

Educating Hearts and Minds

The mission of Anansi Charter School is to develop the academic potential and emotional intelligence of each learner. We strive to promote the love of learning through student engagement, innovative educational practices and family and community partnerships.

Anansi Charter School Governance Council

Minutes - March 24, 2021, 5:30pm

Location - Anansi Charter School virtual meeting

I. Call to Order of the Regular Open Governing Council Meeting

Attendance: "X" indicates present at meeting

Officers: X President: Jake Caldwell [2018]; X Vice President: Iris Thornton [2020]; X Secretary: Angela Scarlata [2019]; X Treasurer: Elaine Taylor [2018] joined at 5:37

Members: X Andy Jones [2016]; X Aaron Livingston [2018]; Amy Trevino [2019]; X Leilani Weiermann Dean [2021]

Director: X Michele Hunt

Business Manager: Jennifer Vigil; joined at 5:37

Public Attendance: none

Student representatives: none

Leadership Team member: Blue MacHardy

CALL TO ORDER of the Regular Open Governing Council Meeting 5:34pm

II. Approvals (Consent Agenda)

A. Agenda, March 24, 2021

B. Minutes, February 17, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION: I, Andy Jones, move that the Anansi Charter School Governing Council approve the consent agenda for March 24, 2021, and the minutes from the February 17, 2021 regular meeting. Seconded by Aaron Livingston. X All Approved {X indicates All Approved}

III. Public Recognition and Comment(s)

Blue MacHardy is here for the Leadership Team Report and Jennifer Vigil is here to give the Financial Report.

IV. Reports (Highlights, Questions, Comments)

A. Leadership Team Report

Blue MacHardy - There is a lot of effort going into getting the classrooms ready by teachers for in person learning. Ms. Tammy is retiring at the end of this school year.

Teachers seem really excited to see the kids again. [Presented the Leadership Team Report (see Addendum 1, pg. 10).]

B. Financial Report: Jennifer Vigil, The Vigil Group Budget Review

1. Budget Overview Summary Report

The revenue report shows what we have budgeted to receive and what we have actually received as of February 28th 2021. This month we received our monthly SEG as well as our rent from the Anansi Day School. We also received our IDEA-B reimbursement.

The expenditure report now reflects what we have paid so far, what we are still planning to pay, and what's left of our budget. A majority of the school's funds and functions are positive. Also, we received word from the district that they are requesting that we spend down CARES Act in order to access the ESSER II funds. They are requesting this be done by April 15th. We are well on track of that.

We can see in our check register report all the deposits and withdrawals for the month of February. This month we had \$347,397.48 in deposits and \$366,524.88 in withdrawals.

Next, we have our outstanding POs report as of March 3rd, 2021. There are no POs out of the norm and nothing to really make note of.

Lastly is our bank reconciliation. After all the deposits and withdrawals, the ending balance is \$458,703.22 which ties to the balance sheet.

2. BARs: Budget Adjustment Requests (action)

We discussed BARs #23-27.

BAR #076-006-2021-0023-I – this BAR is per the PED award memo for the final SEG unit value for \$2,014.

BAR #076-006-2021-0024-M – this BAR is to adjust budget to match current expenditures. No effect to the budget.

BAR #076-006-2021-0025-M – this BAR is to adjust budget to match current expenditures. No effect to the budget.

BAR #076-006-2021-0026-T – this BAR is to budget to match current expenditures.

BAR #076-006-2021-0027-M – this BAR is to adjust budget to match current expenditures. No effect to the budget.

MOTION: I, Jake Caldwell, move that the Anansi Charter School Governance Council approve BARs #23-27, with a date adjustment. Iris Thornton seconded. X All Approved {X indicates All Approved}

3. Audit Committee

Michele Hunt - I didn't check this month, but I have not received notification that it has been posted yet.

4. Budget Committee

Michele Hunt - We have scheduled meetings twice a month, the first and third Wednesday of the month. The 2021-2022 budget is due to the state by June 3rd.

Jennifer Vigil - I met with Michele and Mike. How are we going to budget for lost time and productivity? It was the biggest conversation of the budget committee. A lot of learning was lost. We all agreed it was the biggest point. We have a healthy budget that supports our goals. We have a carryover every year, we want this to be more stable. Budget revenue stability. SEG is 80% of budget. Staffing changes, licencing changes, in document. Supplies for teachers, cleaning, supplies, and maintenance. We need to make sure facilities are maintained properly. We are looking at a 6% increase to SEG. A 6% increase for high option and 3% increase for low option insurance. A 1% increase for teachers only. And a 1.5% increase for all staff, not just teachers. ERB affects the employer side, a 1-2% increase we need to plan for. Potentially lower student total. Need to plan our budget. Conference next week about what is legislated. I did receive word from PED that our budget is due June 3rd 8:00 am. We are happy with this budget due date.

Michele Hunt - We need to get some governance council members and community members. Blue MacHardy and Lisa Woolery are on the committee from the staff. We will be meeting virtually. One governance council member required but two would be great. They are at 4:00 for 30-45 minutes per meeting.

Elaine Taylor and Aaron Livingston are going to join the budget committee.

C. Council Committee Reports

1. Facility: Angela Scarlata/Michele Hunt

a) Update on Timeline for moving in to new addition space

Michele Hunt - We were supposed to get the CO (certificate of occupancy) by this Friday. All the doors and hardware were supposed to get here last week, but were delayed until this week. This Monday we were supposed to have our fire alarm installer complete our fire alarm. He was fired that day from ADT. The contractor's manager at Pluma delayed this process. This does not impact the return of the students. We will be blocking off the construction zone with drywall. We have the handicap parking spaces all

taken care of. We had a delivery of woodchips today to put under the playground equipment.

Jake Caldwell - Delays are not uncommon. But it sounds like there were project management deficiencies. When it's done and we have a whole new facility, it will be exciting.

Michele Hunt - We are not sweating this, we are laughing. We have to keep a sense of humor so we don't lose our patience. I hope it is over by the end of the school year. The facility committee hasn't really been meeting. Angela has been attending all the construction update meetings with Alix Henry, the contractors, and I.

2. Program: Michele Hunt

a) School Model After Spring Break

We are working on plans for both in person and remote learners. On the walk through, we exceeded the checklist. The teachers worked hard to get their classrooms ready. Everything in procedural guidelines has been followed. It is the topic of a parent Q&A tomorrow night, also about covid guidelines and remote learning. We created a staggered arrival and departure model. If covid is on campus it is addressed in the policy and procedures. We are excited and ready, and have a plan moving forward. There will be differentiated support for kids who have to get there early with siblings with additional enhancement learning during this time. The only subject we are removing for the rest of the year is music. The 100% remote kids will have office hours daily. We are working on having a wellness class to provide small group yoga classes, and combine multi grades. Ways to create inclusion for them with the in person kids. Using specific academic learning tools to give a balanced academic day. I'm writing a plan tonight for a formative assessment tool. There is professional development all week. Today's was focused on play. There is recognition the kids have trepidation and fear. Pull playfulness into school. We worked with playworks.org. The teachers liked it. It was the second of three training sessions with them.

Iris Thornton - My question is related to the lunch hour. It could be a vulnerability. Unmasked kids in a full classroom inside when it's raining. It does seem that school transmission is low but everyone is wearing masks, until the lunch hour.

Michele Hunt - I read up on the recommendations, and my advice to kids is to focus on eating during lunch and focus on talking when we have masks on. The approach is educating children. We are hoping to eat outside. Our middle school kids eat outside all the time. The third through sixth grades could eat under the portal. The younger kids could all sit

outside on mats under the lunchroom portal. We moved the picnic tables out from under the portal near the lunchroom to outside the third through sixth grade classrooms to create a learning area outside. Indoor lunch is focused on eating.

Iris Thornton - Has there been communication with families to prepare their kids to be outdoors more?

Michele Hunt - I asked teachers to ask families to dress kids in layers. I will make sure I email them again about it tomorrow. We will be outdoors a lot, windows open, HEPA filters in the rooms, fresh air exchange systems are set at 100%. We've removed every bit of furniture except what is essential. We've optimized social distancing to the best of our ability.

Iris Thornton - The air quality is a big component of this. It will be an asset going forward.

Michele Hunt - I want to move PE to the front field and put up a shade structure with a water station.

3. Council Development: Jake Caldwell

Jake Caldwell - I sent out a link to the pdf that outlines training opportunities, and a link to a third party training provider.

4. School Advocacy: Andy Jones/Michele Hunt

Andy Jones - We got through the legislative session. I haven't seen a list of what went through and what didn't. There is a special session next week about legalizing marijuana.

Michele Hunt - Education was held as sacred. Bills that were favorable towards charter schools. We have a huge amount of work to do about teaching the legislature about charter schools, it became very evident this session. Had a few great meetings with Senator Gonzales about the revolving door funding. Passing of funding from permanent funds to pre K and K-12. Fairly positive session in light of the craziness of this year.

Jake Caldwell - The American Rescue Plan will give lots of money to the states. And provide meaningful support to states to get money to the schools.

Michele Hunt - A number of charter schools met before the Carissa funding, about the district taking 5% of the funding. The superintendent was very inappropriate with me and bullied me quite a bit because I sent the email. Once the dust settles, we need to push back. It was initiated by another charter. It wasn't signed by the attorney. It is an equity issue. The funds aren't taken away from state charter schools, only district charters.

Jake Caldwell and Andy Jones will help with that when the time comes.

Michele Hunt - We have the Pueblo behind us. They are super upset.

5. Parent Advisory (FAC): Michele Hunt

Michele Hunt - They cancelled their meeting this morning. They are planning their fundraising for the rest of the year. They are organizing teacher appreciation near the end of the year.

D. Director's Report: Michele Hunt

1. Lottery Progress

Michele Hunt - [Presented the Director's Report (see Addendum 2, pg. 11).] We are hoping to come up with 194 to 195 students max, if all students take their spots. There are 173 students returning, two are moving, four are retentions (we save a spot in both grade levels), 11 siblings can enter, nine kindergarten siblings and maybe 10. There is one retention and one moving in first. There are 57 people in the lottery so far. That is low for us, usually in the hundreds. There will be four ads over four weeks in the Taos News. We are spending \$1,000 on this (two ¼ page ads, two ⅛ page ads). We wrote an ad for Facebook. There will be a kindergarten virtual tour to kids who get accepted from the lottery.

We discussed radio stations to run ads and PSAs: KNCE, KTAO, and LMNOC. Most important talking points: we are a public school, it is an open lottery, you can get an application on our website.

V. New Business

A. Return to 100% Reopening School Model

1. Approve Start Date

Michele Hunt - We have scheduled a March 29th start date.

Jake Caldwell - What numbers in each class are coming back?

Michele Hunt - We are bringing a medical professional to the parent Q&A tomorrow. We have some families that want to wait 2-3 weeks, using other families as guinea pigs. Some classes have 2-3 kids not coming back. We expect 80% back in person. Only a few students have medical reasons to not come back. We have two model choices to accommodate. You are the last group who needs to approve this date, March 29th, or you could also vote for us to wait one more week until April 5th.

MOTION: I, Iris Thornton, move that the Anansi Charter School Governance Council approve the 100% reentry start date of March 29th, with the option to

remain on remote learning. Leilani Weiermann Dean seconded. X All Approved {X indicates All Approved}

2. Approve COVID Guidance Manual Revisions; Reentry Documents

Leilani Weiermann Dean - I have a question on the manual, on the testing of the staff. It says if they were vaccinated they don't have to get covid tested, and then it says they should get tested.

Michele Hunt - It is because if they have been exposed they should be tested. Every teacher has to take their temperature and health check every morning. We have to get tested to meet the percentage of staff getting tested every week. They are exempt from regular covid testing on a once a month cycle if vaccinated.

Iris Thornton - It is consistent with the new requirement that we are 100% open, which doesn't allow for the six foot distancing. So the changes in the manual addressed those changes.

Jake Caldwell - I just sent you the reentry documents.

MOTION: I, Jake Caldwell, move that the Anansi Charter School Governance Council approve the updated Covid Guidance Manual dated, March 21, 2021. Leilani Weiermann Dean seconded. X All Approved {X indicates All Approved}

B. Discussion: Terms Ending for Board Members & Recruitment for New Board Members

Michele Hunt - I think it's time we think about who is reaching the end of their terms at the end of this semester.

Jake Caldwell - I will create a spreadsheet. It will help in the next wave of recruitment.

VI. Old Business

A. Board Development

Jake Caldwell - We just covered that.

VII. Executive Session - [Limited to personnel matters, student discipline-Director]*

(none): None

VIII. Items for April 21, 2021 agenda

- Board terms.
- Director evaluation.
- Board review of their year, their accomplishments and what they have learned.

IX. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Jake Caldwell

1. Prepare agenda for April.
2. Prepare google sheet on board member terms.
3. Start acquiring my GC training hours.

B. Andy Jones

1. Continue training hours.
2. Put together the PSA for KNCE and LMNOC.

C. Aaron Livingston

1. Continue backing up Elaine with Treasury duties.
2. Budget committee.
3. Complete trainings.

D. Angela Scarlata

1. Work on these meeting minutes.
2. Complete my last training.
3. Continue to help promote the lottery, share it on Taos Mountain Mamas.

E. Elaine Taylor

1. Budget committee meetings.

F. Iris Thornton

1. Assist Michele with editing or whatever needs doing.

G. Amy Trevino (not present)

H. Leilani Weiermann Dean

1. Finish new member training.
2. Reach out about the lottery to people.

I. Michele Hunt

1. Attend the budget committee meetings.
2. Prepping email to send to families tomorrow morning about reopening details.
3. Host a Q&A session for families tomorrow.
4. This Friday is International Social Emotional day. Consider some aspect of your own social wellbeing, with your family, what you have been appreciative of and hopeful for.

X. Final Comments and Announcements

XI. Adjournment (action)

MOTION: I, Jake Caldwell, move to adjourn the Anansi Charter School Governance Council meeting. Seconded by Angela Scarlata. X All Approved {X indicates All Approved} Adjourned at 7:40pm.

President:  Date: 4/21/2021

Addendum 1

LEADERSHIP BRIEFING TO GOVERNANCE COUNCIL FOR MARCH

The Anansi staff is amazing! You should see the work and dedication that is going into getting ready for in person learning next week. I am so proud to work with such dedicated and devoted individuals.

K- Getting ready for in person learning, starting our science curriculum, Animals Two by Two

1st- First Grade is working diligently to create a platform that is successful for all students!!!

I am very hopeful in the flexible and loving 1st Grade community that has been established.

I'm happy to end my Anansi Career with in person students and colleagues.

I respect those choosing remote, and will do my best for continued success both emotionally and academically.

Ms T

2nd- shimmering rainbows and plants are manifesting in the 2nd grade room.

Exciting ideas are brewing for back to school.

16 students are set up to attend in person.

We will wrap up our New Mexico unit, then continue with Mexico and life science.

3rd grade this past month has been perfecting the 4 different sentence types with some very silly stories! In math we have been having a great time learning about liquid capacity and volume and noticing the MANY different types of containers around our homes that liquids come in!

4th Grade: Created mini short stories about a famous person using the graphic novel style. 20 Students returning for F2F!

5-8 –Working hard to prepare for in person learning and also supporting at home learners.

Addendum 2

**Director's Report
March 24, 2021**

Lottery Update:

Grade	# Students Returning	# Students considered for Retention	# Siblings of currently enrolled students	# Openings in the class	# Applicants in Lottery
Kindergarten	NA	1	9	9-10	22
First	20	1	1	0-2	7
Second	21	1	0	1-2	8
Third	22	0	0	0	8
Fourth	22	0	0	0	5
Fifth	23	1	0	0-1	1
Sixth	22	0	1	1	2
Seventh	23	0	0	0	1
Eighth	19	0	0	3	2
Totals	173	4	11	14-21	57

Taos News Advertising Campaign Sample:



Plan: Two weeks of ¼ size Tempo Ad, two weeks 1/8 size Main Section Ad.

Social Media Post:

Apply now to give your child a phenomenal education & school experience!

ANANSI

CHARTER SCHOOL

"Our vision is to be a public community school that educates the heart and mind of each learner to ensure success."

ENROLLMENT LOTTERY APPLICATION NOW OPEN! 2021-2022

**K-8TH
GRADES**

- ✓ Anansi is a free, public school
- ✓ Anansi is a "New Mexico Spotlight School" performing in the top 25% in Reading, Math, and Science
- ✓ Anansi Charter School is open to all students/families and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age



BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

“
I consider my family blessed to be part of Anansi Charter School! I have a Kindergartner and a 3rd grader. The staff support my children's individual learning styles and encourage their talents. They are happy to go to school, even remotely, thanks to our wonderful teachers and leadership team!”

✉ mhunt@anansi.acstaos.org 🌐 www.anansicharterschool.org ☎ (575) 776-2256 ext 0

Applications must be faxed, emailed, hand-delivered, or postmarked on or before Friday April 16th, 2021

Virtual Tour: Planned for last week in April after the lottery for kindergarten families.