

Amigos Por Vida – Friends for Life Public Charter School

Amigos Por Vida – Friends for Life Housing and Education Corporation School

Regular Board Meeting

Board of Governors

05/22/2018

The Board of Governors of the Amigos Por Vida – Friends for Life Charter School (“School”) met in a Regular meeting 05/22/2018 at the school, 5503 El Camino Del Rey Street, Houston, Texas 77081. The meeting notice was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act.

The Following Board Members were present:

- **Silvia Graves, Board President**
- **Omar Velez, Board Vice- President**
- **Lydia Tamez, Board Secretary**
- **Rose Mary Valencia, Board Member**

Also present were:

- **Freddy Delgado, Principal/Superintendent**
- **Bill Dinkel, Chief Financial Officer**
- **Kakoli Mukerji, Assistant Principal**
- **Maryury Fernandez, Assistant Principal**
- **Jessica Hernandez, School Secretary**
- **Maria Ramirez, PTO President**
- **Yvonne Salazar, PTO Vice President**
- **Yolanda Flores, PTO Treasurer**
- **Adriana Diaz de Leon, PTO Secretary**
- **Lilian Garcia, 2016-17 PTO President**
- **Angela Reid, Music Teacher**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Graves called the meeting to order at 6:51 PM.

2. Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Maria Ramirez, President of the PTO stood before the Board Members to present the school with a \$10,000.00 check. Mrs. Ramirez explained that to help fund the sound project at Amigos Por Vida, PTO collected the money throughout the school year. She, along with Ms. Yvonne Salazar, Ms. Yolanda Flores, Ms. Adriana Diaz de Leon and former PTO

president- Ms. Lilian Garcia, asked the administrative staff and the Board members if they had a tentative date to when the sound project would begin. Mr. Dinkel answered that by mid- July this project should begin. Ms. Graves thanked the PTO members for all their hard work. She stated that she, speaking for the Board Members and everyone here at Amigos Por Vida, really appreciated their efforts to improve our school.

Mrs. Ramirez also came to speak about sports funding at Amigos Por Vida. She started with stating that she is a mother of three athletes here at APV, and throughout the years, she has noticed that sports program here lacks funding. She stated that during awards ceremony, Mr. Avery- the Physical Education teacher, and coach of most of the athletics programs- only handed out one trophy, and certificates for the rest. Mrs. Ramirez believes that Mr. Avery has done an excellent job as a PE teacher this year with Amigos Por Vida. She stated that he introduced new sports to the students, and encouraged the students to join athletic teams. She stated that this year, the soccer team had to use uniforms that have been used in past years, and that at times they were even wearing two types of uniforms to complete a team. She suggests that parents can pay half of the costs of uniforms, while the school also helps with the other half. She also asks that the school help fund all other sports necessities. She asked for there to be an established funds account, for all sports necessities, such as busses and after game meals. Ms. Graves thanked Mrs. Ramirez for bringing this to the Board Members attention, and asked Mrs. Jessica Hernandez to add this to the agenda for the next Board Meeting. Ms. Valencia asked Mrs. Ramirez to start working on a budget proposal to present to the school. She asked that in this budget she incorporate a full uniform price vs. itemized list price. She also asked Mr. Dinkel for the cost of buses per school year for sports. She stated that she would like to address all the needs for all the sports.

Ms. Reid, the music teacher for Amigos Por Vida, presented her Orff ensemble group, formed as part as the 90s club. The 90's club consists of students that throughout the school year have only had a grade of 90 or higher on all subjects.

Ms. Reid introduced herself to the Board Members. She briefly described to the Board Members her 12-year career as a music teacher. She explained that her goal for this school year was to have some intake on the student population and to see how things worked here at APV. Ms. Reid mentioned that this is the first year she has worked for a charter school. She came into the school with the goal to create and Orff ensemble. She explained that every May, there is a big festival where all schools must qualify to perform, and on May 5, 2018- Amigos Por Vida Orff Ensemble group performed in that festival. Ms. Reid stated that for the coming school year, her goal is to establish an elective system. This would be for grades 5 through 8. Elective program would consist of Band, Choir, Art, and Computer. We had an elective informational night to inform the parents of what is to be expected from each class. Mr. Delgado stated that he is still looking into hiring a dance teacher to incorporate into this program. Ms. Graves asked why was the computer class part of an elective program and not a mandatory class for all students to take throughout the year. Mr. Delgado replied that this is something they are able to look into. Ms. Reid proceeded to inform the Board Members that each elective class will have a student capacity of 25. The Board agreed, and thanked Ms. Reid for this information. They welcomed her to the school.

3. School Updates

Mr. Delgado explained the school updates. He began by informing the Board the events that took place between our last Board Meeting and now. He did mention that we celebrated teacher appreciation week by gifting our teachers daily with small gifts and ending up with a big luncheon hosted by the PTO. We celebrated Mother's Day with mariachis. We had a full week of STAAR testing, in which the kids did great and the school day went by smoothly. Ms. Mukerji went over the STAAR results for this year. She informed the Board that our 5th grade and our 8th grade performed very well on their STAAR tests. Ms. Mukerji explained that in comparison to our 2017 STAAR test results, our students had significantly improved. Although we still do not have the results for the remainder of the STAAR tests taken by the students this year. Ms. Mukerji did mention that we have some students that may fail the English STAAR tests because they have recently moved to this country and are currently transitioning into the new language. Ms. Valencia asked what would happen if the students did not pass the STAAR test. Ms. Mukerji replied that in the case that a student does not pass a STAAR test, the administrators, teachers, coaches and parents will have a meeting to discuss if the student is then retained in the current grade or if they are able to move on to the next grade. This all depends on different elements. Ms. Mukerji explained to the Board Members that if the student fails it is due to a combination of them not wanting to test and also not ready to test. She stated that moving forward we are currently working with incorporating more technology into the classes to appeal the students. Mr. Delgado went on to let the Board know that we have received a letter of recognition from Texas Honor Roll. They congratulated us on our achievement and informed us that for the school year 2017-2018, Amigos Por Vida public Charter School has been recognized as an Honor Roll School. The Board was very pleased to hear this and congratulated us on our great accomplishment.

Action Items:

4. Discuss and consider Board minutes from 04/24/2018

Ms. Valencia motioned to approve the Board Minutes from 04/24/2018. Mr. Velez seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

5. Discuss and consider Student and Business Technology services for 2018-2019 school year

Mr. Dinkel started by stating that we are currently supported by Region 4 and an application that is called TxEIS, which is both a student and business application. He explained that in comparison to our current rate, the rate for 2018-2019 has gone up by 23 percent. Both the enrollment and fees per student have increase, but the field services have remained the same. For the business application, and software updates, there is an increase of \$800. For the year 2018-2019. There is an increase of \$1,920.48 than what there was this year. Mr. Dinkel stated that TxEIS is still one of the most popular and efficient applications for both student and business. Mr. Dinkel recommended we renew TxEIS for the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Valencia moved to accept. Ms. Tamez seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Information Items:

6. Financial Update as of 04/30/2018

Mr. Dinkel started by stating that our cash as of 4/30/2018 has increased slightly, yet we are still second highest from this school year. Reviewing the financial update, Ms. Graves asked if preferred meals was paid \$14k for 2 weeks. Mr. Dinkel confirmed. Ms. Valencia then asked regarding our speech services. She wanted to know if these services were ongoing. Mr. Dinkel explained that our speech services is ongoing, and we are charged by the hour. He clarified that Ms. Connaway is professional services and not speech therapist, our speech therapist is Ms. Vasquez. He explained that there were 13 checks under \$100 with a total amount of \$557.33. He re-assured the Board Members that the athletic department does not need to win a game in order to purchase a meal for the players on game day, although they do have a budget of \$6 per student. As shown in item #51 for Chantze Avery, it was a reimbursement for the meals for the players. They went over for the bus services cost as well. Ms. Valencia asked if there was a reason why we use Alamo bus services; Mr. Dinkel explained that Alamo was the only one that had all their paperwork in order, including insurance. Mr. Dinkel went on to explain the Actual vs. Budget as of 04/30/2018. He mentioned that he is still tracking payment from the state due to attendance. We are currently 4% over what was budgeted. Mr. Dinkel reminded the Board that for the 2017-2018 school year, there has only been one perfect attendance day. He stated that we are still over budget in staff development. Mr. Dinkel informed the Board that he has not yet received the final bill for Blackman Moore. He stated that this project has been a year in the works, and this is due to hurricane Harvey. He explained that when Hurricane Harvey hit, they were forced to send out their men to work in places that really needed them.

7. Update on School Safety


Mr. Delgado began by stating that with the recent tragedies happening around the country, and the most recent being in Santa Fe- so close to us. He wanted to make sure our school was secured for the safety of our students and staff. Mr. Delgado stated to the Board members that Mr. Dinkel has been asking for quotes to secure our campus, starting with the entry doors. He wants to see if we were able to have some secured glass placed for our safety. Mr. Dinkel confirmed that he has asked for quotes to install temper-glass around the campus. He stated that he has requested a face-to-face meeting with different companies to view alternative methods that would be able to stop a bullet. Ms. Graves agreed that we need to secure our school more, she suggested metal detectors. Mr. Dinkel informed that we do have cameras installed around campus, and we are considering to place an alarm on those doors that are not entry doors.

8. New Business

Mr. Delgado started by letting the Board Members know that we have received a letter for the Board to receive a training on behalf of the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The training is a 2-day event for all board members. Mr. Delgado stated that he would contact TEA to see if this was something, they could provide here at the school as a 1-day event instead. The Board Members agreed and asked Mr. Delgado to please try to get them to give the training in our campus. Mr. Delgado proceeded to inform the Board that The Texas Charter School Association has asked for an orientation to see a bigger campus. Ms. Graves suggested more time to discuss and brainstorm new ideas. Ms. Valencia suggested we have to address some key factors before we are to open a new campus. She stated that she believes there are many things that must be taken care of before we move forward with making Amigos Por Vida a bigger school.

9. Adjourn

Ms. Valencia motioned to adjourn this Board Meeting. Ms. Tamez seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19th at 6:30 p.m.



Silvia Graves, Board President



Lydia Tamez, Board Secretary