

Minutes
Pima Vocational High School (PVHS)
Monthly Board Meeting
January 21, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

President – Albert Garcia
Vice President – Mary Fellows
Board Member - Dalila Perez
Board Member – Juanita Garcia-Seiger
Board Member – Donna Ruthruff

Board Members Absent:

Jay Slaughter

Also Present:

Ms. Leslie Lynch – Program Coordinator
Ms. Klara Everson – Educ. Serv. Coordinator
Ms. Kayla Walker – Data Specialist
Ms. Anne Ortiz - Aspire

Call to Order

8:30 a.m. by President Garcia, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Reports

1. Director's Report

Ms. Lynch thanked the board for attending Michele's retirement celebration and for their kind words and help with donations toward her gift.

Ms. Lynch reported that Program Manager has still not been opened for hiring due to Pima County hiring freeze and possible reclassifying of the position. Ms. Lynch reported that some re-organization is going on within the new department that may affect several positions.

Ms. Lynch reported that the Ina math teacher, Ms. Garcia, left PVHS to take a position at PCC (Pima Community College). Due to lower enrollment numbers and virtual learning, PVHS is able to utilize one math teacher and one social studies teacher for both campuses.

Ms. Lynch reported that 18 students graduated in December, but with the enrollment of 15 new and returning students, PVHS has almost made up for the loss. Ms. Lynch reminded board that PVHS is paid on 100th day ADM (Average Daily Membership).

Ms. Lynch reported on the services provided to students and their families during virtual learning and the office hours provided by Joel Brown, PVHS Youth Specialist, to help students and families in need. Students and families have received gift cards, baby clothes and accessories, help with rent and utilities, monies to Youth on Their Own students through a survivor grant, food boxes, etc.

Ms. Lynch reported that the ESG (Enrollment Stabilization Grant) grant came in much lower than what was expected. Ms. Ortiz reported that the funding available to the state was not enough to cover the needs of the schools across the state. State capped the funding to \$500 per student. Ms. Ortiz also added that an ESSER (Elementary, Secondary School Emergency Response) grant #2 is coming out, and although it should be a substantial amount, we don't know exactly how much at this point. Just as in ESSER grant #1, it will be a very spendable grant.

Due to low numbers awarded in the ESG grant, Ms. Lynch reported that hiring for a social studies and math teacher is being put on hold to help cover the deficit.

Ms. Lynch reported on the ADE (Arizona Department of Education) site visit from the ADE specialist and the feedback given by specialist. There were very positive comments about the teaching observations in addition to a couple of areas where improvement can be made.

Ms. Lynch reported that based on the board vote, which was to go hybrid pending Pima County Health benchmarks, the decision was made to stay with remote learning due to the recommendation to stay remote learning due to all three health benchmarks being in the red.

2. Program Coordinator's Report

Ms. Everson gave her background experience with regard to education having served for 23 years as a teacher, a principal, and director of charter/alternative schools and has had success in leading her schools that were in improvement out of that classification.

Ms. Everson reported on the January Staff Development, which centered around the comprehensive needs assessment and using Schoolmaster gradebook for use in family link so that families have access to their student's grades.

Ms. Everson reported that we have chosen a Social and Emotional Learning curriculum, which is required by our Integrated Action Plan. The curriculum chosen is School Connect, which has teaching principles that align with PVHS's best practices.

Ms. Everson reported on the math assessments she has been researching to give more accurate scoring. The school has chosen Galileo for all testing, which will help predict performance on the AzM2 testing, and it will also create the opportunity to build pre-and post-tests, which will reduce the burden significantly on the teachers.

Ms. Everson reported that we purchased Renaissance and Freckle for the learning paths for math. Both allow teachers to customize the learning path as well and contain ideas for carrying instruction into the classroom. The reporting capability is also superior than that given by Exact Path, which is what PVHS is currently using.

Ms. Everson reported on the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) trainings we are currently undergoing to help us modify our program to better meet the social, emotional and academic needs of our students. This year the focus is to build strong practices; next year, the focus will be to work more closely with students who don't respond well to the PVHS universal interventions/best practices.

Ms. Everson reported on classroom observations to make sure there is quality instruction and that PVHS best practices are still be implemented even though the teaching is virtual, such as learning outcomes and success criteria. She is also reviewing professional development plans and making sure that teachers are being supported on those plans.

3. Financial Reports

Ms. Ortiz shared the task order report; nothing really out of the ordinary at Ina; at Irvington seeing some motion in reversing charges for clogged toilet and ceiling repair.

Ms. Ortiz reported on the December board package

- Enrollment ADM with regard to payment is still finalizing but should be close to 60;
- Spending Forecast has been reduced substantially due to the pandemic and not being able to spend the money on items such as interns, etc.
- Ms. Ortiz also reported on ESG and ESSER and how the monies from those grants will be allocated so that nothing is left on the table that hasn't not been spent.
- With lower enrollment and loss of money from the ESG grant, not re-hiring the Ina youth specialist, as well as the math and social studies teachers will help significantly.
- Surplus for paying for training for administration transition is not being spent due to lag time in filling position
- Continuing to pay for van services should those services be needed once school goes hybrid.
- ESSER grant #2 has spending ability through September of 2023.

4. Data Specialist's Report

Ms. Walker gave a Pima County Health department health benchmark update. At this time, the benchmarks are all red, and the recommendation is for virtual instruction. Ms. Walker gave the details of how the benchmarks are going up. She reported on the details of what it would take for the benchmarks to go to yellow.

Ms. Walker also reported on the Academic testing benchmarks reflection that went to ADE. Overall, both math and reading scores went up from the 1st quarter to the 2nd quarter. Some subpopulations did not do as well as the overall numbers. There is also some disparity in the grad rates among different subgroups.

Ms. Walker also gave a vaccination update. Everyone who completed the forms were registered and that information has been sent to the Pima County Health Department.

Considerations for Approval

1. Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2020

Vice President Mary Fellows proposed a motion to approve the 11/19/20 board minutes. Board member Juanita Garcia-Seiger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Rationale for Request for Proposal

Approval to hire an outside contractor who will train staff on protocols for data customized to the needs of PVHS that will drive instruction forward. In addition, contractor will customize the benchmark testing, so that PVHS is getting the most out of the data in a way that will improve academic progress. Contractor will also provide protocols so that PVHS can continue practical implementation after contract is over. Vice –President Fellows proposed a motion to approve the rationale for a request for proposal. Board member Dalila Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Call to the Audience

There was no response to the call to the audience

Adjournment

President Garcia adjourned the meeting at 10:15 AM

Next meeting

February 18, 2021

Minutes taken and submitted by Ms. Lynch

Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis, this meeting was held, via Microsoft Teams.