



New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC)

Governing Body Member Change Notification Instructions

Purpose: To notify the Public Education Commission (PEC) of a change in a member or members of the school's Governing Body. The school may report multiple member resignations/removals and designations on the same form.

Submission Deadline: Changes to the Governing Body membership do not require prior approval of the PEC; however, notice must be received within 30 calendar days of the change. Vacancies must be filled within 45 days; one 30-day extension may be requested.

Notifications completed 14 days prior to the next PEC meeting will be placed on the next agenda. Notifications of this type are typically placed on the consent agenda; however, any notification may be removed from the consent agenda and moved to the regular agenda for full discussion and possible action by the PEC.

Meeting minutes of the governing board of the school and the PEC will serve as an amendment to, or compliance with, the charter contract regarding this membership change. The documentation will be added to the board of finance documentation on file with CSD.

The school must provide:

- Fully completed form
- Approved board minutes or certification of the board's vote accepting the new member
- Resignation Letter or board meeting minutes removing the previous member
- Statement of Governing Body Member to Consult with PED
- Affidavit of Governing Body Member
- Assurances of Governing Body Member

Contact charter.schools@ped.nm.gov with questions about completing or submitting documents.

Governing Body Member Change Notification Form

Submit this form and all supporting documents to charter.schools@ped.nm.gov

The Charter Contract was entered into by and between the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) and Six Directions Indigenous School, hereafter "the school," effective on November 6, 2024.

Current Governing Body Members and Positions: Dr. Sharon Henderson, Chair; Jennifer Russell, Vice Chair; Zowie Banteah, Keeper of Records; Georgianna Desiderio, member

Governing Body Member(s) Resigning or Removed: Dr. Sharon Henderson, Chair; Jennifer Russell, Vice Chair; Zowie Banteah, Keeper of Records; Georgianna Desiderio, member

New Governing Body Member(s) and Position(s):

Contact information for New Governing Body Member(s) (phone, email):

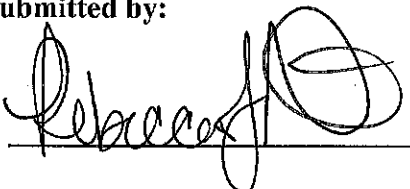
Is the school requesting an extension to fill a vacancy: yes no

If so, provide date of vacancy:

Number of personnel changes (Head Administrator/Business Manager/Procurement Officer, Governing Board Member), including this change, submitted to PEC in the last 12 months: 5

Effective Date: November 6, 2024

The school's notification is hereby submitted by:

Signature of School Representative:  **Date:** 11/6/2024

Signature of Governing Board Chair: _____ **Date:** _____

For PEC/CSD use only

PEC Meeting Date:

Agenda: Consent (typical) Regular (unusual circumstance)

The school's notification was: Accepted Rejected (provide reason)

Electronic signature of CSD Director: _____ **Date:** _____

November 5, 2024

To: Dr. Henderson, Governing Chair Board

From: Jennifer Russell, Governing Vice-Chair

Dear Members of the Board, I am writing to formally submit my resignation as Vice-Chair of the Governing Board of Six Directions, effective immediately.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the governing board and contribute to the school's vision and growth over the past few months.

Unfortunately, the vision of the Six Direction head administrator has a different agenda. These past few months, the head administrator has become toxic. She has not clearly communicated with the board about her concerns but has rather created a hostile environment between the board, staff, students and parents. This hostility has gone as far as harassing and degrading the character of board members including myself. Any mention of trying to be transparent with her, she has shown that she is unwilling to communicate and take any recommendations from the governing board.

It is a concern that she is only becoming a liability for the school. She lacks professionalism and ethics, advocacy for faculty and students, poor school culture and standards, resistance to accept change, having poor conflict resolution skills, lack of integrity and importantly ignoring the well-being of students. There are also allegations of her falsifying grades for student(s). Therefore, I choose not to be part of this situation especially if there are criminal acts being practiced by the head administrator.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Russell', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Russell

November 5, 2024

Dear Chair Dr. Henderson,

After great thought and consideration, I have decided to resign as a Governing Board Member of SDIS. As you know my professional and personal commitments have become increasingly time-consuming.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be part of such a strong and dedicated team and serving on the board for the past 3 years. Thank you for the great leadership. I wish only for the success of SDIS.

Elahkwa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zowie Banteah". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zowie Banteah

From: [Dr. Sharon Henderson](#)
To: [Chavez, Corina, PED](#); natasha@jjdfirm.com; [Zowie Banteah-Yuselew](#); [Georgianna Desiderio](#); [Jennifer Russell](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Resignation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 5:55:10 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Colleagues,

Please accept this letter of resignation from the SDIS governing council to be effective immediately. It has been a pleasure to work on behalf of the students and community. Unfortunately, I am unable to continue to serve on the governing council due to recent egregious behaviors of our head administrator. It behooves me that a semi-qualified school administrator can create such a chaotic and disrespectful school environment. Moreover, the Head Administrator has created discord among staff, parents and students. She has deliberately engaged in vindictive behaviors such as writing harassing hate mails to board members, calling the place of employment of board members, making outrageous and inaccurate public statements, instigating student protests, encouraging a community uproar at board meetings and inviting the local media to demean, discredit and criticize board members. As an educator for over 35 years, I am appalled by the Head Administrator's conduct and behaviors. Almost a year ago, we the governing council confidently appointed Ms. Niiha to the position of Head Administrator that she would lead our school to improved student achievement while fostering Indigenous education. Instead, our school continues to be in dire need of outside intervention.

I sincerely hope the NM Charter Board and Commission will investigate the fraudulent and egregious actions of the Head Administrator and bring harmony back to the community. I sincerely appreciate Ms. Chavez and the Charter Division for their continued support and guidance during my years of board service. Again, I thank you for your time and support to our governing council.

Respectfully,
Dr. Sharon L. Henderson, Governing Council Chair
Six Directions Indigenous School

From: [Dr. Sharon Henderson](mailto:Dr.Sharon.Henderson)
To: [Chavez, Corina, PED; natasha@jdfirm.com](mailto:Chavez_Corina_PED; natasha@jdfirm.com)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letters of Resignation - SDIS
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 6:13:53 PM
Attachments: [November 5, 2024.pdf](#)
[resignation 0001.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening,
I am sorry to inform you that the SDIS governing council has submitted their letters of resignation. Please see attached letters.

Georgianna Desiderio
11/05/2024

To whom it may concern.

This letter is to inform you of my **IMMEDIATE** resignation as Governing Board of Six Directions Indigenous School, effective November 5th, 2024.
I appreciate the opportunity to be a Governing Board, however the harassment, hostility and abuse that My son and I have experience and witness at SDIS, we refuse to tolerate any longer.

This school has many ***discrepancies and violations that need immediate attention!!*** All SDIS staff and students focus more on revenge, protest, hate, harassment, abuse, retaliation, fear, bullying, rather than having students get a solid and well-rounded education to be a productive citizen of society.

My son is a student at SDIS, I am withdrawing him from SDIS 11/06/2024!! My son has experience from all staff and students!!

*HOSTILITY	*HATE	*Unprofessionalism	*Bias
*Rudeness	*INTIMIDATION	*BULLYING	*HARASSMENT
*FEAR	*Worry	*Nervousness	
*Gossip	*THREATS	*Slander	

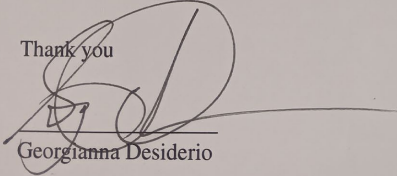
The staff, and their children that attend SDIS alongside the other student body have attacked my son out of retaliation because of Rebacca gossiping, slander, demeaning my character, that I'm a board member. SDIS violated its own handbook/ policies/ bylaws and procedures!!!

I spoke with Sam Whitehair and Ophelia Large previous employees at SDIS, they informed me that Rebacca allow Juniors and Seniors that were short 6 to 8 credits to graduate. Rebacca made adjustments to make sure these junior/senior's graduated May 2024. **This is Fraud!!**

SDIS has violated many NM state laws. As a Board we tried to talk to Rebecca, find out why these things are happening at SDIS. Rebacca retaliates and refuses to work with the board. I WILL NOT be part of Rebacca criminal actions. I have taken the initiative to file police reports for my son and myself, I am sick of being harass by Rebacca and SDIS staff and students.

Is this what PED allows?

Thank you


Georgianna Desiderio