

Minutes

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Los Alamos School Board Room – 6:15 p.m.

Present: Alan Kirk, Bernadette Lauritzen, Sandra Gallegos, Kelsey Souza, Kateri Morris, Georgina Williams, Kim McCormick, Heather Teter, Jim Berrigan, John Reninger, Jordan Schoonover, Keith Lewis, Jody Benson, Pat Casados, Joy Freymiller, Richard Lindahl, Robert Gibson, Sandy Warnock, Arturo Naegelin, Wayne Torpy, Wayne Byers, and Sharon Stover

Others: Donna Schroeder, Tom Locke, Sandra Scher, Dianne Marquez, Marc Clay, Janine Tulenko, Cheryl Pongratz, Lori Heimdahl-Gibson, Morrie Pongratz, Barb Marcille, Susan Mack, Jeff Eichorst, Bonita Eichorst, Carol Clark, David Sims, and Crystal Zellner

1. **Welcome.** Board Chair, Alan Kirk, welcomed members and visitors. Jody Benson held a moment of silence in memory of the tragic incident at Virginia Tech.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Judge Pat Casados moved to approve the minutes for March 21, 2007; John Reninger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously
3. **Drug Testing in Schools – Dr. Sandra Scher.** Dr. Scher is an occupational physician at LANL and presented information on drug testing in the work place. Drug testing could be allowed for students involved in extra curricular activities in an effort to deter them from drinking and/or taking drugs. Included in Dr. Scher's presentation was the nuts and bolts and items for the school board to consider if it refines its policy. A brief history on why the JJAB board was discussing the issue was given by Morrie Pongratz. No action was taken by the board, and the School Board has already received the information presented by Dr. Scher.
4. **Mental Well-Being of Our Community – Tom Locke, LANL Clinical Psychologist, and Jordan Schoonover, LAHS Natural Helpers.** Tom Locke said that often his team at LANL often asks people how the morale is in their working unit and the responses run the gamut. He noted that they do not have a systematic way of measuring stress at LANL. He also stated that anecdotal information reveals that stress is up at LANL, however, quantitative data suggests that stress is down. He and his team have reviewed mental health utilization and found that the numbers are decreasing of people going for counseling. They have no data if people are paying for the mental health services directly out of their pocket, however, they are not using insurance. He also reported on a survey his team sent out to medical and mental health providers and emphasized for the board not to draw any conclusions. The data from the providers indicated that symptoms such as irritability, depression, martial stress, lack of sleep, increase in alcohol use, etc. are up. His team is struggling to square up the quantitative data from the anecdotal data. Various service providers, including the faith community, commented in what they are seeing and how they are dealing with people. Jordan Schoonover reported on the survey of

high school freshmen and sophomores on what their top five concerns were and stated that nearly 1/3 of the students surveyed placed stress at the top. It was noted that stress has not been at the top in recent years and Natural Helpers has been doing some classes to deal with reducing stress for students at school. No action was taken by the board.

5. **Funding Requests.** A. Senior Appreciation Night – Dianne Marquez, LA County Recreation Programs Manager. Dianne Marquez presented an informational sheet explaining to the board why there is a need for financial assistance for Senior Appreciation Night. Wayne Torpy moved to approved \$3,000 to fund the administrative costs of Senior Appreciation Night, and the motion was seconded by Kim McCormick. Motion was unanimous approved. Board members also expressed an interest in volunteering in a SAN activity. B. 40 Developmental Assets. Georgina moved to request \$1,000 in funding for the 40 Developmental Asset training and further requested that Bernadette Lauritzen attend the training since it was one of the main goal areas of the board. The motion was seconded by Joy Freymiller and passed unanimously.
6. **CYFD Grant & Prevention Program Update.** Board members received a written update on the status of the intervention programs funded by CYFD and the prevention programs funded by the County and Schools for the month of March. They also viewed the DVD of the youth leadership program.
7. **Strategic Plan and Continuum Updates (JJAB Subcommittee Chairs).** The strategic plan review process has been initiated by the board since January. Board members did meet in their subcommittees for 15 minutes beginning at 6:00 p.m., however, due to the lateness of the meeting reports will be given next month.
8. **Board Area of Interest.** A. Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Subcommittee. David Sims handed out information requesting volunteers to help with upcoming Town Hall scheduled for May 3 and encouraged people to attend the next planning meeting on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. He reviewed the process that will be used to solicit input from participants. Board members discussed the new program in the community for teens with a drinking problem to attend and requested information. B. Weekly LA Monitor Articles – Bernadette Lauritzen. The Monitor has agreed to publish a weekly article on issues the board is interested in informing the public on. C. RELATION – Lori Heimdahl Gibson. Lori reported on a milestone meeting on Monday, April 16 with approximately 20 community leaders from Española and Los Alamos to discuss opportunities build to better relationships with each other. The group will again meet on May 7. D. Board Retreat – Volunteers. Sharon requested assistance in helping plan the board retreat scheduled for June 7-8, from 8-noon each day at the Golf Course Building. The retreat will be facilitated by Thom Allena from Innovations in Justice. E. Status of Non-Profit Process. Sharon reported that the process is in the ‘works’ and that a RFP is being developed by the County.
9. **Next Meeting Date.** The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, 2007, at 6:15 p.m. at the School Board Room, located at 651 Trinity Drive; board retreat is scheduled for June 7-8 from 8-noon each day.

Submitted by Sharon Stover