

## Health Leadership High School Minutes

July 2nd, 2019

7:00 p.m.

1900 Randolph Rd. SE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

### 1. Opening Business

#### a. Call to Order

#### b. Roll Call:

- Board President: Adriann Barboa – Present via phone
- Board Member: Gilbert Ramirez- Present via phone
- Board Member: Abuko Estrada - Absent
- Board Member: Teri Hogan - Present
- Board Member: Arthur Kaufman – Present via phone
- Board Member: Alex Rankin – Present via phone

Other:

Interim Executive Director: Kara Cortazzo – Present

#### c. Vote to Approve Agenda

VOTES: Alex Rankin motions to approve agenda, seconded by Arthur Kaufman. 5-0

#### d. Vote to Approve Minutes

VOTES: Adriann Barboa motions to approve minutes, seconded by Teri Hogan. 5-0

### 2. Public Comment

- **Sean Debuck** (Staff Member of Health Leadership High School)

I am here to voice my opinion about moving forward about the time frame and the necessity of this being handled in an expedient manner. We have a good candidate that is familiar with our model, produced an excellent resume and can hit the round ground running. This candidate pointed out that Health prioritizes community above all – what we will do at the school goes into community. We have 3 weeks until staff returns. We need to create a new year for our community – a new year can bring new hope and we don't have weeks to choose a permanent Executive Director. We have important work to do. We really love and believe in our students and mission.

- **Amber Reno** (Staff Member of Health Leadership High School)

This year was exceptionally difficult which led to a huge staff turnover and instability. This school needs a sense of safety. I am asking the board to trust the professionals in the room who are here on the ground here every day to choose the candidate we interviewed yesterday. We need to move forward in the work to serve the students. This was a rough a year and we need to the support of our board and we need to move quickly because we are losing staff in droves. We had another staff member quit today.

- **Adriann Barboa** (Board President) responded: I don't have objections against any of the candidates, but a bigger process needs to occur. I am a parent of prior student. I started, Enlace NM, the nationally recognized educational program for latino and marginalized students, and wrote that grant when my daughter was a newborn while raising two kids as a single mother, all while my dad died from cirrhosis of the liver. The college program we created and I won the grant for was retaining Latino students into graduating high school and going into post-secondary. I lead two successful nonprofits and worked as a case manager with the homeless and adjudicated youth. My son got his GED after being pushed out and harassed by teachers and principals in school, and my daughter has been successful because of the opportunities she has been given through having access to smart men and women who look like her and know her reality. I have worked my lifetime for student opportunities for these causes. The "restorative justice model" you speak of so often, does not include a rushed timeline, or dismissing homegrown women of color qualified candidates. And a hiring committee that has the most impacted in mind, our students and teachers, would have them in the decision making seat, not three white staff and one alumnae's parent. You will not force me into a

process, that is not ok. I look forward to working with you moving forward, as I believe we can all grow from this experience and I hope that you look to practice justice models, not just speak of them. I am representing the entire school. The way you treated me was disrespectful and hope you don't treat parents like this at the school. With that said I hope we can work together for the school. I share this because I want you to understand that what you so passionately think is the "best for our students" is not your lived reality and that is why the board will be moving forward with Students, parents and teachers as part of the final hiring.

### **Information – Actions Taken**

1. Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(2) NMSA 1978, the Board will meet in closed session to discuss limited personnel matters.
  - a. Vote to go into Closed Session  
VOTES: Gilbert Ramirez motions to approve closed session, seconded by Adriann Barboa. 5-0
  - b. Following Closed Session, the Board will return to Open Session and may take action  
VOTES: Teri Hogan motions to approve for a second interview round for a permanent Executive Director candidate, seconded by Gilbert Ramirez. 5-0

Adriann Barboa will collect questions from staff, students and parent for this 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews. Interviews are slotted to take place July 11<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion:**

Board asked Ms. Cortazzo to continue to process any applicants that are in the que and continue receiving incoming applications that Ms. Cortazzo will share with board to ensure that screening is conducted according to the criteria that students, parents and teachers create.

There was discussion as to having more interviews as we move on to second round interviews for three applicants. Gilbert Ramirez noted that he was ok with the rushed timeline given he had himself spoke extensively with the three second round interviewees and believes they are qualified for the job. Adriann Barboa stated that this rush process has not given us the time to review and screen candidates so we need to allow more time. Alex Rankin said that a good compromise is to give applicants this coming week to get in their information. Board informally agreed to the compromise.

2. Closing Business
  - a. Announcements
  - b. Next Scheduled Meeting
  - c. Adjournment