Albuquerque Talent Development Academy (ATDA)

Governing Council (GC) Meeting Minutes

05/21/24

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| GC MembersJose Scott, President (**Present**)Gloria Garza, Vice President (**Present**)Kelly Wogenrich, Treasurer (**Present**)Brian Jones, Member (**Not Present**)Jan McClure, Member (**Present**) | Others PresentLucinda Molina, PrincipalMichael Davis, Assistant Principal/TechnologyCorinne Teller, Business ManagerMelissa Mendonca, GearUp CoordinatorNora Padilla, ELA TeacherRebecca Medina, Parent LiaisonAnne Massie, Math InterventionistJesus Moncada, CDHA PrincipalCasey Benavidez, CDHA Assistant PrincipalRachel Gamboa, CDHA Dean of StudentsJulie Weeks, CDHA SpEd CoordinatorRachel Saenz, GearUp NM RepresentativeSilvia Fraire Nino, Parent |

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance @ 5:31 PM: Jose Scott

**[Open Session]**

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| **Approval of Agenda** |
| Motion to ApproveGloria Garza | Motion SecondedJan McClure |
| VoteJose Scott – Approved Gloria Garza – ApprovedKelly Wogenrich – Approved Jan McClure – Approved |

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| **Approval of 04/08/24 Minutes** |
| Motion to ApproveJan McClure | Motion SecondedGloria Garza |
| VoteJose Scott – Approved Gloria Garza – ApprovedKelly Wogenrich – Approved Jan McClure – Approved |

**Public Input**

Nora Padilla – Ms. Padilla expressed that she has questions pertaining to the school closure item and was in attendance seeking clarification as to the future of ATDA.

Melissa Mendonca – Ms. Mendonca is concerned about a potential ATDA school closure due to GearUp New Mexico’s ongoing partnership with the Higher Ed department. She mentioned an upswing in college and career program participation at ATDA as a hallmark of GearUp’s success at the school, and was seeking financial evidence as to why the school might need to close.

Rebecca Medina – Ms. Medina brought up concerns about the timing of a potential school closure and the lack of notice provided to staff.

Rachel Saenz – Rachel, as a GearUp representative for Higher Education, expressed confusion over financial strain at ATDA and cited a $280,000 award to the school for 2023-2024 that is expected to be repeated for the upcoming year in relationship with GearUp programs and initiatives. She made a call for clarity as to any processes that ATDA may put in place if a transition to closure is necessary.

Silvia Fraire Nino – Ms. Nino, as an ATDA parent, wanted to know about a closure decision as soon as possible due to placement indications for her family; she has a student currently attending ATDA and other members of her family are considering enrollment.

**Financial Information Items via Finance Committee Consent Agenda –** Presented by Corrine Teller and Finance Committee Member, Kelly Wogenrich: The Governing Council approved the finance reports without additional discussion.

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| **Approval of March 2024 and April 2024 Finance Reports –** The GC approved the 2024.03 and 2024.04 finance reports, as well as BARs 11000-0026-M, 11000-0029-T, 24174-0021-D, 25205-0028-T, and 27107-0027-I. |
| Motion to ApproveKelly Wogenrich | Motion SecondedGloria Garza |
| VoteJose Scott – Approved Gloria Garza – ApprovedKelly Wogenrich – Approved Jan McClure – Approved |

**[Personnel Items]** – NONE

**[Staff/Committee Briefings] Principal’s Report –** Presented by Lucinda Molina: ATDA is currently involved in End of Year activities. Graduation is the last major event of the year and will be taking place at the National Hispanic Cultural Center on June 5 at 6 PM.

**Additional Final Action Items**

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| **Discussion & Possible Action of FY24 Fixed Asset Listing –** Ms. Teller shared a listing of school assets above the capital threshold for the annual audit. By rule, these assets must be listed. The list included such things as the cost of construction projects at the school site, the patio sun shade, the bell system, and the refrigerator in the staff lounge. No new purchases made in the 2023-2024 school year were above the threshold for the provided list, so all assets included have been at ATDA for some time. The GC approved the provided listing. |
| Motion to ApproveGloria Garza | Motion SecondedKelly Wogenrich |
| VoteJose Scott – Approved Gloria Garza – ApprovedKelly Wogenrich – Approved Jan McClure – Approved |

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| **Motion to Table Discussion & Possible Actions of ATDA School Closure, Closure Letter to APS School Board, and Inventory Disposals –** After discussion of the difficulties facing ATDA if operations were to continue into the next school year, a motion was made to table action items pertaining to a potential closure to allow members of the GC to contemplate public input received at the meeting as well as to communicate with staff at Christine Duncan Heritage Academy concerning possible arrangements moving forward that may assist ATDA with operations. The motion was made with the intent that an emergency meeting be promptly scheduled to settle the issue in the wake of sensitive timelines. This motion was approved. As a summary of information provided at the meeting prior to the motion to table:* Ms. Teller stressed that the operational budget of the school for the 2024-2025 school year is balanced and intact. However, future financial viability beyond next year is dependent on being able to maintain a minimum enrollment of 126 students, and even then, deficits would only be overcome with the addition of a building procurement.
* Enrollment obstacles were presented by the members of the GC. With approximately 132 students enrolled currently and 47 students scheduled to graduate, 85 students would be returning to ATDA assuming 100% retention. This means ATDA would have to gain around 40 students before the 40th day of the 2024-2025 school year to remain financially viable. The GC, in cooperation with ATDA administration, has undertaken many campaigns to drive enrollment, including commercial and billboard advertisements, mailings, and a robust search for a new school site, none of which have made significant progress or driven numbers up in the past 5 years.
* GC members also discussed the lack of parent involvement, both in terms of GC board representation and attendance at public meetings.
* Additional public commentary during this item clarified that while some avenues of assistance, such as an allocation of GearUp funding to support school operations, are not available, others, such as a negotiation of ATDA’s monthly lease amount and staffing partnerships from CDHA next door, may be possible. In addition, many members of the public mentioned that the strength of programs and program offerings at ATDA should also help to drive school interest, and in turn, enrollment: These programs include an increase in participation for college and career programs through GearUp New Mexico as well as ATDA’s pursuit of a Bilingual Seal program for student diplomas.
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| Motion to ApproveJan McClure | Motion SecondedKelly Wogenrich |
| VoteJose Scott – Approved Gloria Garza – ApprovedKelly Wogenrich – Approved Jan McClure – Approved |

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| **Confirmation of Scheduling of Next ATDA Governing Council Meeting*** An emergency meeting has been scheduled for 05/23/24 @ 11:00 AM to address the items that were tabled at tonight’s meeting and to allow some of the GC members time to meet with personnel at Christine Duncan on Wednesday, May 22.
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| Motion to ApproveKelly Wogenrich | Motion SecondedJan McClure |
| VoteJose Scott – Approved Gloria Garza – ApprovedKelly Wogenrich – Approved Jan McClure – Approved |

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| **Motion to Adjourn @ 7:45 PM** |
| Motion to ApproveGloria Garza | Motion SecondedKelly Wogenrich |
| VoteJose Scott – Approved Gloria Garza – ApprovedKelly Wogenrich – Approved Jan McClure – Approved |