



## Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School Governance Board Monthly Virtual Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2025, **DRAFT Minutes**

[Click here to link to the recordings of the meeting.](#)

Location: Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School, 2211 N. Valley Drive  
The meeting was open to the public and conducted through the Zoom meeting platform.

Time: 6:15 PM to 7:19 PM

### Roll Call and Call to Order:

The following Board Members confirmed attendance and stated their full name via Roll Call:

Governance Board Members						
	Name	Office	Present	Absent	Arrived Late	Departed Early
1	Ismael Camacho	Chair	X			
2	Ana Mangion	Vice-Chair		X		
3	Mary Ann Clark	Secretary	X			
4	María Elena Garza de Vargas	Treasurer	X			
5	Verónica Lucio	Member at Large		X		

This is the monthly regular governance board meeting. Ms. Mary Ann Clark, Secretary, acts as minutes taker, and the Chair calls the meeting to order and declares a quorum at 6:15 p.m.

### 1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

**None reported**

### 2. The Consent Agenda – includes approval of the following:

- a) Agenda for Meeting, February 26, 2025, Governance Board Monthly Regular Meeting
- b) Minutes of the previous Governance Board Meeting on January 22, 2024.
- c) The Monthly Finance Report is to include the following:
  - I. Monthly Account Summary of Expenses
  - II. Monthly Account Summary of Revenue
  - III. Monthly Bank Statement
  - IV. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement

- V. Monthly Update in Preparation for the Quarterly Cash Report
- VI. Monthly Voucher by Warrant Report
- VII. Monthly Finance Committee Meeting Notes from the Finance Committee Chair (The notes are for the actual month of the Meeting)

**Note:** An echo was pointed out, so the Director of Operations and Community Involvement muted her microphone.

**Motion:** by Mary Ann Clark to approve the Consent Agenda, Item 2, as read

**Seconded** by María Elena Garza de Vargas

**Approved** unanimously by the Board members present.

**3. Finance Committee and Audit Committee Report, By Terrance Hester, SWREC, and GB Treasurer,**

- a) Discussion of any GB member questions on the Finance Report.
- b) Discussion and possible action on Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs).

**Report:**

a) Mr. Hester submitted and reviewed the “Monthly Finance Review and Report to the Governance Council.”

- One outstanding check voucher from a vendor is pending as received. The item is over 60 days outstanding. A new check will be issued with a stop payment on the current check. He is working to set up direct payments for HCA with our current vendors.
- No questions from the board.

b) BARs

- 0012-T Transfer BAR within the same fund to reallocate some funds to cover some ancillary services
- 0013-IB Initial budget BAR for IDEA B funds to cover salary and benefits; the carryover will be next month
- 0014-IB Initial budget BAR of \$128.00 for supplies and materials for the preschool IDEA B classroom
- No questions from the board

**Motion:** by Mary Ann Clark to approve the three budget requests, BARs

**Seconded** by María Elena Garza de Vargas

**Approved** unanimously by the Board members present

Note: The Secretary asked who seconded the motion because she could not hear her. The Chair verified that it was Ms. Garza.

**4. Public Input**

**Chair:** Several members of the public are on the call, but no one is signed up to speak.

**5. Review of Authorizer Unique Correspondence – By Dr. Hector Giron, Head Administrator**

- a) [2024-25 Governor's Response to Federal Funding Freeze](#)
- b) [Federal Guidance for Primary and Secondary Schools](#)
- c) [FERPA Student Privacy-Migrant and Immigrant Students](#)

**Report:**

a) **Governor's Response to Federal Funding Freeze**—Mariana Padilla, Secretary Designee, is monitoring the changes in Federal Funding. She is closely monitoring what is happening and will release information about potential impacts. The state is working hard to ensure that schools are funded appropriately.

b) **Federal Guidance for Primary and Secondary Schools** – The following information was given to all teachers. Raices has received guidance from the school's attorney, Susan Fox, regarding what to do if immigration visits the school. Raices is surrounded by a fence and is considered a closed environment. The law states that when there is a closed environment, such as the school, immigration officials must have permission from the school to access the school. The school will not let immigration officers into the building unless they have a legal Federal, not ICE, warrant. If immigration officials show up at the school, they will not be allowed into the facility, and the school will immediately call the attorney for advice on how to proceed.

c) **FERPA Student Privacy-Migrant and Immigrant Students** - Information should not be provided to officials unless the parents have been permitted to share it.

The state has provided information to all schools in New Mexico.

- Chair - asked if the staff of Raices knows the policy of item 5b.
- Head Administrator - provided the information to all staff as soon as it was received.
- Chair - followed up by asking if the parents knew the information.
- Director of Operations and Community Involvement – addressed the topic.
- The Governance Secretary stated that she could not hear what the Director of Operations and Community Involvement was saying; there was only silence.
- Chair – stated that the issue would need to be addressed.
- Head Administrator – Summarized information from the Director. The school has disseminated information sent from the state that was specific for parents through the Concilio de Padres. Also, all parents were sent a text message telling them what was happening. As new parents came, staff sat down and explained the school's stance and the guidance that had been received. The Head Administrator asked the secretary if she it answered the question.
- The secretary said she was trying to take notes for the minutes. She didn't know why she couldn't hear because she could listen to everyone else.
- Chair—The chair stated that it was important that the Secretary be able to take notes for the minutes. He stated that the Director reported that the recording would be available immediately following the meeting. However, the Chair preferred that the Secretary be able to take extemporaneous notes.

## 6. Principal's Report – By Dr. Hector Giron, Head Administrator

### **Report:**

**Enrollment Numbers for 2024-2025**—The school reports enrollment numbers on a daily basis. The enrollment is at 118, which is pretty consistent. It shows that the school can retain students and hold their interests.

**“Titil” Children’s Camp** – An annual Children’s event organized by communities in Arizona on 14 acres of open focusing on the Xinalchtli culture. The celebration is to be held February 14-16, 2025, returning home on the 17th. The camp hosts children from different areas to learn about their natural environment through indigenous Aztec activities and their roots, and they share ancestral games with families and communities.

### **Partnership with NMSU –**

- Raices is working hard to engage with the university.
- Math professional development with MC2. The NMSU facilitator is a certified bilingual teacher working on her doctorate in education. She started by interviewing the teachers individually to identify their needs. She then goes into the classroom and co-teaches/models lessons with the teacher. This process will continue through May. In the fall, they will be contracted again to continue the work.
- Artificial Intelligence, AI, and Literacy with Dr. Enrico Pontelli, Dean of the Arts and Sciences Department. Two staff members and the Head Administrator participated in the training on Saturday for the grant the Dean is managing. It focuses on the ethical use of AI. Mary Langford, affiliated with Dr. Potelli, has reached out to the community, teaching classes on AI and its impact on the workforce. These classes will be offered through the parent school as soon as they are available.

### **Student Hot Chocolate Sale –**

- Scheduled for Friday, March 1st at 2 pm
- The previous sale netted the Student Council approximately \$480.
- The Student Council used some of the money, \$280m, to purchase equipment for playground games. The equipment has begun to arrive. It will be installed once it has all gotten to the school.
- The Chair pointed out that March 1st is a typo. Friday is February 28. The Head Administrator will correct the date on the presented document.

### **Partnership with the Center of Southwest Culture –**

- Sembrano Salud – Provides \$100 start-up for community members who want a backyard garden.
- Notifications will be sent out to all of the Raices families as well as to the entire Las Cruces community.
- There will be a process to register and indicate what kinds of seeds are wanted.
- This amplifies what is being done at the school with the campus garden. Currently the students have spinach growing. Someone ate it today and said it was very good.

### **Teacher Cost Index Report –**

- The report is generated through an NM PED audit.
- It examines the student data and programs throughout the school as well as staff.
- The purpose is to identify funding streams used to meet students' needs.
- The school received a rating of "1" which means the school is properly staffed and funded for its student population and programs.

**Charter School Division, CSD, Site Visit –**

- February 6, three CSD staff were on campus the entire day.
- Board members, administrative staff, teachers, and staff were interviewed. The team also visited classrooms for observations.
- CSD evaluated the school based on the Raices Charter.
- Findings: no deficits; Raices is following its Charter. There will be a report based on data at the end of the year.

**PEC –**

- Raices has submitted an application and rationale to receive money for professional development on June 10-11, for Guided Language Design and how to teach second languages effectively according to the model the school is using.
- This provides support for the 90/10 language model at kindergarten through the 50/50 model used in the fourth and fifth grades.
- The money is due to flow through here next week.
- Five staff members will attend. The campus will find money to pay the teachers for their work while they are "off contract" at their daily rate.

7. [Concilio de Padres and Community Engagement Reports](#) – By Eric Rodríguez, Chair of the Concilio de Padres, and Lucía Carmona, Director of Operations and Community Engagement

**Report:**

- The current chair of the Concillo, Eric Rodriguez, has resigned effective at this meeting. Nominations were sent out last Saturday to fill vacant positions. Eric Rodriguez was nominated to fill the parent representative position on the Raices Governance Board. His name will be approved at the March Governance Board meeting. Two other Concillo positions were also filled: a new official chair and a Vice Chair.
- Fundraiser for a cooking flattop/Bistro combo with a Raices Emblem on it. The Concillo has contracted someone to make this. The Concillo has its own budget to support school activities. This should be happening in the next few months.
- Director of Operations and Community Engagement: will forward the Secretary the report she made to the Concillo and provide the link to board members. The Director then went

through the enrollment projections for the next school year. The school will be continuing the activities with the food garden. In May there will be a visit from the board of the National Food Corps. They are interested to visit and see the environment on the border with families. They also will conduct a meeting at Raices. The school pays \$2,000 increasing a little bit each year. The actual cost is about \$40,000. Currently we're moving forward with the Mexia New Year celebration which will include all staff and families. The final item is the continued partnership with UNM Dr. Carlos Leyva from the Bilingual and Culture department. He will be bringing a team to Raices to research collect data on the school's use of Xinachtli pedagogy. It will give evidence-based data on the impact of the methods used in the school.

- Chair – Noted some typos on the enrollment projections. The Director corrected the data.

8. *Reports from Committees -*

a) *Academic Performance Committee – Vacant*

b) *Governance Board Development Committee – By Ismael Camacho, Chair*

- *Update on the Governance Board Development Training by Ms. Jane Ashe.*

c) *Facilities Committee – By Verónica Lucio, Committee Co-Chair*

- [Report on the Facilities Action Team's last meeting.](#) *By Dr. Hector Giron, Head Administrator*

d) *Safe School Committee – Ana Mangino*

e) *School Development Committee - Volunteer Needed; this committee is still under development.*

**Reports:**

- a) **Academic Performance Committee** – no report
- b) **Governance Board Development Committee** – On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the board met for three hours of training by Ms. Jane Ashe. Ana Mangino hosted the training with Dr. Giron and Raices staff assisting. Board members expressed their gratitude to Ms. Mangino and stated that they found the training to be very helpful. They also thanked the Head Administrator and Raices team for working so hard and participating in the training.
- c) **Report on the Facilities Action Team** – February 13<sup>th</sup>a task force meeting was convened. They requested to be able to move forward with their draft action plan. The last facilities report listed the needs of the campus. The action plan is based on the needs identified in the facilities report. The Chair asked if item 8c is related to item 10c. The response was that they are related. The proposal presents a timeline with the phases of what is to be done over several years. The building on the north

side of the campus was remodeled in 2022. It has been certified as “e occupied”, able to house students.

9. *Unfinished Business* – None

10. *New Business* –

- a) Discuss and Possible action to continue at the current building and move forward in a partnership with Families and Youth Inc.; to pursue facilities improvement funds by Dr. Hector Giron, Head Administrator.

**Motion:** The Facilities Committee seeks permission from the board to proceed with the draft plan, working in partnership with FI to complete the work.

Motion made by Maria Elena Garza de Vargas to go forward with the plan as presented

**Seconded** by Mary Ann Clark

Approved unanimously by the Board members present

11. *Agenda items for the Next Meeting* –

**Items:**

Vote on approval for Mr. Eric Rodriguez to be on the Governance Board member as a parent representative.

12. *Date of the Next Monthly Governance Virtual Governance Board Meeting* - (March 26, 2025, at 6:00 pm, Via Zoom Meeting).

**Discussion:** Could the Head Administrator help the secretary determine why she couldn’t hear all members during the board meeting? The Head Administrator will work with IT to address the problem.

13. *Adjourn*

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm on February 26, 2025.

---

Mary Ann Clark, Board Secretary.

Pending the next board meeting  
Date Approved

**Head Administrator's Report**  
**February 26, 2025**  
**Dr. Hector Girón**

- [Enrollment Numbers for 2024-25](#)
- Titil- Friday, February 14, 2025, at noon and, tentatively, return on Monday 17, 2025. A Children's Camp in Maricopa County, AZ. This event is organized yearly by the communities in Arizona (Phoenix and Tucson) to host from different areas to celebrate our little ones and allow them to learn in a natural environment about our roots and ancestral games and share these ways with our families and communities.
- Partnerships with NMSU
  - MC2-Zaira Falliner-Math Professional Development
  - Artificial Intelligence Literacy- Dr. Enrico Pontelli-Dean of the Arts and Sciences Department. Myself and two staff members have signed up to participate in this professional development
  -
- Student Hot Chocolate Sale on Friday, February 28th at 2:00pm at the student pickup area.
- Partnership with the Center of Southwest Culture to participate in their project Sembrando Salud which provides \$100.00 of start up gardening supplies. We are planning to do this in early April, 2025.
- Teacher Cost Index Report
- Charter School Division Site Visit --February 6th.Greg Butz, Dr. Bridgette Russell, and Lucy Valenzuela
- PEC Special Project Awards-\$10,000. We have submitted our request for this funding for Professional Development to be held in June, 2025.