

JJAB Minutes

Wednesday, August 19, 2009
Los Alamos School Board Room
651 Trinity Drive
6:15 PM

Present: Alan Kirk, Morrie Pongratz, Linda Anderman, Jeannette Wallace, Georgina Williams, Randy Smith, Heather Teter, Megan Pfeffer, Michaelangelo Lobato, Grace Brown, Chuck Nye for Wayne Torpy, Barbara Marcille, Tommie Rodriguez, Janine Tulenko.

Others: Sharon Stover, Dick Lindahl. Cheryl Pongratz, Molly Niday, Debbie Gill, Bernadette Lauritzen, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Jenn Bartrum, Linda Daly, Susan Mack, Josh Dolan and Emi Weeks.

1. Welcome and Introductions: at 6:15 PM, Chair Alan Kirk called the meeting to order and welcomed members and visitors. Alan Also thanked Vice-Chair Morrie Pongratz for chairing the JJAB meetings in June and July. Everyone then introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting approved: Jeannette Wallace made the motion, Michaelangelo Lobato seconded, unanimous approval.

3. Los Alamos Youth Leadership (LAYL) Update: Coordinator Bernadette Lauritzen passed out photos of the LAYL August 5th and 6th orientation of 32 youth who have joined the program. She commended Sean Hall who, during the orientation, presented terrific leadership activities. The youth participated in the Ropes course in Santa Fe on the second day of orientation. LAYL has three teams lead by adult leaders who have graduated from Leadership Los Alamos. The LAYL youth are currently engaged in brainstorming activities to be pursued during the year. Suggestions from the youth include: cleaning up Ashley Pond, finishing the concession stand activity from last year, developing a symbol for Los Alamos, cleaning up the LA logo on the side of the mountain, cleaning up the ski hill, adopting families and fund raising, as well as presenting LA Wild Days in April with Los Alamos County Recreation Division. For more information, please contact Bernadette at lauritzens@att.net.

4. Joining & Understanding Now Teens Overcome Separation (JUNTOS) Update: Lori Heimdahl Gibson and Jenn Bartrum presented (1) a Summary Report of JUNTOS activity from 3/01/09 – 8/31/09 and (2) a JUNTOS Second Annual Youth Summit report. The change or the largest magnitude this year: the adults were asked to step back and allow the youth to plan the summit and run JUNTOS. Twenty-four youth and 9 adults participated in the Summit at Northern New Mexico College—El Rito Campus from Friday, July 25 – Sunday, July 26. Twelve youth facilitators designed and implemented the summit program. Five guest speakers provided unique cultural perspectives, three of the speakers were youth. Summit participants each created 12" X 12" sections for the JUNTOS quilt art project and then worked in collaboration with their team mates to create a second, smaller quilt. Jenn and Lori reported on some security challenges at the campus; however, they were successfully managed. The board responded to the reports with applause. For more information, contact Jenn at viewfindernmn@yahoo.com.

5. Youth Mobilizers (YM)- YM members Emi Weeks and Josh Dolan reported on the YM Senior Sidekick Program. The program was developed over the summer in response to information YM members gathered during their High School Drop Out Survey. The survey indicated that students often do not feel welcome at the high school. The Senior Sidekick Program matches freshmen with seniors. The seniors guide and assist freshmen in their adjustment to High School. Josh and Emi have even developed an activity book for the program. The Board thanked Josh and Emi and gave them a round of applause.

6. Agency Updates: Chair Alan Kirk requested time in the meeting to receive information from the different agencies working with JJAB:

Los Alamos Family Council – Cheryl Pongratz reported that LAFC will no longer offer psychiatric services. LAFC has funded services for 5 years but can no longer afford it. This reduction in services will effect 140 people in LA. Also, the JCC program does not service enough youth to maintain staff. This program will also be discontinued. LAFC has been in discussions with the County regarding certain social service issues. Discussions regarding the County sending out requests for proposals for social services have occurred.

YMCA – Linda Daly reported that the Y needs staffing for Fifth Quarter and Keeping After Prom and Homecoming Safe.

Family Strengths Network – Susan Mack encouraged all to check out the new LFSN web site., www.lafsn.org. FSN will also be hosting a Chamber FAN Club on Thursday, August 20.

Los Alamos High School – Grace Brown reported she is encouraging kids to test for the betterment of the school. The NovaNet Credit Recovery Program helped 5 students graduate; a \$100 charge is requested of students participating in the NovaNet program, the money is returned when a student finishes the program.

7. Subcommittee Reports – No discussion.

8. CYFD Grant & Prevention Program Update – Sharon passed out current information. The contract with CYFD has not yet been signed by the County pending review by the County Attorney. Contact Sharon for specific information, Sharon@cybermesa.com.

9. Board Area of Interest – The Retreat date has been changed to Wednesday, October 21. Dr. Earl Suttle, internationally recognized keynote speaker, youth seminar leader and business consultant is booked for the Retreat. The Coordinator will contact all board members to see who can attend. The regular September Board meeting will meet Wednesday, September 16. 6:15 pm, 651 Trinity.

10. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.