



Raíces del Saber Xinachtli Community School  
Special Governance Board Meeting – Approved -

Friday, December 21, 2018

La Nueva Casita Café  
195 N. Mesquite  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
11:55 AM -12:55 PM

Call in # (605) 472-5314 - Access Code: 273462

1. Call to Order – Board Chair called the meeting to order at 11:55 AM
2. Roll Call

The following Board Members signed in and confirmed attendance via voice Roll Call:

Present: Emma Arnedariz, Jane Asche, Rocio Benedicto (arrived at 12:15 PM), Alejandro Flores, Irene Oliver-Lewis, Ray Reich (by phone). *Quorum present for meeting.*

Absent: Paul Gutierrez (Excused).

Others Present:

Lucia Carmona, Staff Project Coordinator  
Wendy Harvey, AmeriCorps Member Serving Raíces

3. Approval of the Agenda\*

Jane requested adding as an agenda item the approval of the December 13, 2018 Board Meeting minutes so that becomes item # 4 and the next agenda items will become agenda items # 5 through 8.

**Motion:** Irene moved to approve the agenda with the change requested to add the approval of December 13, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes. Second by Alejandro Flores. Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Voice Vote.

4. Approval of December 13, 2018, Raíces Board Meeting Minutes\*

**Motion:** Alejandro Flores moved to approve the December 13, 2018, Raíces Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Second by Irene. Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Voice Vote.

\*Indicates Action Item

Approved by Raíces Governance Board on (insert date here when approved).

5. Approval to move forward with signing the letter of intent with FYI, Inc. to begin plans to renovate the building owned by FYI, Inc. at 2211 North Valley Drive for the site of the Raíces del Saber Xinachtli Community School to be opened in the Fall of 2019.\*

Note: At 12:15 PM Board Member Rocio Benedicto joined the meeting for the discussion of agenda item # 3 and the remainder of the meeting.

Irene Oliver-Lewis reported that La Academia Dolores Huerta Charter Middle School building that is owned by the Las Cruces Public School System will not be available to Raíces in the foreseeable future. The school's Board of Directors voted on Thursday evening, December 20, to appeal the Public Education Commissions decision to deny the renewal of their charter. Lucia Carmona also confirmed with Deputy Superintendent Stephen Sanchez of the Las Cruces Public Schools that they could not offer the building to Raíces until they have official notice of the status of La Academia's charter.

Next the Board engaged in a thorough conversation about the nonbinding letter of intent prepared by Fred Mobley of Families and Youth, Inc. (FYI) which the Raíces Board has been asked to sign to enter into a partnership to renovate the property at 2211 N. Valley Drive to house the Raíces School. This property is owned by FYI. The discussion included the commitment of the NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN) to assist with the lease fees in the first year which will slightly exceed the available state lease funds and to help with the first several months of rent during the first year while we are waiting for the reimbursement from the NM Department of Education to begin. Alejandro Flores assisted the Board Members with understanding some of the technical facilities terms/aspects of the letter.

Irene Oliver-Lewis cautioned us to be mindful of the costs for utilities for which Mr. Moberly has now given us an estimate for the year as requested, so the Board will be aware of the full costs of leasing the property. Using the high end of the estimates we can anticipate that the rent plus \$3,200 for utilities will run as follows per month for the 5-year period of the lease:

Year 1: \$7,495.46  
Year 2: \$9,115.63  
Year 3: \$10,734.79  
Year 4: \$12,353.96  
Year 5: \$13,868.33

After thoughtful consideration of the many details of the letter of intent and advice from our legal counsel Natasha Cuylear the Board came to agreement that this property is the best possible site for Raíces. We believe it is affordable with the assistance of NISN and the prospects of the fundraising that is in progress. It was agreed that the Board Members will need to be very careful stewards of the school's finances as well.

\*Indicates Action Item

Approved by Raíces Governance Board on (insert date here when approved).

**Motion:** Rocio Benedicto moved that Raíces Chair Emma Armendariz move forward with signing the letter of intent with FYI, Inc. to begin plans to renovate the building owned by FYI, Inc. at 2211 North Valley Drive for the site of the Raíces del Saber Xinachtli Community School to be opened in the Fall of 2019. Second by Irene Oliver-Lewis. Motion passed unanimously by a Roll Call Voice Vote.

6. Approval of the lottery form for enrollment of Raíces del Saber Xinachtli Community School students to begin the enrollment process in January 2019.\*

Lucia Carmona presented the most updated version of the Student Lottery Application form and a one-page detailed description of the Student Enrollment Process. She reported she received advice on both the form and process from the NMPED charter School Division staff member in charge of reviewing our submissions during the Implementation year.

**Motion:** Rocio Benedicto moved that the Board approve the lottery form with one addition: that there be a step four added in the described enrollment steps providing for a student waiting list if the applications exceed the number of available slots for students. Second by Alejandro. Motion Passed unanimously by a Roll Call Voice Vote.

7. Agenda items for Next Meeting

There are no additional agenda items from this meeting. The items that are listed in the December 13, 2018, Board Minutes will be placed on the agenda for the January 24, 2019, Board Meeting.

8. Adjournment

**Motion:** Rocio moved that the Board Meeting adjourn at 12:55 PM. Second by Irene Oliver-Lewis. Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Voice Vote.

**Next Meeting:** January 24, 2019 at the NMSU College of Education, O'Donnell Hall, Room 27, Bottom Level, at 5:00 PM.

\*Indicates Action Item

Approved by Raíces Governance Board on (insert date here when approved).