

**DR.PEDRO ALBIZU-CAMPOS HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2011, Thursday, at 4:00 pm**

Minutes prepared by Nancy Kurshan

Meeting Called to Order

Marvin called the meeting to order at 4pm.

Board Members Present: Marvin Garcia, Irma Romero, Sandra Cartagena, Veronica Crespo, Matt Rodriguez, Michelle Morales, Cathy Delgado, Juan Rodriguez, Nancy Kurshan. Also present was the entire staff of the high school.

Board Members Absent: Carlos was not present because he was attending an “eco justice” conference. There were no student representatives present. Marvin pointed out that we need staff to attend to recruiting student reps, from the FLC and the general high school, who will then report out at Unity. He confirmed that we will now be posting the minutes online and students will be able to see how their participation at the Board meetings has a real impact upon the functioning of the school. For instance, they would see the long discussions we had when the student reps brought up the issue of food, and how that has led to the current much-improved food situation.

Approval of Agenda

Marvin distributed the agenda (see attached). Nancy moved that we accept the agenda and Juan seconded. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Marvin distributed the minutes from the last meeting. Cathy moved that we approve the minutes with that change. Michelle seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Participation

Marvin reiterated that we encourage parents, students and staff to attend the Board meetings and to raise their concerns in the public participation section of the meeting.

Meet the PACHS staff

Irma made a statement about the special mission of this school and its relationship to the community. We then went around the room and each staff member stated his or her name, their role in the school, and what their passion or passions are. Then the Board members did the same.

Marvin then congratulated the staff on the very successful CPS site visit. Michelle concurred, stating that probably no other school scored 100% and many other schools were surprised by the criticisms that were raised. Marvin stated he had given a signed copy to the school and encouraged people to read Schools As Radical Sanctuaries by Rene Gonzalez, a newly-released book about the high school.

Irma noted that Piri Thomas, friend of the high school and author of Down These Mean Streets, has recently died. Others commented on what a wonderful person he was and how much he had contributed.

Michelle announced that they were selling *pasteles* for the holidays to raise money for the Boricua Human Rights Campaign. They will making them for 2 days before Thanksgiving and all volunteers are welcome to help and to learn how to make them.

Marvin pointed out that four people are finishing up the current Type 9 process and it will then shift in the future to Northeastern University.

At this point in the meeting, the staff of the school left and the Board meeting proceeded. We were also joined by a potential student representative.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Principal's Report:

Matt distributed a financial chart that he had produced and most of the discussion focused on finances. Matt reported that the collection of student fees has been going pretty well, the finances are in pretty good shape but there is some deficit spending that is necessary. He feels it is important to compensate staff for additional work that they are taking on, such as weekly home visits, basketball coaching, etc. There has also been the need for a second security guard.

It was decided that the Board needs to better understand the budget in the future. Around Thanksgiving there will be a meeting of Viola, Jason, Matt, Marvin and Michelle regarding finances and the budget. Michelle will email Viola and Jason and carbon copy the Board. One goal would be to have future reports in the form of FUND EZ.

A December meeting (before Christmas break) of the Board as a whole will follow. That meeting will also include a discussion of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the high school. Sandra stated that she would like to work on that.

OTHER ITEMS

Irma moved that we adjourn the meeting. Sandra seconded. Unanimously approved.