around. He is a good man.

Diamond Miramontez:

I am the cheerleading coach and substitute teacher. I admire Dr. Armendariz. His work ethic reminded me of my grandfather. I especially think what you're doing to him is wrong. I used to come here and the director... you don't know what a great boss you have. He is not the problem. I have one idea about a certain teacher and several that I won't mention. I really think you guys are making a mistake. He brought the athletic program and it has improved. It would not have started if it was not for him. He has brought many opportunities. He has given so much to

community. He was the right person and he knew what he was doing. For those that are against Dr. Armendariz, all I have to say is shame on you.

Maria Enriquez:

Pertenezco a este distrito. Mi nieto estaba en el suelo y con sus consejos (Dr. Armendariz) el mejoró sus grados. Igual con sus consejos. No es cualquier cosa y merece respeto.

Gloria Olivas:

Dr. Armendariz is my father and I support this school with monetary donations. He was on his way to help to bring those changes. We all know that children are the way they are and you should not take anything personal because these are the kids that will lead this to the community and make this community better. I know that changes that have happened. It looks like this is illegal meeting. Look at your bylaws everything that is in its notes is documented and is illegal and you can be held accountable. You don't know the work that he did, the changes that needed to take place to make this place successful, and he is taking it there. And if he is holding teachers accountable then that means that he is doing his job and he cares for the kids and provides a strong foundation to live and buy our products to hire these kids to do work here. He is your leader and what are you doing? Are you standing up for what you know or are you following someone that might be leaning you down the wrong road?

Dr. Letty Mora:

I am the school psychologist for the for the Las Cruces charter. I have known Dr. Armendariz on a personal basis. And for him, the students, parents, and the community; I think we owe him some respect. He was not thinking about himself. Plus we only need to see that this is a violation of the law. In my professional life we always hear about different things. It is positive chisme we hear about this school.

A jury that means not everyone votes education and not favor. (Indistinguishable and unable to recollect)

My daughter was looking to enroll my grandchildren- we are looking to choose.

Charles Wendler:

So you don't have a child at the school.

Gloria Gameros:

I am a trustee with the City of Anthony. My son started school here in sixth grade. I always saw him (Dr. Armendariz) bring parents into meetings. I was surprised about this and I was also a PASSO board member. For those of that you have personal agendas, I hope you have gone to your trainings and are very well versed. You could be violating something by not following procedures. I am very

disappointed, granted that I don't know the facts regarding this important individual.

Arturo Mena:

My name is Arturo Mena. I have been helping out with the maintenance and Jaime (Armendariz, Sr.) has helped the school in so many areas. He gave me this opportunity. I have not heard any negative. Everyone is going behind their back.

Ruben Valenzuela:

My name is Ruben Valenzuela and my youngest daughter attends school here. I was not aware that the school was not going through such trouble. I thought it was just a little bit. I didn't think it was this serious. Thank you.

Garbiel Holguin:

I am a student at Anthony charter school I came to this school I have seen the administrative intimidation with the school. How are you going to know how they teach? I think of moving to another school because the teachers are intimidated. The office fails to inform the teacher and parents. I believe in following in my gut that I have witnesses.

Dr. Kelli Aguilar:

Anthony Charter School Governance Council, colleagues, the community of Anthony, parents, and students:

I stand before you today to provide a testimonial about the school year of 2016-2017. First, I would like to say that as staff and faculty, we are truly committed to our up and coming five-year renewal for our school charter and that we are confident that with new leadership in place, we can achieve this status. Our science teacher has taken the lead with this application and poured many hours into this application at the same salary and never paid for any of this extra work for our school. He did this during summer hours and many of us are witness to his hard work as well on this project. Many of our staff and faculty work late hours or come in on weekends to get work done that benefits our students without any extra pay or time off as well.

Now, I would like to add a slightly negative slant to the school year we had which included an atmosphere of mistrust and a hostile work environment. The year began like the previous one except for the fact that we now had a community coordinator who took it upon himself to give orders to faculty and staff and showed up to work as he pleased. I am also aware of the fact that he was not at work as we were on a daily basis. During the months of April and May he managed to spend ten thousand dollars on furniture for a room he never used while the rest of us needed books, supplies and materials for our students. Most of the teachers have purchased supplies that we needed in our classroom, out of our own pockets, throughout the year. Unfortunately, we are also aware of a negative criminal background history, which is public information, for anyone to look up. In addition, those ESL classes he was supposed to teach never happened and I am sure we have parents and community members present that are able to attest to

this. I provided the materials he could have used to teach these courses to him. The materials are still in the same baskets today, as they were, the day I handed them to him.

During Professional Development Fridays, we were given orders by this community coordinator and bullied during these meetings as well by him. We had no recourse and said very little to him as he is related to the principal. We were also instructed to not encourage parents on our school campus as well and I personally witnessed the community coordinator escort a mother from my classroom in late May, as she was there for more than five minutes. I could be wrong, but a community coordinator encourages parental involvement and does not ask them to leave campus and argue with faculty and staff in front of parents. In conclusion, I want everyone here to know that most teachers here travel many miles to work in this school as we truly care for our students and this community. I know that one colleague spends many hours teaching our students about opera and cultural film, history and theater while another uses this school property to run science experiments as he has never had a science lab for his students. Our math teacher provides students with high tech calculators and teaches them mathematics at the highest levels. Our assistant provided an excellent Law Class for our students and she also is in charge of the testing and preparation of our students and their college prep programs. Our Special Education teachers not only teach here but have provided our school with the culture of our community through Folklorico and Dance. As you may know, as the Student Council Sponsor myself, I have tried to provide students with dances and fun events such as field day and bake sales. Our Student Council along with the PASSO group, paid for the prom this year as well as the Senior Breakfast. All of us have also provided many pizza and ice cream parties, along with sporting equipment to students so they could enjoy a little down time along with exercise, out of our own pockets!

Ruben Valenzuela:

We were never given this kind of information. It's stuff like this we are kind of in the dark about and we have these serious issues. I just want to fix these issues; and especially of the finances and making sure that the teachers are treated equally and that they are treated well.

Jaime Armendariz- School Community Coordinator

It is both a FERPA and HIPPA violation to divulge information regarding someone's criminal background that was cleared by CPS and Gadsden and the administrator and knew about that.

Charles Wendler:

Mr. Armendariz, you are out of order. This board will has fulfilled its obligation with the legalities. *Such issues should not appear here. (Indistinguishable and beyond recollection)*

Esai Armendariz:

Indistinguishable

Karla Sepulveda:

I am the math teacher and have worked here for three years. I started working here in 2013-2014. I left even though I really liked working with these kids and they were all helpful. When I started working with such good colleagues, everything was going wonderfully. I am willing to work with them and yes, I agree with them that I am here for the kids. I enjoy working here despite the things we deal with. I have three jobs, but it's okay because I enjoy myself in working with these kids in getting an education. I want to thank for all your support and helping me out.

Delia Frago:

First, Dr. Armendariz gave me the job last year. When I started, I lacked instructional materials and subsided on the kindness of my co-workers. Mr. Gonzalez provided me with a projector. Dr. Aguilar provided me with books and materials to teach hard to handle students that where exhibited behavior issues. The office provided limited support except for Ms. Marmolejo. As a new teacher, I needed help and my co-workers helped me with the issues that I was facing. They supported me in dealing with those issues and they supported me in the classroom so I could teach in the class to provide a wonderful learning experience. The school needs a counselor and a security guard. Thank you.

Pricilla Matice:

Two years ago, my girls were only Spanish speakers but now they speak English very well. Thank you Dr. Aguilar and Ms. Sepulveda for being there one hundred percent. I appreciate Dr. Armendariz, but I also recognize that the teachers from here are the teachers that teach the kids. They need a nurse and a counselor when the students are in sports because when they get hurt, there is no one there to help them. I do thank the community coordinator but will not talk about the personal issues with him that do not need to be stated here.

Briana Pereyra:

To be honest with you, it seems that these personal problems are very childish. I feel that there has been some miscommunication. Dr. Armendariz has done a great job; however, there is some misunderstanding. The school needs a nurse, a counselor, a janitor help out Ms. Irma, and a security guard.

Jimmy Gonzalez:

My name is Jimmy Gonzalez. I am a social studies teacher here at ACS. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the governing council for allowing us to provide input as to the perception of how matters have transpired over the past

academic year. As faculty members that are willing to provide input, we do so freely and willingly but in trepidation of blatant and passive-aggressive retaliatory measures that might likely follow in light of speaking our minds.

We recognize that this school serves a need in the community and we feel deeply privileged to serve in such a capacity. The school has progressed over the past three years as a collective effort of students, parents, staff, and faculty. As a majority opinion of the faculty, we can attest to the unity that has brought us through the last year despite the formulation of dissenting factions that have tried to usurp administrative control of the school to fulfill their self-serving interests. Change is undoubtedly the most difficult of circumstances with which to contend, but the blatant disregard of a knowledgeable faculty and staff to cater to the whims and needs of few cannot go without mention. To do so would be doing a great disservice to the school constituents that have collectively made efforts in good faith to help the school survive and prosper. Dissenting views can be held in some regard if those interests do not conflict with organizational goals, objectives, or state mandates. The views of the few must not create such heavily conflicted sets of agendas that put the needs of a few over the needs of the majority...as has been the majority perception for the last school year.

We, the faculty, at ACS strive to build a collegial and collaborative environment that is free of conflicts where all members are valued equally in spite of relations or affiliations. It is such a united front that will help to better educate our students and serve our community. Thank you.

Charles Wendler:

As for the GC, we have already done our business. So, I remind you that this is what all the meeting is all about. Mr. Padilla, one minute in fairness.


Max Padilla:

I just want to say that community input will continue to come to the board meeting. I recommend that one day you get an interpreter that you will help the public understand you. I don't know if they have changed the law, but the council needs to remember the separation of church and state.

Adjournment:

President Wendler adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 9:28 pm and announced the next GC meeting scheduled for June 12, 2017 at 6:15 pm location: Anthony Charter School Cafeteria.

7/31/17
(Date)


Claudia Quinonez, Governing Council
Secretary

(06/05/2016) Anthony Charter School Governing Council Minutes

Date Approved: _____

Signature: _____
Charles Wendler, Governance Council
President

Minutes Recorded by Denise Marmolejo

