

GOVERNING COUNCIL MINUTES

EXPLORE ACADEMY



Meeting minutes recorded by Karen Woerner, Recording Secretary

DRAFT

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 (special meeting)
3:30 p.m. MST

I. PROCEDURAL AGENDA

- A. This meeting of the Explore Academy - Rio Rancho Governing Council (GC) was called to order at 3:33 p.m.
- B. A quorum of the GC was present as follows: Cathy Gaarden, Skip Mackay, Mike Mierjewski, Veronica Sanders (online), and Barbara Sena.
- C. Staff in attendance: Karen Woerner - Director of Compliance/Founder; Katie Rarick - School Business Official
- D. The meeting was held on the Zoom® platform.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT regarding items on the agenda

No public comments were offered.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mike Mierzejewski moved for approval of the agenda; seconded by Cathy Gaarden; Approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Each school board member reviewed the minutes from the September 2, 2022 and October 20, 2022 meetings.

- Cathy Gaarden moved to approve the minutes from September 2, 2022; seconded by Barbara Sena; Approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.
- Mike Mierzejewski moved to approve the minutes from October 20, 2022; seconded by Cathy Gaarden; Approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

V. GOVERNING COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A. **Katie Rarick, CEO of Axiom Analytics and School Business Official**, introduced herself and described some of the financial issues that charter schools face. She also provided an overview of the types of decisions that the board will have to make.
- B. **Officer Elections** (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary)
 1. Cathy Gaarden nominated Mike Mierzejewski as Chair; no other nominations were made.
 2. Cathy Gaarden nominated Veronica Sanders as Vice Chair; no other nominations were made.

3. Mike Mierzejewski nominated Skip Mackay as Secretary; no other nominations were made.

Mike Mierzejewski moved to approve the slate of officers as nominated; Barbara Sena seconded; Approved unanimously via roll call vote).

C. Charter Contract, Performance Framework, and Mission Goals

1. Karen Woerner explained that the [Charter Contract](#) had been negotiated with a subcommittee of the Public Education Commission on November 1, 2022. Cathy Gaarden (board member), Elisha Baiardo (founder), and Karen Woerner (founder) represented the school at the meeting. It was pointed out that an additional section is needed in the Comprehensive Educational Program of the School (section 4.6) to document that the Explore Learning Model includes the possibility of students being placed above or below their traditional grade or age level.

After review and discussion of the contract, Cathy Gaarden moved to approve the charter contract as discussed with additional permission for any minor edits deemed necessary and agreed to by the attorneys; Barbara Sena seconded the motion; Approved unanimously via roll call vote (5-0).

2. The board read the [Performance Framework](#) document before the meeting and reviewed the two mission goals for the school during the meeting. Mike Mierzejewski motioned to approve the Performance Framework and Mission Goals as presented; Skip Mackay seconded the motion; Approved unanimously via roll call vote (5-0).

D. [Open Meetings Act \(OMA\) Resolution](#)

Skip Mackay moved to approve the OMA Resolution as presented; Barbara Sena seconded; Approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

VI. BOARD DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

Mike Mierzejewski asked about the online application for positions at the school. Karen Woerner offered to provide a printed version.

VII. FOUNDING TEAM REPORT AND UPDATE

- A. Board of Finance approved by PEC on 10/21/2022

B. [Implementation Year Checklist](#) (2022-2023)

1. Next training session is Monday, November 14, 1:00 pm
2. IY Checklist submissions due November 15, March 1, and May 15
3. Mandatory [Board Member Training](#)

Though the original instructions were for board members to complete the required 10 hours before Nov 15th, Missy Brown of the Charter Schools Division has advised that due to technical issues, additional time will be allowed. However, all board members must be sure that they are able to log into Canvas and access the courses. If there are any issues, please contact melissa.brown@ped.nm.gov

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT regarding items not on the agenda

No public comments were offered.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the GC is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom®.

Cathy Gaarden moved to adjourn the meeting; Mike Mierzejewski seconded the motion; A voice vote resulted in an unanimous approval. The meeting was officially adjourned at 4:34 pm.