



Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 11-6-12 TIME 1:54 pm

SERVED BY Terme Rodriguez

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

AMENDED

Immigration Committee

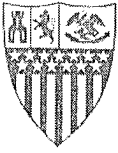
November 13, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.
Main Library – Community Room
145 Washington Avenue

NEW LOCATION

**Somos Un Pueblo Unido Office
1804 Espinacitas Street**

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. October 2, 2012
- IV. Announcements
- V. Community Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. State Police invitation update
 - b. Meeting dates for 2013
- VII. New Business
 - a. Farewell to retiring Committee Liaison and welcome to new Committee Liaison
 - b. Welcome and comments to Superintendent Joel Boyd
 1. Open discussion with members of the community
- VIII. Communications from Staff
- IX. Communications from Committee
- X. Adjourn

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at (505) 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.



Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 10-31-12 TIME 10:51am

SERVED BY Carla Lopez

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

Immigration Committee
November 13, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.
Main Library – Community Room
145 Washington Avenue

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
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**INDEX SUMMARY OF MINUTES
IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

<u>INDEX</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
Cover Page		1
Call to Order	Call to Order by Chair, Alejandra Seluja at 4:15 pm at the offices of SOMOS un Pueblo Unidos.	2
Roll Call	A quorum was declared by roll call.	2
Review and Approval of Agenda Place New Business before Old Business when Superintendent Boyd arrives.	Maria Cristina Lopez moved to have New Business before Old Business when Superintendent Boyd arrives, second by Ms. Hemmer, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	2
Approval of Minutes October 2, 2012 Page 2 last paragraph: Under Announcements - October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month. Page 3, 4 th paragraph, city and state representatives – City of Santa Fe... are – our children – page 4, 2 nd paragraph from the bottom effects not affects	<i>Maria Cristina moved to approve the minutes as amended, second by Ms. Hemmer motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	2-3
Announcements	Informational	3
Community Comments	Open Forum	
<u>Old Business</u> State Police Invitation Update Captain Wheeler: No update on specific dates of the incident. They need this information to come before us. Meeting dates for 2013	Ms. Esquibel moved to approve the 2013 calendar with meeting start time at 4:15 pm, second by Maria Cristina Lopez, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	3
New Business a. Farewell to retiring Committee Liaison and welcome to new Committee Liaison b. Welcome and comments to		3-9

**INDEX SUMMARY OF MINUTES
IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

Superintendent Joel Boyd		
Communications from Staff	None	10
Communications from Committee	Informational	10
Adjournment and Signature Page	The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.	10

**Immigration Committee
MINUTES**

November 13, 2012 – 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 pm
SOMOS un Pueblo Unido
Santa Fe, NM

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Alejandra Seluja at 4:15 pm. A quorum was declared by roll call.

I. Roll Call

Present:

Alejandra Seluja, Chair
Amparo Guerrero
María Cristina López
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca
Cara Esquibel
Elizabeth Hemmer
Rev. Chester Topple

Not Present

Betty Shinas
Marcela Diaz, Excused

Others Present:

Mr. Joel Boyd, Santa Fe Public School Superintendent
Latifah Alfonso Phillips, Chief of Staff
Terri Rodriguez, Staff Liaison
Fran Lucero, Stenographer
Captain Aric Wheeler
Carla Lopez
Flor de Maria Olivas, Interpreter
Amelia Youssefi, Interpreter
Audience Participation as Noted in Presentation

II. Approval of Agenda

Maria Cristina Lopez moved to have New Business before Old Business when Superintendent Boyd arrives, second by Ms. Hemmer, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. October 2, 2012

Page 2 last paragraph: Under Announcements - October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

Page 3, 4th paragraph, city and state representatives – City of Santa Fe...

are – our children – page 4, 2nd paragraph from the bottom
effects not affects

Maria Cristina moved to approve the minutes as amended, second by Ms. Hemmer motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Announcements

Ms. Guerrero commented on the recent elections.

V. Community Comments

VI. Old Business

a. State Police Invitation Update

Captain Wheeler: No update on specific dates of the incident. They need this information to come before us.

b. Meeting dates for 2013

Ms. Esquibel moved to approve the 2013 calendar with meeting start time at 4:15 pm, second by Maria Cristina Lopez, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VII. New Business

a. Farewell to retiring Committee Liaison and welcome to new Committee Liaison
Thank you to Carla Lopez for all her work on this committee. The Chair noted that they paid tribute and vocalized their appreciation for all of her hard work when they presented their report to the City Council. "Thank you for all that you have done for the committee."

b. Welcome and comments to Superintendent Joel Boyd

1. Open Discussion with members of the community

Amparo Guerrero: Thank you for coming this afternoon, we are the Immigration Committee. We meet once a month and we meet with organizations in the community. We evaluate, communicate and discuss concerns related to the immigrants in Santa Fe. This is a committee that is here to listen to anyone who has concerns and we try to advocate getting answers. We have invited Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools and we would like to provide him with questions and concerns that we have heard in the community and talk about concerns we have gathered regarding the immigrant population of our children in the public school. Now is the time to bring those concerns forward and any recommendations to fix our problems and concerns. We want to better not only the condition of our immigrant children in the public schools but also the process followed in the public school administration. If you have any problems we look forward to hearing from you today. If you could please raise your hand and present your concerns.

Naomi Garcia: I have three children in the public schools and I have had several concerns, 1) bullying, which resulted in her receiving therapy and they haven't done anything for her. 2) When we go to Capital High school to talk about my son's grades, what they tell me is, if you aren't happy, take him out of school or send him to get his GED. What are you doing to make this better?

Mr. Boyd: I have been telling our parents that it is not ok for someone to be disrespectful; it is not ok for them to turn you away. You would then go directly to the superintendent of school and his academic officer will work with the family. Ms. Phillips is Chief of Staff.

(Introduction of Committee)

Amparo Guerrero:

1) I would like to speak in Spanish so you can hear my presentation in English as the public is hearing in Spanish. I would like to provide a reflection from my services in working with the parents of children in the public schools. I am hearing that the schools are not engaging the students or integrating them significantly. I feel it is important, and I know you understand that Mr. Boyd, for these immigrant children to have an opportunity for a good education. I feel that there should be a multi-dimensional way to teach our children. The language is difficult to understand and we would like for it to be more than just a thought, for there to be a reality check to help these immigrant children to have documents that are translated and that they understand what takes place in the schools in English. I thank you for your efforts. I feel that there should be interpretation not only English to Spanish, but Spanish to English. We want to be involved in your proposals but we want to ask that any and all documents be translated. We want for the reality of what the immigrants live to not only be political.

Mr. Boyd: We have had interpreters at every meeting and the documents are also translated. Some are good and some are not as good. The documents are being translated and sometimes it takes a little time to get those documents translated and distributed in a timely manner. There were concerns recently at the gathering at Aspen. We have translators at every public open meeting, every public forum and every document is translated. I am open to recommendations as there is a lag time in translating the documents. We have used outside company's as well as teachers to assist in translating. We have gone through a process since August to use translators to assure that the community receives a document that is clear and understandable.

Alejandra Seluja: What is the policy of having ICE in the schools?

Mr. Boyd: If we see immigration control in the schools, "I will physically move them." I have heard it, I haven't seen it, and I have told my staff that they are to contact me immediately. We are a local Santa Fe school not a federal school. We believe that every child is entitled to attend our schools without fear.

Cara Esquibel: I hail from Chicago...from immigrant families on both sides. I have lived and worked in Central America and Mexico for several years. I have worked as a teacher for 22 years, 19 of those in New Mexico. I worked as a teacher and bilingual coordinator with APS, Bernalillo and for the past 12 years at Monte del sol Charter School, and one year at ATC Charter School.

We are both saddened by the grim findings regarding our ELL students and happy to hear of your team's short and long term goals. As you know, this city and state are very unique and have a rich multilingual and multicultural heritage, although the public schools seem to have struggled to promote and build upon that history. This issue of underperforming schools has been around for a while, and there is collective memory of administrations echoing comments similar to yours. It is safe to say that many of us are waiting to see how things will be done differently than in the past, no pressure. There are several areas the committee has identified as priorities for our ELL students; they include:

- 1) Bilingual education must not be viewed as segregated remedial program, but rather a program that sees students' knowledge and home language as assets instead of deficits.
- 2) I know you are aware of the overwhelming evidence that supports dual language immersion as the model that closes the achievement gap for all students. More important than the nation-wide long-term research (that shows vastly improved test data) are the positive cross-cultural competencies and behaviors that are developed. Barriers are broken down and stereotypes are debunked.
- 3) We recognize the lack of bilingual teachers as a continued challenge and recommend a higher stipend, that more recruiting of teachers from Mexico occur, and professional development happen for all teachers.
- 4) We recognize the learning curve associated with dual education and recommend an ongoing advisory study group or task force be established, including a cross section of students/parents/teachers/etc. in order to keep communication alive between the district office and the community.
- 5) It would be great to see more family liaison positions, like the ones at Ramirez Thomas and Cesar Chavez as ways of building bridges from our schools to the community.

We applaud and comment you on the community meetings and forums that your office has conducted, and we invite you to continue this format and have more on the Southside; at Capital High for example where there is a 50% drop out rate.

All successful dual language programs require long term professional development, the front loading of training and investment is crucial, and we know money is tight, however, a district's values are reflected in its budget and line items. It seems the payoff for investment in dual language would include closing the achievement gap, preservation of language and culture, and the preparation of all global citizenry that are ready to compete in international markets for business, politics and education.

Thank you for your energy, for meeting with us here today. We hope to continue this dialogue. I have a quote by Paola Freire: "Through Literacy, the oppressed are empowered and lose the feeling of inferiority perpetuated by the oppressor."

Mr. Boyd: I agree with everything you said. The power of community organizing, you have suggested you are a part of. Santa Fe is third from the bottom in terms of funding; we receive

\$1300 less than charter schools. We know it costs more to live here, 85% of money goes to salaries; cost of living is higher, which makes it difficult. I constantly have dual language teaching positions. What I would encourage is that we see the need to have a greater voice than our delegation for the legislature. The power of Santa Fe can go beyond the boundaries of Santa Fe County. Our voice can be heard – right now dollars are not following students. We need to get the message heard; our kids are being under resourced in the places where our students go to school.

Ms. Seluja: We want all our kids to succeed in this community.

Mr. Boyd: When you talk about our community you are talking about 50% of the immigrant population in the schools in addition to our community students.

Ms. Hemmer: I would like to make a recommendation, we should always be looking at cultural sensitivity. I think that a lot of the problems with teachers start there; they don't realize what the culture is. I am very happy that you are more open than others I have met. Sometimes when you have a low achieving school, throwing money at them doesn't solve the problem. We are looking at you, Mr. Boyd, for new innovative ways to make our schools and our students successful.

Maria Cristina Lopez: Ms. Hemmer talked about poverty, we heard about students coming to school, having headaches but they didn't have glasses along with basic needs. You were quoted that poverty should not be an obstacle in the schools.

Mr. Boyd: I was also a child of poverty; we need to have connections to get them services that the school can't provide. We are looking at partnering with the Community of Schools who can help where Public Schools can't help. We want to make sure that we can establish relationships with others who can help our children; there are parents that want to help their children but don't know how; we want to provide them with that information.

I have not found a situation yet that can't be solved. We need to stop accepting mediocrity; our job is to find out how we make that happen. There are extra ordinary challenges, but when we have people who want to help, we also will take that help.

Maria Cristina: There is a fear from the immigration community to apply for services.

Mr. Boyd: The notion of institutional racism causes differences. I can tell you that there are differences, if there are inequities there; in certain audiences those terms are not heard very well. We need to take charge of what we know and how the system works. I can work really hard on one side, teachers, administrators, but we need to hear from the families. There are many examples given to me that I may not have ever known if the family didn't bring a concern to my attention. I need demand teachers, demand parents, demand community members, this is how our students will exceed and move to the top.

Yolanda (Audience Participant): I have one daughter who is in the 4th grade and one in college. I was told that the program named Avid is going away. I understand English but now that my daughter has gone to the University, Avid helped her get in to the university. This program is very good.

Mr. Boyd says that every kid should be ready to go to college. We are in the position to make sure that every child should be prepared to have options so they can go on to college. Avid is not going to disappear.

Naomi Garcia: With the experiences I have had at Capital High School; if a student is a good student they open the doors for them. If they are bad students they do nothing for them, how can we help those students. And how can they determine that they are bad students?

Mr. Boyd: Our charge is to make every student a good student. We need to establish relationships with our kids. I don't think there is a family that says they want their children to do nothing. I think every child wants to be successful. The way we do that is to establish relationships with our kids. Avid is a good program. I was raised in Dover, Delaware and was not an exemplary student but it took one person who made an impact on me; the wrestling coach, and he motivated me, helped me get the information I needed to move forward and to go on to college and today I am proud to be here as the Superintendent of Schools for Santa Fe, NM.

What can we do? We can move more money in to the classrooms. We are going to hold our teachers responsible to the programs we provide to our children, we want to allow the community to make more positive commitments.

Noella Trujillo: Teacher at Ortiz Middle School: I am an Avid Teacher and work with GEAR Up Grants – our school has been on a 5-years plan for a dual language. How can we share that with our parent community. I see it as a barrier that we have not been able to provide the information to the parents. Thank you for all of these forums. I am also interested as you learn more about our schools.

Mr. Boyd: We just established an Office of Communication, we wanted to get information to our parents and also champion our successes. Thank you, let me think about how we can get the information out.

Guillermina: In my new experience at Aspen, my daughter is at Aspen, there are numerous teachers for classes. When I have to go to the school for meetings I don't know where to find the teacher. I would like to get more involved in the school to know who the teachers are. I only know the Math Teacher as this is the class that my daughter is having problems with. My daughter says that the teacher doesn't listen to her. I would like to meet all the teachers, now I don't know who they are. Are there other parent-teacher meetings we can participate in other than going and meeting one teacher when there is a problem?

Mr. Boyd: Ms. Baca is the Guidance Counselor, please talk to her at Aspen. Let her know that Mr. Boyd has recommended that she speak to you. Mr. Pena is the principal.

Guillermina: I have a son who is 18 who left school because he had many difficulties in communications. There is so much politics in the schools, he left school in the 9th grade and is now working on his GED. I would like to find a place where we, as Immigrant Parents, can get help to get these students back to school.

Mr. Boyd: I would like to meet your son. Let's find a way so he can be talked to.

Berta: I have a child in the 3rd grade at Agua Fria. They give her 12 to 14 pages of homework. I asked if they could give her a little less. She is 8 years old. I went to speak to the Teacher to

see if it could be less, they give it to her on Monday and she has to turn it in on Friday. She also has activities after school, 2 days of violin and 2 days of dancing. The Teacher said there were no exceptions. It seems like she is having class at home because it is a lot of homework. She has more homework than my child who is in the 10th grade. The child cries because she says that the teacher is too strict.

Mr. Boyd: I will speak to Principal Gorman.

Rosanna: I have two daughters at Ramirez Thomas, it is an excellent school. They do need to expand the library and get more books. The program that Amparo Guerrero conducts is very helpful and gets the parents involved to assist our children in the school. We are being told that the program can only last for 6 months. I see that the teachers need us, as parents to get us involved. It is important to get the parents involved and also for us to know more about our students. We need to be there and put more attention to help the teachers. We like that the teachers are helping our students grow and believe in their dreams. As well as the music classes, this helps the students to relax. Exercise is good, it is all important and needed. This will raise the attention of our children. Thank you Mr. Boyd, the Teacher reads to us what the superintendent has written. Thank you for doing this.

Mr. Boyd: Thank you, I certainly appreciate the kind words. We did a lot at Ramirez Thomas, we had a lot of federal money for Ramirez. We are evaluating what we can do at other school with limited funding.

Evy: I have a son who is 15 years old and in the 9th grade. He was out of school for a week because he had surgery. He has problems with some of the classes and he has been told that he has to attend those classes. When he went back after surgery, and I know our children aren't angels but he said there was bullying. They wanted to hit him and the security guard accused him of starting the fights. They are saying that he is the problem. His friends were with him because he couldn't defend himself due to the recent surgery. What is the problem and why did he get accused? I have no problem with my other son who is a senior. He is at Santa Fe High School. Is this happening because we are immigrants? Thank you.

Mr. Boyd: My first reaction would be to talk to Principal Romero-Kilmer, meet with her and let her know your concerns. Start there. Provide feedback to Mr. Boyd.

Carla Lopez: When I started in the school board in 1994 and you described the high cost of living and poor salaries for teachers. I know that the state legislature and the funding formula is a concern. When the IRAQ war started, they found \$4 billion dollars a month for the war; they should find money for educators and our schools. It takes all from educators and parents to make that difference.

Mr. Boyd: If you are not going to put more money in, than make the funding equitable. Fund us on par with the other large districts, I would say we need more. At least get us on par. If we are paying more for training and teachers, how do we keep them. Funding for teachers is very poor in Santa Fe. Salaries don't correlate with the value the community communicates for education. We have the lowest paid teachers and the highest minimum wage. We need community support to go to the round house to let our legislators know we need education for our children. That takes funding.

Carla Lopez: Public Education Commission – 10 members from throughout the state. The way the law is written, if the application is complete, we have to approve it. The commission is trying to do more legislative work.

Mr. Boyd: I am PRO Charter Schools, funding more accountability less. In Pennsylvania all the money flows through the school district so each student gets the same amount for each student. Here in Santa Fe it is not that way. We have great Charter Schools, it really is hard if it is not a level playing field. I would like to expand Charters but it is not a level playing field. Nationwide people know it is higher funding less accountability. Charter schools are supposed to be grass roots based.

Carla Lopez: I think you are going to see some Charter Schools close, this year we had 14 applicants and we only approved one. Virtual schools are the next consideration.

Mr. Boyd: I would like to open a virtual school.

Jewel Cabeza de Vaca: I am very impressed with everyone, with the audience and with Mr. Boyd. You have been conducting and going to these Parent Teacher meetings. Here is my thought and my comment; you have talked about bringing administration back to the school rooms, having quality teachers and retaining them, and having the funding for the curriculum so the students can excel is enormous. What, in your estimation, are the weaknesses of the system, what are the strengths, how do you plan to prioritize so you can do your job as you see.

Mr. Boyd: I have a presentation: Building a System of World Class Schools on line, which spells out answers to your question.

Jewel Cabeza de Vaca: Has this been introduced in the schools?

Mr. Boyd: We have great people in our schools, we have to coordinate our efforts, and we have to overcome the inequities in the system. We think if we focus on three things, improving the quality of teaching in classrooms, increasing the involvement of parents in the classroom, we can improve services for every kid (need the third).

Naomi Garcia: I have a son at Capital; he has made comments regarding drugs in the schools, security guards mistreating the children. We think we leave our children in the schools in a safe environment. At Ortiz I spoke to the teachers about a situation where there was a suicidal attempt.

Mr. Boyd: Always, first talk to the principal and if not come to me. Be persistent. If I am not providing you the answer you deserve, I would expect you to be upset, but first start with the Principal. If I find they are not being responsive they will hear from me.

Thank you to the interpreters and to the community for attending this meeting.

Captain Wheeler looks forward to continued conversations with Mr. Boyd.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that the City is very concerned. The Children and Youth Commission is very dedicated and ensures that there are programs for our students. There is a lot of involvement and funding.

VIII. Communications from Staff
None

IX. Communications from Committee
The Interpreters did this Pro Bono. Does the city have money for interpreting and translating and for equipment?

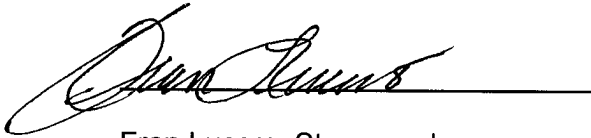
Ms. Rodriguez: You would need to talk to the City Clerk.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Signature Page:

Alejandra Seluja, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fran Lucero", is written over a horizontal line.

Fran Lucero, Stenographer