

## **La Tierra Montessori Governing Board Actions Summary for July 22, 2022, PEC Meeting**

Overview: towards the end of June, the CSD was made aware that the La Tierra Montessori School had not voted, and was not set, to have a Head Administrator in place by the new fiscal year. Board and staff members contacted CSD multiple times for guidance, technical assistance and to express concerns about actions of the board and/or parent concerns. Below is a summary of actions that took place.

6/27/22: Board met; adjournment motion in [minutes](#): “Board will remain in quorum to continue work virtually on Head Learner Evaluation document and Head Learner Contract document.”

6/28/22: Board President Williams requested OMA guidance and CSD to attend 6/30 meeting

6/30/22: Board met; arguing over topics not on agenda; reminded by CSD observers that the board must approve agenda before continuing; in executive session 1.25 hours; voted not to renew Head Administrator (HA) contract; Maitai Garcia (staff member) asked to whom she reports, was told she reports to the board ([minutes](#)). [Bylaws](#) state the board does not get involved in the day to day operations of the school.

7/1/22: CSD emailed board chair and vice chair informing them of the requirement to have a HA in place; email included policy and forms for notifying PEC of HA change.

7/7/22: Steve Lang (elevated to assistant HA by Angela Feathers in June; her contract does not give her authority to hire another administrator) emailed CSD Director that he was interim HA and expressed concerns over administrative processes and time-sensitive contracts for the upcoming school year; the Director responded that the board needed to vote him in as interim HA.

7/8/22: Zoom meeting with Chair Williams, Vice Chair Casados, CSD Director and staff, informed Chair and Vice Chair that the board needed to appoint an interim HA, follow OMA, board bylaws, seek council from the school’s attorney and business manager and would be placed on the PEC agenda in July. State Rep. Roger Montoya (LTM founder) asked CSD for help with Licensure Bureau to get another founder a NM Admin license. Board held special meeting with parent concerns on [agenda](#), parents mention petition to reinstate HA; no action taken ([minutes](#)).

7/12/22: Board meeting [agenda](#) includes member board recalls and HA referral to the Attorney General. CSD received email from Angela Feathers with 4 page letter attached expressing concerns about the school and board actions. Board met, voted to remove Williams as chair, appoint Casados chair; [minutes](#) include allegation that parents signed petition to reinstate former HA Feathers and petition subsequently doctored into petition to remove board members; board will refer to Attorney General; no HA appointed; HA position will be posted.

7/13/22: CSD received email from Ms. Williams accusing other board members of conspiracy and OMA violations, concerns over planned board approval of AptaFund POs. Business manager Mike Vigil expressed concerns about board approving these.

7/18/22: Board meeting scheduled; interim HA on [agenda](#). Board met, voted to hire a HA.

Other concerns:

- chronic late responses to PED requests for information (e.g., Ed Plan submissions)
- late submission for 3 board change amendments to CSD; incomplete submissions, 4 CSD requests for documents for each amendment
- no current annual OMA statement on website
- financial processes lack of clarity re: who is on board finance committee, who has authority to sign checks, and a contingency signatory when the HA is not available or not in place.