

**Approved**

**RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
December 19, 2023**

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**

**Kathy McClendon, President  
Dr. Susan McConnell, Vice President  
Dr. Jenn Peña, Secretary  
Christine Mya-San  
Amer Child  
Dana Flores  
Oren Ran**

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**AGENDA**

- A. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER by Kathy McClendon at 6:34PM**
- B. ROLL CALL of Board Members & Welcome Staff and Guests by Dr. Jenn Peña**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Kathy McClendon, President - present  
Dr. Susan McConnell, Vice President - present  
Dr. Jenn Peña, Secretary - present  
Christine Mya-San - not present  
Amer Child - present  
Dana Flores - not present  
Oren Ran - present

**GUESTS**

Kelly Callahan, Board Consultant  
Vanessa Gonzales, Business Manager  
Michele Platis, Founder, co-director  
Dan Hill, Attorney

- C. \*Motion to \*ADOPT THE AGENDA**
  - a. Motion by Dr. Jenn Peña, seconded by Dr. Susan McConnell
  - b. Unanimously approved
- D. \*Motion to \*APPROVE MINUTES Meeting November 14, 2023**
  - a. Motion by Amer Child, seconded by Oren Ran
  - b. Unanimously approved
- E. FINANCIALS**
  - a. \*Motion to \*APPROVE Monthly Financial Report**
    - i. Motion by Dr. Susan McConnell, seconded by Kathy McClendon

**b. \*Motion to \*APPROVE BAR's (collectively)**

- i. 2324-0014-IB 24109 - Preschool IDEA B Initial Budget \$ 516 - For planning/PD
- ii. 2324-0015-IB 31200 - Public School Capital Outlay Lease assistance award \$ 63,617
- iii. TNTP- Indian Education Act Training contracted services, literacy nights, and training (annual cost)
- iv. There has been a delay with SSA reviewing/approving paperwork, according to our new representative. Originally told 8-12 months out on reviewing employer packets. Dr. McConnell expressed serious concern that people are losing quarters of earnings. Vanessa has been in touch with SSA and they just seem to be very backed up.

c. Unanimously approved

**F. GOVERNING BOARD TRAINING REPORT**

**Kelly Callahan**

- a. Currently at 4.5 hours of training for board members. Discussion of how to continue meeting requirements.

**G. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS**

**Michele Platis, Director**

- a. DATA Reporting
  - i. Math saw increases in elementary, likely due to increased focus on those interventions
  - ii. Reading saw a lot of small decreases, except for 6th grade
  - iii. Focus on how to balance the interventions
  - iv. Dr. Jenn Peña- consider whole picture, not only month to month.
  - v. Mission Specific Goal - Attendance - **GOAL MET!** Only 4 students were not in attendance!
  - vi. Mission Specific Goal - Arts integrated assessments - students are performing very well, high levels of proficiency. Rubrics are rigorous and balance math/ELA standards with art standards and presentation of content.
- b. Staffing
  - i. 17 staff (Nov)
  - ii. 1 teacher left in Nov, 1 EA hired
  - iii. Another new person started this week
- c. Schedule/Events — WINTER WONDERLAND
  - i. Family Literacy Night (Nov)
  - ii. Thanksgiving Dinner
  - iii. Funding with TNTP (Indian Education) used for Family Literacy Activities- providing families with activities and guidance of building literacy skills at home
  - iv. Winter Wonderland (Dec)
    1. Wonderful and amazing
    2. Ran out of parking!!!
    3. 300 seats filled, plus standing room
    4. Looking to rent a larger space for future events
- d. Professional Development/Training
  - i. Jordan and Michele attended PCSNM Conference
  - ii. Michele presented at the conference
  - iii. Working on visual journaling exercises with teachers
  - iv. Some teachers are providing peer guidance to colleagues
- e. Students
  - i. Enrollment at 144 (Nov)

- ii. More students in Dec and Jan
- iii. Waitlist for 1st grade

## **H. GOVERNANCE**

### **a. \*Motion to \*Elect Oren Ran as the GB Treasurer**

- i. Motion by Kathy McClendon, seconded by Susan McConnell
- ii. Roll Call Vote
  - 1. Kathy McClendon, President - yes
  - 2. Dr. Susan McConnell, Vice President - yes
  - 3. Dr. Jenn Peña, Secretary - yes
  - 4. Amer Child - yes
  - 5. Oren Ran - yes
- iii. Motion passes unanimously (5-0)

### **b. Update on Building Committee**

- i. Dr. McConnell requested Michele report out
- ii. Narrowed down to 2 locations -
  - 1. One is across the street from present location - 8 acres
  - 2. Old Desert Hills location (Sequoia and Coors)
  - 3. Still considering options for building a new location
- iii. Looking at fundraising options

### **c. Documents Notice**

**President**

## **I. GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS**

**Governing Board**

### **a. NEXT Scheduled Meeting January 16, 2024!**

### **b. ADJOURNMENT by Kathy McClendon at 7:53PM**

**Happy Holiday! Safe Travels!**

*Respectfully submitted by Dr. Jenn Peña, Secretary*

Approved February 20, 2024