

MISSION STATEMENT

La Tierra Montessori School of the Arts and Sciences will provide students and their families in the Española region the opportunity to improve educational outcomes utilizing an integrated approach that includes Montessori, Arts and Sciences.

Governing Council DRAFT MINUTES LTMAS GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING:

Tuesday, December 10, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Join **Zoom** Meeting

Topic: LTMAS Governing Council Board Meeting Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6405403241?pwd=L1lVMmJEbnQxMEhPMGlpRVBNZlZlUT09>

Meeting ID: 640 540 3241

Passcode: LTMASGC

***The recording of this meeting will be maintained on file.*

I. CALLMEETING TO ORDER – President Casados

II. ROLL CALL: Quorum needed is 3 – Secretary Gordon-Brown

Seat	Name	Position	Present/ Absent
1	Isaac Casados	President	Present
2	Brenda M. Atencio	Vice President	Present
3	Delisha Gordon-Brown	Secretary	Present
4	Charlie Riddick	Member	Present / Late
5	Jacqueline Martinez-Vigil	Member	Present
6	Position to be filled	Open	
7	Position to be filled	Open	
8	Position to be filled	Open	
9	Position to be filled	Open	

III. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice President Atencio

IV. Consent Agenda – (ACTION)*

a) Approve Agenda for today’s GC Special Meeting

* Motion to approve today’s consent agenda for GC Special Meeting made by Secretary Gordon-Brown. Seconded by: Vice President Atencio

Roll call vote: to approve today’s special meeting agenda. Vice President Atencio – Yes . Secretary Gordon-Brown – Yes. Mrs. Martinez-Vigil – Yes. President Casados – Yes. 4 Votes Yes. 0 Votes No. Consent Agenda approved.

V. New Business (Discussion and possible action)

a) Approval and Discussion of Mission Specific Goals for the PEC and Charter School Division - Planes of Development and Montessori Certification (ACTION)*

President Casados gives overview of discrepancies and changes. Shared Mission Statement versions (NEW December 2022 Mission Statement – *La Tierra Montessori*

School of the Arts and Sciences will provide students and their families in northern New Mexico a school community that fosters curiosity, exploration, collaboration, and freedom to a quality integrated public education that includes a Montessori inspired environment, creative arts education, and sciences) and Mission Specific Goals.

We will not be approving new Mission Statement tonight as it's not on the agenda. Shared Mission Specific Goals. We were not aware of challenges as the DASH plan was not shared with us until this beginning school year. Mission Specific Goals – Planes of Development shared on screen and read aloud. Montessori training goals will be starting soon. We've been looking locally and nationally for these teachers to go through, so they learn these, but we're not bound by the Montessori ideology, but they are able to get that information and training. This will be approved tonight and presented to the PEC on the 12th.

* Motion to approve Mission Specific Goals for the PEC and Charter School Division – Planes of Development and Montessori Certification Goals 1 and 2 made by Secretary Gordon-Brown. Motion seconded by: Vice President Atencio.

Roll call vote: to approve Mission Specific Goals for the PEC and Charter School Division – Planes of Development and Montessori Certification Goals 1 and 2.

Vice President Atencio – Yes. Secretary Gordon-Brown – Yes. Mrs. Martinez-Vigil – Yes. President Casados – Yes. 4 Votes Yes. 0 Votes No. Mission Specific Goals 1 and 2 approved.

b) Approval of Grievance Form (discussion and possible ACTION) * -

We did make changes to policies 100 we will not enact this evening. A document will be prepared and shared with everyone. The goal was to clean out the fluff in the document and get clarity. Potential vote will be taken in January. We will also do this with policies 200 and 300. The head learner is allowed to enact emergency policies when needed. Go over specific text the board worked through. Shared on screen. It's been done because in the last month or so the board has received four grievances from different parties against one individual. There wasn't a clear area for the persons to provide the information, follow up, defendant response, etc. Our main goal is to ensure accountability through the process and it's easier for the Administrator through the process. If there is a hearing called for the public, the GC will get involved, or recommendation if elevated to a specific level. Grievance form and Employee Harassment form have been combined to one. Action taken below.

c) Approval of Grievance and Employee Harassment Form (discussion and possible ACTION) * - discussion

* Motion to approve Grievance and Employee Harassment form made by Secretary Gordon-Brown. Motion seconded by: Vice President Atencio.

Roll call vote: to approve Employee Harassment form.

Vice President Atencio – Yes. Secretary Gordon-Brown – Yes. Mrs. Martinez-Vigil – Yes. Mr. Riddick – absent. President Casados – Yes. 4 Votes Yes. 1 absent. 0 Votes No. Motion to approve Grievance and Employee Harassment Form approved.

d) Approval of Pet Policy (discussion and possible ACTION) *- discussion

Will be enacted by the Administrator right away. Policy shared on screen. The board will not approve tonight, but the Administrator will enact on an emergency basis. We will take this to vote in January.

* Motion to table Pet Policy until future meeting except for the Administrator enacting

on emergency made by Secretary Gordon-Brown. Motion seconded by: VP Atencio.
Roll call vote to table Pet Policy.
Vice President Atencio – Yes. Secretary Gordon-Brown – Yes. Mrs. Martinez-Vigil –
Yes. Mr. Riddick – Absent. President Casados – Yes. 4 Votes Yes. 1 absent. 0 Votes No.
Tabling item V d) Pet Policy approved.

- e) Approval of Student and teacher cell phone policy (discussion and possible ACTION) *- discussion

Cell phone policy shared on screen and read aloud. Issues with students on cell phone, including harassment, have brought up this discussion. We cannot enact this policy tonight. Delisha – will Mrs. Herrera enact immediately? Mrs. Herrera, yes, I will.

* Motion to table Cell phone policy until future meeting with the provision that the Administrator enacting it on emergency made by Secretary Gordon-Brown. Motion seconded by: VP Atencio.

Roll call vote to table Cell Phone Policy.

Vice President Atencio – Yes. Secretary Gordon-Brown – Yes. Mrs. Martinez-Vigil –
Yes. Mr. Riddick – Absent. President Casados – Yes. 4 Votes Yes. 1 absent. 0 Votes No.
Tabling item V e) Cell phone policy approved.

- f) Approval of Discipline Write up form (discussion and possible ACTION) * - discussion

Discipline Write up form shared on screen and read aloud.

* Motion to approve Discipline Write-Up form made by Secretary Gordon-Brown.

Motion seconded by: Vice President Atencio.

Roll call vote: to approve Discipline Write-Up form.

Vice President Atencio – Yes. Secretary Gordon-Brown – Yes. Mrs. Martinez-Vigil –
Yes. Mr. Riddick – Yes. President Casados – Yes. 5 Votes Yes. 0 Votes No. Motion to
approve Discipline Write Up form approved.

- g) Approval of Agenda for December 13, 2022, Town hall

No action will be taken. Will send it out hopefully by tomorrow evening. We look forward to seeing everyone on December 12th at 6pm.

VI. Open Forum / Public Comment

Persons who wish to be heard during “Open Forum” are asked to type your name, who you represent, the topic, and indicate that you would like to speak during Open Forum in the chat. Time will be limited to 2-3 minutes each and at the discretion of the GC President. Persons from the same group and having similar viewpoints are asked to select a spokesperson to speak on their behalf. Multiple and repetitious presentations of the same view will be discouraged and may be ruled out of order by the GC President. If you are only able to join via telephone, you will be asked to identify yourself after those listed in chat have spoken.

We have addressed the food issue. The food comes from McCurdy charter school. They provide it. If you go there, it’s the same food. The issue was, there was not an RFP provided to supply food, and caused issues where we almost didn’t have food service. The salad bar last year was not done this year because the grant was not applied for. There is a budget issue we must fix. The HL has begun conversations with other purveyors to have food service.

When it comes to issues of personnel, we are not allowed to speak on it. We will in Executive Session to discuss. But beyond that we are not allowed to speak on it. Especially on active/on going investigations.

I understand you're frustrated. We are a board of volunteers. We are not paid for this. We don't have children there. The accusations that we are trying to break down this school is false. I ask that you work with us to find ways to get back to the way we were. I have recused myself from any vote that results in anything that results when Rep Montoya or Moving Arts come to play. I have not participated in those.

We hear you. We are frustrated as well because we are dealing with complex issues and want to be as engaging as possible.

This board has been the most transparent. No town halls have every been held. There was no interaction with parents at all. I appreciate the parents' participation in this. We are bound by tasks and rolls that fall to the administrator. We are not allowed to get involved. These issues are being held by the appropriate authorities.

Anita Serrano – why hasn't there been any communication from the school to the parents regarding situations, like the lunch. There has been no communication as why there is another teacher in place of Mr. Krane. This information all comes second hand from the children. If you are on the ad hoc group, I respond to everyone on it. If Mateo places you on that list. As far as Mr. Krane, all I can say is he is no longer employed and there is still an active investigation.

- VII. Executive Session** - The Governing Council will enter executive session to discuss: Personnel and grievance matters. No action will be taken in executive session. (In accordance with the NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 (H)2; Matters discussed in the closed meeting are limited to those specified in the motion of the Governing Council and no action will be taken in executive session.)

(ACTION*) Executive Session: Roll Call Vote to enter Executive Session

*Motion to enter Executive Session made by Secretary Gordon-Brown. Motion seconded by: Vice President Atencio.

Roll call vote: to enter Executive Session.

Vice President Atencio – Yes. Secretary Gordon-Brown – yes. Mrs. Martinez-Vigil – absent

Mr. Riddick – yes. President Casados – yes.

4 Votes Yes.1 absent. 0 Votes No. Motion to enter Executive Session approved.

Recess executive session at 5:40

(ACTION*) Executive Session: Roll Call Vote to Exit Executive Session

*Motion to exit Executive Session made by Secretary Gordon-Brown. Motion seconded by: Mr. Riddick.

Roll call vote: to exit Executive Session.

Vice President Atencio – Yes. Secretary Gordon-Brown – yes. Mrs. Martinez-Vigil – absent

Mr. Riddick – yes. President Casados – yes.

4 Votes Yes.1 absent. 0 Votes No. Motion to exit Executive Session approved

- VIII. Adjourn (ACTION)***

*Motion to adjourn meeting made by: Secretary Gordon-Brown. Seconded by: Vice President Atencio. All in favor Yea.

Meeting adjourned at: 6:13pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT**NAME****REPRESENTING / TOPIC**

Gary Goddard	<p>Gary Goddard here, I have a prepared statement from my wife and I and would like to speak.</p> <p>The past 3 months diverted efforts away and being present, instead we have spent our time asking questions about the staff. Short notice missed first town hall. We have no information about which staff is gone and who's coming. We rely on our 10-year-old. It's troubling to not know. Lead us to believe there is a lack of communication. Causes parents to take their children and leave. Please GC go to the school, on different days to hear, see and speak to the students and staff. Get a more substantial picture of the enrollment by asking the HL for info. Please hold a town hall in early January about the new HL position.</p>
Forrest Dudek	<p>I would like to speak during public comment, and my daughter Ixchel would like to speak as well</p> <p>I'm exhausted. This has just been an exhausting experience trying to deal with this HL and GC and the assault of my son and how it's been handled.</p>
Ixchel Dudek	<p>I think it's unfair for the pet policy to be going on. The land we are using for the school is the home of the people who own these dogs and take care of them. Even though they have never attack or been aggressive. It's unfair to them and the people that live here. Cell phones at school is not fair to be put in a policy, but they should be able to have their phones on them and trusted with their phones. You never know when you may be left alone and must call for help. We might have to need to use our cell phones to call for help. We should be trusted to have them on us. If the board doesn't get it together we will get you off the board.</p>
Anita Serrano	<p>No one has been in the office when I tried to pick up my child, it's happened on more than one occasion. I don't have any info as to where my daughter's teacher has been. There has been major overturn. Mr. Cliff has a sex education talk with my daughter and I had to restart her therapy with her because of this. The lunch refuses to eat her lunch now. They eat burgers and burgers over again. I don't know what to do with any of this. I haven't been informed of anything, new HL and teacher being taken out. This crap with this cell phone is not ok, I pay to have her cell phone for things like school shootings and to keep her cell phone on her. Patricia you're over your 30 days. Why did I fight for the former HL contract.</p>
Maria	<p>What's going on with the school, been hearing from lots of students... in audible. The other concern I have is that my daughter got hit on Wednesday, asked principal to get report, still hasn't given it, went on Friday and she wasn't there.</p>
Mateo Peixhino	<p>Was asked to my son be allowed to address the GC. It's with heavy heart that I'm here after months of trying to avoid this situation. I feel like there is a complete lack of leadership at the school. You can function in these meetings and diplomatic and handle these issues, but leadership is different. One of my emails asked why there is horrible food at the school and told GC doesn't handle it. Doesn't mean you can't go in and sample and eat with the kids. This lunch program was instituted by the</p>

	GC President and HL, we had a great plan, and had great meals for more than a couple of years. My interactions with the GC President are not leadership, I brought up the hole and was just met with rules and laws. I also brought up making a foundation.
Keleo (sp??) Peixhino	School lunches are horrible. Lost ag program and library. I lost my teacher. My classes are being taken away. We had 3 stem days, now only 2. The lunch program is completely disgusting. I don't eat most the time even though I know I'll be hungry. I think the board is not getting together to focus on these things. Talking about a monkey or horse to school is not going to help the fact that none of the students want to eat. Many people have gotten sick. I feel I am not nourished throughout the day and feel horrible. And on top of that our classes, we're not getting enough education. None of what we go over in the board meeting will help me as a student.
Yarna Taa	Me and my husband Sam are parents of Zia. I just want to agree with what has been spoken on. In total agreement with Gary, very confused on what's going on with the school. Quite the disappointment. We trust in the school and Montessori system. Ms. Melisha is an awesome teacher. We feel it's a crumbling system. I would like to hear what the plan and how all these issues are going to be addressed by the council.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Patricia Herrera	Anita Serrano
Benjamin Pearce	Forrest Dudek
Mateo Peixinho	Gary Goddard
Melissa Salazar	Maitai Lopez
Queen Bzz iPhonePROMAX (??)	Yarna Taa
Andrew Brunner	Maria?
Prairie Boulmier	Michelle Peixinho