

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 9/18/18

The Board of Governors of the Amigos Por Vida-Friends for Life Charter School met in a Regular Meeting 9/18/18 at the school, 5503 El Camino del Rey Street, Houston, TX 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, Vice President
- Rosy Mary Valencia, Board Member
- Lydia Tamez, Board Member

Also present were:

- Freddy Delgado, Principal/Superintendent
- Quynh Tran, Business Manger
- Kakoli Mukerji, Assistant Principal
- Maryury Fernandez, Assistant Principal

1. Call to Order

Ms. Graves called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

2. Hearing of citizens

Citizen #1

Ms. Flores (PTO President) wanted to talk about bringing a tradition for Halloween back at APV. The parents wanted to see if the Board would approve the students wearing costumes on Halloween. Ms. Flores stated that APV used to do it and that most schools have this tradition as well. She mentioned that there could be a contest and it's fun for the kids. Mr. Delgado stated that he personally does not believe in Halloween, but the experience he had with students wearing costumes was not good. Students did not have extra clothes and accidents happened. It is more of a wasted instructional day. The reason PTO wants to do costumes on Halloween is to take pictures and get funds through the picture. Ms. Graves suggested having the tradition in the

morning and everything needs to be put away by 11 am. Mr. Delgado prefers not to do anything because it is a waste of an instructional day. Mr. Delgado believes that Fiesta Patrias is a better option because there is no distraction of costumes. Everyone is in his or her traditional dress. Mr. Delgado states that you have to worry more about discipline if the students wear costumes. Ms. Salazar starts explaining that the last time this tradition happened the event was not big. The students would show off their costumes off to the other students and that was it. It was nice for the parents to see the students happy and to take photos with them and their teacher that was also dressed up. Ms. Salazar does agree with Mr. Delgado's reasons, but this has been a tradition that was happening when the school opened. There have always been rules on the costumes. The funds from taking photos of the kids really did work because the parents want to have a memory of the events that happen at the school. Ms. Flores believes that the children should be rewarded with this tradition for their good grades. Mr. Delgado commented that it is not just about his beliefs, but there are some students that do not believe in this tradition as well. Ms. Graves says it is not a private school and not everyone needs to participate. Ms. Graves asked Mr. Delgado to reconsider the students having costumes on Halloween.

Citizen #2

Ms. Diaz discussed how her two children are allergic to milk and that every year she brings a letter from the Doctor to the school for proof. Ms. Diaz is asking for lactose free-milk and says other schools provide that type of milk for their students that need it. Ms. Diaz mentioned how one time her son came home with a stomach ache from having bad milk. Ms. Graves advised her to tell her children to just not drink milk anymore. Ms. Graves states that it is difficult for the food company to bring milk just for one student. Mr. Delgado said the company that sells the milk to the school could not provide individualized milk for the student.

3. School updates

Mr. Delgado stated that APV got a letter from The Texas House of Representative, Gene Wu, and he wants to collaborate with APV. Mr. Delgado told Mr. Wu that he would let him know after the board meeting.

September

- 12-Breakfast with the Principal
- 15-Hispanic Heritage Month
- 18- Board Meeting
- 19- Early Dismissal
- 26- Open House

October

- 4- SHAC Meetings
- 10- Breakfast with the Principal
- 16- Board Meeting

- 24- Parent Education Session
- 22-26 Red Ribbon Week
- 27- Fall Festival

4. Discuss and consider Board minutes from 8/21/18

Ms. Graves had no objections to the minutes. Ms. Valencia motioned and Mr. Tamez seconded.

5. Discuss and consider School Improvement Plan (S.I.P)

Ms. Mukerji met with educators, staff, parents, and people from the community and discussed the different need assessment. Based on feedback, there are goals for improvement.

1. Recruiting, supporting, and retaining our highly effective teachers.
 - a. APV has competitive salary
 - b. Incentive pay based on performance
 - c. Instructional coaches supporting teachers
 - d. Retention Bonus
 - e. Stipends
2. Reading Goal: students once they finish third grade they are reading at grade level.
 - a. Instructional coaches
 - b. Implementing guided reading in the lower primary
 - c. Technology use/online programs
3. Math goal: increase our Mets from 49% to 59% and our master 27% to 35%.
4. Try to maintain 98% attendance throughout the year.
 - a. Office calls parents if the child is absent
 - b. Teachers call the parents if the child is absent
 - c. If 100% attendance is met, then a surprise treat for all the students
 - d. Every 6 weeks, APV recognizes the students with perfect attendance
 - e. Class with the highest attendance gets pizza for the month
5. Our grades third grade-eighth grade will increase in mets and master levels by 5% by all subjects.

Ms. Valencia moved to approve the School Improvement Plan. Mr. Tamez seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

6. Discuss and consider independent auditor for the 2017-2018 school year

Mr. Tran presented the new proposal from APVs auditors to stay being the auditors for this year and mentioned on switching auditors. The Board felt it was better to stay with these auditors because they have been doing a good job these past years. If APV wanted a new auditor, it would be best to present bids early on in the year before the contract expires.

Ms. Valencia moved to stay with the same auditor. Mr. Velez seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

7. Discuss and consider adding Board Members-Resume submitted

Mr. Delgado received a resume from Jacqueline Castaneda and has been with APV for the past two years. Ms. Castaneda supported APV after Harvey and had school supply drive. Mr. Delgado asked the Board the process of applying for a position to be a Board member. Ms. Graves states that Mr. Delgado can receive resumes and to check them to see who would be the best in helping APV, someone with a financial background would be good. If someone is interested, an interview should happen to ask what his or her objectives and goals are.

8. Financial update as of 8/31/2018

Mr. Tran discussed the notes added to the Actual VS Amended Budget Comparison document.

- #13, that they had to make a note of the purchase of the Pro Dev'l books (\$670 August) because it went over budget and it was not included in budget amendment.
- #31: Invoice for \$6,100 from contractor for psychological evaluations and assessments conducted January-May not received until June, after the budget review and amended plus \$2,800 Stanford and Apprenda testing materials not consider when amending the budget.
- #51: final invoice for Mild Mitigation not yet received. Amount unknown, originally estimated at \$30K-\$40K.
- #71: Increased bank loan interest due to the Tax Cut & Jobs Act. Interest rate increased - .75%.

9. Acoustics Update

Mr. Tran gave an update stating that today (9/18/18) was the last day the company was going to be APV because they were almost finished. The acoustic panels look great in the cafeteria and you can hear a difference in the sound (no longer an echo).

10. APV was selected to the Replicating Great Options Strategic Growth Institute

- **Video conference call with Elliot Nguyen from the Texas Charter School Association**
 - Board Member introductions were done for Elliot. Elliot's role is to get new charter schools off the ground and helps charter schools expand. Elliot was asking the Board if they were interested in growing the school (high school, middle school, or elementary school). Elliot is here to help APV explore there opportunities.

- Ms. Graves discussed how APV wants to grow once the goals have been met and they have just achieved them. The Board has not had a chance to talk about growing yet, but it is nice that the school has been selected yet. No decision is going to be made tonight; the Board needs to discussed the conditions.

11. Board Training

- at The Texas Charter School Association conference on October 26th, 2018

12. Adjourn

Mr. Valencia Moved to adjourn the board meeting. Mr. Velez seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 6:30 pm.

Silvia Graves, Board President

Lydia Tamez