

**Public Academy for Performing Arts
Governing Council Minutes
Minutes of April 20, 2009**

Voting Members Present: Tom Moore, Roger Miller, Doug Redfield, Amy Anderson, Gloria Rodriguez, John Grassham, and Randy Costales
Quorum Achieved: Yes. There are 7 voting members
Non-Voting Members: Su Hudson and Ed Torrez
Members Absent: None
Guests: Valerie Scott, Leslie M. Porter, Julie Dexter, Barbara Herrington, Mo Taylor, Karen "Cal" Wright, Rhonda Lovato and Israela Nava

Agenda Item 1 – Convene Meeting Roll Call for Quorum

7 voting members present. Quorum achieved

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Agenda

Motion: Doug Redfield
Seconded: Randy Costales
Unanimously passed

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes for the 3/16/09 GC Meeting

Motion: Doug Redfield
Seconded: Amy Anderson
Unanimously passed

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of 2009-2010 School Calendar

Motion: Randy Costales
Seconded: John Grassham
Unanimously passed

Agenda Item 5 – Open Forum

Valerie Scott

Are the professional days on the calendar taking away teaching days?

State statute requires that two public meetings take place to discuss the budget. Only one school meeting was held and she is concerned that the board is not following state law.

March playbill had the correct budget meeting time but it was not corrected on the web. .

When will the four policy changes be placed on an agenda?

The position of VP/Secretary has been morphed into one position without a formal change in policy.

Roger Miller

Roger Miller informed the GC that the Charter calls for an annual internal audit.

There was a discussion that there is not room in the budget for a \$6,000.00 audit.

Agenda Item 6 – Review and Discuss 2009-2010 Budget

Rhonda Lovato briefly described the budget process and the short budget timeline this year:

In February, a budget suggestion box in from the Principal's office, which was addressed with the budget committee. The budget itself, however, could not be created until after the Spring Budget workshop in April due to the late legislative session, which did not end until the 3rd week in March. The budget committee, which consisted of the general public, administration and parents, met on the 16th of April to discuss the detailed budget. Additionally, the actual approval date of the budget was advertised in the legal section of the Journal as well as on the PAPA website and newsletter sent home to parents.

She addressed Valerie Scott's concern regarding state statute regarding 2 public budget meetings. The GC meeting today counted as the first public budget meeting the second will be when APS has a public hearing regarding PAPA's budget. This satisfies state statute.

Rhonda Lovato explained the internal audit process and the state audit process. The internal audit process will help improve efficiency in the business office, while the state audit is a more in depth audit which is performed to improve efficiency, review procedures, and prevent fraud.

Tamara Henderson discussed cuts and changes for the 2009-2010 school year due to highly qualified requirements, class size and budget cuts.

Martial Arts - cut
Dance – 1 section cut
Piano – scale back
Guitar – scale back
Math – expanded by ½ time teacher

Rhonda reviewed the Teacher Salary Schedule with the board.
The new changes in the Salary Schedule aligned more with the T&E Index.

Currently the district (APS) has a higher T&E index, which PAPA will be able to use for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 fiscal year. However, after this 2 year grace period, PAPA and all other charter schools will be required to use their own T&E index.

Although Level I teachers must advance to Level II within 5 years, the salary schedule for Level I teachers allows for up to 10 years of experience for Level I teachers who were grandfathered in after the No Child Left Behind Act was enforced.

The new salary schedule will go into affect July 1, 2009

Rhonda Lovato reviewed the EA Salary Schedule with the GC board members.

EAs require a license and are highly qualified (Pass a state EA exam). They do not have to be endorsed. EA can not lead a class unless they are acting as a substitute when a teacher is absent.

John Grassham stated that if the charter requires an annual internal audit that either the policy should be amended. But until that takes place, it is clear that an internal audit should be done in order to honor the charter. He suggested the PTA or PAPA Foundation should think about raising money for an internal audit.

Randy Costales said that we are at a crossroad regarding the internal audit requirement. The board needs to make a decision immediately.

Roger Miller recommended that the internal audit matter be added to the next agenda for discussion. Either amend the charter to remove the internal audit or start doing it annually.

John Grassham suggested creating a fundraising group to raise money for the school which would include raising money for an internal audit. The foundation may work in this capacity.

Doug Redfield would like to include the security system as a top priority. Tamara driving out to PAPA in the middle of the night is unacceptable.

Tamara Henderson added that is would be a shame to take \$8,000 from students and programs, for an audit of this nature.

Ed Torrez said that the security system would directly affect the kids

Tom Moore would like to discuss the internal audit and security system at the next board meeting.

Amy Anderson and Randy Costales made a request to start public comment at 6:30 pm in respect to everyone in attendance.

Agenda Item 7 – Public Comment

GC Board went around the table and introduced themselves to the visitors.

Doug Redfield – GC Member

The money that has been allocated to PAPA for the 2009-2010 is lower than the 2008-2009 school year. The Federal Stimulus helped by not enough to maintain last year's budget. The cuts that were made were due to the No

Child Left Behind law which states that all teachers must be highly qualified in the area that they teach by 2009. The cuts that were made were based on this requirement. Last year's suggestions were taken into consideration and an additional part-time math teacher was added to the new budget. The budget was reviewed and balanced at the 4/16/09 finance meeting.

Karen Wright – Parent

There does not seem to be a lot of fluff in the budget. The AP classes have been removed and changed to honor programs – what does that mean? What is the difference between honors and AP?

Tamara Henderson - Principal

AP Language and Literature was cut because of budget constraints

PAPA does not have a highly qualified teacher to teach 12th grade AP classes.

PAPA does have a highly qualified 11th grade AP teacher, but due to low number of students, will not be offered..

AP classes are college level courses which afford college level credit to students. AP classes are available online through Ideal NM.

Karen Wright – Parent

College advisement is critical – what is this going to look like next year?

Tamara Henderson - Principal

PAPA will have a staff member responsible for senior curriculum, scholarships, ACT and SAT prep. There will be a specific comprehensive program for seniors, which includes two sections of senior seminar with a curriculum specific to post secondary concerns.

Valerie Scott – PAPA Co-Founder

An internal audit is mandated by the Charter. It is not a state or federal law but the Charter requires it and it should be honored. The GC has the ability to target issues with an audit. It is the GC's fiduciary responsibility to have an internal audit. It is not a frivolous suggestion. The Charter will have to be changed to amend the internal audit requirement. She appreciates the opportunity that have everyone can talk in an open forum. The GC is the body that should listen to community and parents.

Mo Taylor - Parent

With the martial arts program cut the young boys who attend PAPA will not have any type of physical activity to participate in.

Has piano and guitar been cut?

Su Hudson – Teacher

Dance is offered to all ages and is considered physical education.

Tamara Henderson – Principal

The piano and guitar classes have been scaled back, not cut.

Karen Wright – Parent

She volunteers at another charter school where family members donate their services to the school. PAPA should consider asking a parent or community member who is an accountant to perform an internal audit for free or at a discounted rate.

Barbara Herrington – Parent

As a member of the PTSO, she would like more communication with the administrative staff at PAPA. She would like to help support PAPA with fundraisers through PTSO.

Valerie Scott – PAPA Co-Founder

The PAPA Foundation is a 501(c)3 and should be actively getting money for PAPA. She urges the board to get the foundation off the ground. The school should not be involved in the collection of money for the foundation.

Randy Costales – GC Member

He would like a copy of bylaws to understand the relationship between PAPA and the foundation. The foundation should support the mission of PAPA. He requests assistance in recruiting people who would be interested in serving on the foundation.

Mo Taylor - Parent

She would like a new building update.

Tom Moore – GC President

The deadline to be in a new building has been moved to 2015 and there is no longer an immediate demand. The facilities committee is working with APS to find a building for the school but there are not immediate plans to move.

Leslie Porter – Parent

She helped start the PAPA PTSO and would like to get involved to help in many different ways. She would like more communication between the GC and parents and the community. She would like to see more town hall type meetings to allow for more communication.

Ed Torrez – Parent and Teacher

I take my hat off to the people who were involved in putting together the budget. I know it could have been so much worse but they managed to save most of the programs.

The problems have been addressed quite well. As a teacher I feel comfortable with what has taken place with the budget. Thank you for your work. Parents should come to as many GC meetings as possible for the open forum to give food for thought. Please be a voice to be heard. Students are fantastic here because of parents that are involved. Parents - help remind of us where we need to go. Thank you to all the PAPA parents.

Roger Miller – GC Member

Is there any organized physical activity other than dance?

Tamara Henderson - Principal

No. I would have to lay-off someone else to pick up martial arts again. It was just a natural movement because of the highly qualified requirements.

Mo Taylor - Parent

PAPA had a great fencing program. Do you see fencing returning to PAPA?

Tamara Henderson - Principal

PAPA does not have a highly qualified teacher to teach fencing or martial arts.

End of Public Comment and Discussion

**Agenda Item 8 – Approval of 2009-2010 Budget
Approval of 2009-2010 Salary Schedules
Approval of 2009-2010 PED Required School Calendar**

Amy Anderson: Motion to approve 2009-2010 Teacher Salary Schedule and EA Salary Schedule

John Grassham: Seconded

Unanimously Passed

Randy Costales: Motion to approve 2009-2010 Budget

Doug Redfield: Seconded as Amended with the following corrections:
EA - 2.5
Administrative Assistant- 1
Change the Year on Cash Balance to 2009-2010
Unanimously Passed

Agenda Item 9 - Adjourn

Amy Anderson: Motion to Adjourn
Doug Redfield: Seconded
Unanimously passed

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jackie Danfelser.