

1                   **LAS CRUCES PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
2                   **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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4   The following are minutes for the meeting of the **Las Cruces Partnership for**  
5 **Community Schools Board Meeting** held from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on June 10, 2021, via  
6 Zoom.

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8   **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

9   Chairman Councilor Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, Councilor District 2  
10 Vice-Chair Teresa Tenorio, LCPS Board Member  
11 Carol Cooper, LCPS Vice-President  
12 Ashley Echavarria, CEO Boys and Girls Club Las Cruces  
13 Councilor Yvonne Flores, District 6 (arrived 1:39)  
14 Mayor Pro-Tem Councilor Kasandra Gandara, District 1  
15 Dr. Stacy Gherardi, NMSU Associate Professor, School of Social Work (arrived 1:38)  
16 Brian Kavanaugh, CEO FYI, Finance Chair  
17 Julianne Lackey, Substitute Teacher LCPS & Non-Voting Member  
18 Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, LCPS Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum  
19 Dr. Henrietta Pichon, NMSU Interim Director, College of Education (departed 3:05)  
20 Teresa Tenorio, LCPS Board Member

21  
22 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

23 Denise Sheehan, NEA Board President  
24

25 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

26 Amanda Barela, LCPS Community Schools Director  
27 Lynn Gallagher, Quality of Life Director for City of Las Cruces  
28 Jill Aguirre, Recording Secretary & Sr. Office Manager  
29 Maria Zuniga, Dona Ana Elementary School Community School Coordinator  
30 Monica Marquez, Booker T Washington Elementary Principal  
31 Jessica Barnhill, Booker T Washington Community School Coordinator  
32 Sylvia Chavez, Lynn Middle School Community School Coordinator  
33 Brenda Ballard, Lynn Middle School  
34 Tatiana Del Toro-Frank, McArthur Elementary School Coordinator  
35 Edward Ellison, LCPS Chief Financial Officer  
36 Zack, Intern  
37 Brooke Mathieu, Marketing Coordinator for SUCCESS Partnership  
38 Cheryl Carreon, LCPS Teacher  
39 Michelle Valverde, NMSU Education Department  
40 Ms. Schroeder, Assistant Principal  
41 Ralph Ramos, LCPS Superintendent.

42  
43 **I.    CALL TO ORDER (1:30 PM):** Chair Tessa Abeyta-Stuve called the meeting to  
44 order. Those present introduced themselves.  
45

1 **II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Chair Abeyta-Stuve asked if the Board had any  
2 conflicts of interest with anything on the agenda. There were none.  
3

4 **III. ACTION ITEMS:**  
5

6 a. **Approve Minutes:** The minutes of the March 11, 2021, meeting were  
7 reviewed by members. Board Member Tenorio had some  
8 recommendations, members present she would like clarify titles; Denise  
9 Sheehan is NEA Board President; Carol Cooper is LCPS Board Vice-  
10 President; Councilor Gandara, maybe put Mayor-Pro Tem; Dr. Stacy  
11 Gheradi, what goes after NMSU. Under others present, Sommer Mitchell,  
12 put Success Partnership. Also on simple correction, under discussion  
13 items, they call me Tessa, should be Teresa. Michelle Valverde requested  
14 to be added as present in the March meeting. Tatiana Del Toro-Frank  
15 requested her name under others be changed from "Tatiano" to "Tatiana."  
16 Board Member Miller-Tomlinson moved to accept the minutes with  
17 corrections. Seconded by Board Member Cooper. All members were in  
18 favor via roll call vote.  
19

20 b. **Discussion of New Meeting Schedule:** Chair Abeyta-Stuve mentioned  
21 they have changed how the Board meets over the last few months. Also  
22 discuss returning to meetings in person and when held. The next full  
23 meeting will be in September. She thinks it would be a good time to return  
24 back. Before they were meeting at Community Schools it was a great way  
25 to be able to get to see what everybody is doing on their location. Board  
26 Member Miller-Tomlinson agrees and she is looking forward to returning to  
27 in person meetings. She invites and welcomes the Board to meeting at the  
28 various Community Schools. Also who would like to host the first in person  
29 meeting. Brenda Ballard requested the first one be hosted at Lynn, because  
30 they are going to be starting major construction project that will start at the  
31 end of September and when that begins they may not have space to host  
32 later in the year.  
33

34 Board Member Tenorio to return to in person meetings in September at  
35 Lynn Middle School. Seconded by Board Member Echavarria.. All  
36 members were in favor via roll call vote.  
37

38 **IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**  
39

40 a. **Community School Brief Report Outs by School:** Chair Abeyta-Stuve  
41 stated everyone should have received a summary of updates from the  
42 Community Schools and each school will now present two successes and  
43 one challenge that they have had at their school.  
44  
45

1 Doña Ana Elementary School, Maria Zuniga stated they have been working  
2 together with the school counselor and created Calm Kids for 30 of the  
3 students who are struggling with regulating emotions. The kit contains  
4 different sensory tools and the counselor has been meeting with the  
5 students and going over the tools they can use over the summer. And in  
6 the fall this will be reevaluated. Also they have been having community  
7 meetings. Meeting with residents and assistant district attorney, Israel  
8 Chavez has been coordinating the meetings for the last two months. Many  
9 families have come and talked about things in the community, such as theft  
10 and drug problems, homelessness, the lack of street lighting and sidewalks.  
11 Last month Senator Jeff Steinborn joined to talk about things that are being  
12 brought to Doña Ana and this area to make improvements. The next  
13 meeting is June 30th for which County Commissioner Sanchez and the  
14 County Manager Fernando Macias to listen to the residents that have  
15 concerns and ways to make improvements. One of the challenges has  
16 been to complete the needs and asset assessment, but they are working  
17 on the next coming school year.

18  
19 Lynn Middle School, Sylvia Chavez stated their successes include finalizing  
20 the summer program that begins June 14th, working with Boys and Girls  
21 Club and Ashleigh and Brittany. Also partner with Friends of the Organ  
22 Mountains. It will be from 12:00 to 4:00, come and do stuff with the Boys  
23 and Girls Club, get lunch. On Thursday they get to go on a fieldtrip. This  
24 will be from July 14th to July 29th. Also partnering with the STEM ELT  
25 program and offering students virtual reality experience. It is a zSpace lab  
26 and it is on site and the children get to explore the body, kind of being in the  
27 body, similar to Magic School Bus, go to space, manipulate atoms, travel to  
28 different countries, even walk on the moon. One of the challenges, before  
29 the pandemic they had on site therapy going on for students two days a  
30 week and servicing 11-15 students and in talks to build a health center. And  
31 also a dental clinic and cleaning and florid treatments. They are having to  
32 start those programs again. They will focus on how to reestablish those  
33 crucial support systems which has been difficult. Brenda Ballard stated they  
34 also have the LCPD summer leadership camps that are ongoing.

35  
36 Booker T Washington Middle School, Jessica Barnhill stated last month  
37 they had their first food distribution and fed over 75 of the families. The  
38 community came together to support each other. Also partnered with  
39 Amador Health Center, the Department of Health, and able to administer 60  
40 vaccines on May 26th. FYI gave out 100 hot meals. There were families  
41 signing up for library cards. Also other community organizations providing  
42 materials to the families. Their second will be June 15th and hoping to serve  
43 another 60 families. One of their challenges is completing their needs and  
44 asset assessment. They are in the last stages of surveying and collecting  
45 data working on the stakeholder of community members. They will be done  
46 and completed August 2021.

1  
2 MacArthur Elementary, Tatiana Del Toro-Frank stated one of their greatest  
3 successes has been community partnership doing vaccinations on May  
4 22nd for 85 families. They partnered with the Amador Health Center and  
5 other community partners. It was a great pilot program. Today they had  
6 their second round. Today they had 53 vaccinations. Also worked with  
7 Western Sky coordinated. A challenge was the parent involvement in the  
8 virtual world once the pandemic hit. It was difficult to engage the families in  
9 virtual events the school had. In trying to remedy this, as their second  
10 success, was trying to engage families into technology. They carried out a  
11 small pilot program to have the students take home technology and also  
12 started a beginning tech close at the school which is face-to-face. She  
13 congratulated the principal for making the decision to allow the families back  
14 into the building in a safe and thoughtful way to get technology into the  
15 families and teach them the ins and outs which was desperately needed.  
16 There has been great success and interest in the community.  
17

18 **b. Changes in Grant Funding and Addition of New Community Schools:**  
19 Amanda Barela stated Alameda Elementary will be the next Community  
20 School. They applied for a PED planning grant and they were awarded that.  
21

22 Secondly application for a Kellogg grant and it is looking extremely likely  
23 that that will also be received. They will be notified by the end of this month  
24 when the decision is final. That funding is \$150,000.00 a year for two years  
25 for two schools, so \$300,000.00 a year. Half will be Alameda so they will  
26 have that additional funding in the first year and pay for the coordinator  
27 salary and other experiences with startup. Also afford the option of being  
28 open another Community School.  
29

30 Another update is also that we are opening an application window for  
31 Community Schools. She will be holding an information session, a second  
32 if needed, where principals can attend and she will do a short presentation,  
33 review the application, and have private meetings if needed. Everyone  
34 involved with Community Schools will review the applications. Generally  
35 the Community Schools like to have a lot of buy in before starting a  
36 Community School which ensures success with the school and community  
37 feeling ownership of the Community School. They are modifying the  
38 application and she will send it to the Board when that is completed. Board  
39 Member Tenorio congratulated and welcomed Alameda. Ms. Schroeder  
40 stated they are excited to be joining Community Schools which has been  
41 on their radar for a few years.  
42

43 Board Member Gandara stated she would like to challenge the group to  
44 looking at how additional funding can bring other schools in, but also  
45 staffing. She is advocating for discussions of some of the funding to support  
46 staff/assistant director for Amanda. Amanda Barela let the Board know

1 about a common structure in the nation with Community Schools, that it  
2 tends to reach a tipping point for one person to do the supervision at site  
3 level and all administrative tasks. In Albuquerque there is a director that  
4 does a lot of the administrative stuff and then a community schools manager  
5 or coordinator that is more supervising of the site level issues. She knows  
6 that there will be a point to differentiate those duties. Chair Abeyta-Stuve  
7 asked what the threshold is for additional staffing, if there was a set number  
8 of schools, etc. Amanda Barela is not positive but she will research that  
9 and return to the Board. Board Member Flores stated they are growing  
10 quickly and need to look at funding for the expansion. She asked when they  
11 get funding such as PED and Kellogg is it reoccurring or need to reapply.  
12 Amanda Barela stated the Kellogg is a private foundation grant and is not  
13 as vigorous as the PED, but they have quarterly financial reporting and end  
14 of the year reporting. She has met with their program director and set the  
15 outcomes to use as measurement in the form of deliverables, such as needs  
16 and asset assessment, strategic plan, logic model. It is not a renewable  
17 grant. Right now the plan is hopefully the second school they can get them  
18 in the PED grant cycle, but also looking into federal grant funding. At the  
19 federal level they are supposed to increase the funding majorly in the  
20 grants. Previously those grants favored urban areas and New Mexico has  
21 never been awarded one. It is a massive increase in funding. If New Mexico  
22 can get those, hoping we can secure a federal grant. The federal grants  
23 are usually about \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00 a year for five years. She  
24 wishes there was more stable ongoing funding options, but they will just  
25 have to make a lot of contingency sustainability planning. Also at the state  
26 level the PED, a lot of the coalition people are really advocating with the  
27 PED to have a process for once a Community School completes the PED  
28 grant cycle which is the planning year, then the three implementation years,  
29 that they can then move to above the line funding to sustain the Community  
30 School Coordinator salary. There is currently a lot of work in the legislature  
31 and with the PED to try to make that a reality. Board Member Gandara  
32 stated she sent out an e-mail to the resilience leaders about the RBA  
33 funding and that there will be a work session next week. She would like this  
34 to be a priority for Council in regards to funding for the community and the  
35 schools and consideration of a staff person.

36  
37 **c. Discussion of 2020-21 Strategic Plan:** Amanda Barela stated she will  
38 send an e-mail for people to find the strategic plan on the website. She  
39 encouraged the subcommittees to designate a scribe for when they meet to  
40 ensure to keep the strategic plan up to date, getting notes in there, always  
41 looking at goals and action steps. Setting an agenda is helpful.

42  
43 **d. Committee Report-Outs on Strategic Plan Progress and Discussion:**  
44 Chair Abeyta-Stuve hopes that with the subcommittees meeting schedule  
45 hopefully they can get detail work done and get movement on items. If there

1 are problems meeting, that normally everyone would have this timeframe  
2 blocked out for Community Schools and would be a natural time to do it.

3  
4 Policy and Practice - Board Member Lackey stated they worked on a toolkit  
5 and the design policy and even a grading. The toolkit is not done but to  
6 help bring in new Board Members. She shared her screen and the toolkit.  
7 She is having trouble finding an on-line version of the school board policy  
8 that was passed to add the link. She is hoping that if Board Members  
9 wanted to, to add information about themselves so people can get to know  
10 the Board, new Board Members, etc. Also have the subcommittees to  
11 define themselves. Also the application process. This toolkit is based off a  
12 California unified school. The grading review directly involves the four  
13 pillars which are very important. It would be tweaked to be friendly to our  
14 district. Amanda Barela shared the application form and information sheet.  
15 Also the timeline was shown for applying and that closes on June 23rd.  
16 School site process activities was not required this year due to the  
17 pandemic but the schools would have needed a lot more time to prepare.  
18 The meat of the application is the application narrative where they answer  
19 questions about the school's need. Looking at Title I, percentage of FRP,  
20 percentages of chronic absenteeism, foster youth, students experiencing  
21 homelessness, schools with large numbers of other high need groups,  
22 undocumented students, migrants, American Indian. In the proposal the  
23 administrator has a chance to discuss what is their vision of shared  
24 leadership, vision for Community School at their school, understanding of  
25 the pillars. The rubric is currently a mess as it is highly competitive in the  
26 LA school area, but she will clean that up. She simplified this for our district  
27 to be more friendly and less cumbersome. The stakeholder engagement is  
28 the part of the application that talks about the need to have the buy in and  
29 partnerships. She has included links to relevant policies and articles and  
30 the PED website, and NEA, everything for understanding Community  
31 Schools. Also asked them to pick three goals from their 90-day plan to  
32 describe how that will align with the Community Schools strategy. Example  
33 of using student center data to drive solutions for student support, existing  
34 community partnerships, and a small reflexion.

35  
36 Finance and Resource Development - Board Member Kavanaugh stated  
37 they have been having discussion in terms of sustainability and what that  
38 means, and all factors that contribute to sustainability, aside from funding.  
39 In terms of the unanticipated disconnect of service from last year to this year  
40 we need to plan as much as possible for those types of events and  
41 understanding commitments that other organizations and community  
42 members are making, and the duration and intensity of that commitment to  
43 provide a particular service, program, opportunity and being able to assess  
44 that not only for sustainability of what can be reasonably expected from a  
45 contribution from an outside organization, also how to continue to support  
46 our "internal" operation of service being provided to the community from

1 each individual Community School. To capture that they have been working  
2 on a resource and financial school profile. Tatiana has been helping with  
3 this subcommittee and working with other school coordinators to develop a  
4 template and contribute a working document that will outline in detail the  
5 financial and the service resource profile for each school. Using the profiles  
6 to determine what services are available, what services are missing, extent  
7 of that service, duration, commitment, funding if any required to support  
8 that, and being able to use that document along with the data captured from  
9 that and apply that towards seeking additional commitments with intention  
10 and strategy in terms of what areas are we trying to fulfill that will be ending  
11 soon, that currently do not have, etc. This would help to project into the  
12 next semester, next school year or even over the summer in terms of what  
13 will be available, what to start planning for now to fill a potential void in the  
14 future and really looking at that type of planning to avoid situations where  
15 resources drop unexpectedly and not able fill that void. This also goes  
16 along with positions. More closely related to specific funding to support  
17 positions such as the school coordinators, or supporting additional position  
18 that would support continued growth to be sure of balanced growth between  
19 all the schools. They have been exploring other options in terms of  
20 potentially contracting with a grant writer. Looking at organizations, the  
21 Grant Plant that offers different types of services to complete requests for  
22 grant submissions from an organization. Also looking at what capacity NEA  
23 has in terms of contributing to any type of grant writing or grant planning  
24 and also with LCPS and if they can offer some forecasting in terms of  
25 funding that might become available and how that fits into the direction we  
26 have with our schools. Once the work is completed concerning the resource  
27 and financial profiles look like, then they can take that document and move  
28 forward in securing some other positions and commitments with other  
29 community organizations.

30  
31 Chair Abeyta-Stuve stated that Board Member Gandara had typed in  
32 suggesting involving the county for funding. Lynn Gallagher clarified for the  
33 Board in order to add the county in that manner they would need to have  
34 someone look at the Joint Powers Agreement. The JPA is only among the  
35 City of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Public Schools. But it has been a  
36 conversation piece for a while. The JPA is limiting in scope.

37  
38 Communication and Community Engagement - Board Member Flores they  
39 have Sommer Mitchell and Brook Mathieu with SUCCESS Partnership who  
40 have been participating and offered to help with an awareness campaign.  
41 They will continue to conduct interview at events and interview teachers,  
42 school administrators, community school coordinators, and other  
43 community partners. Also discussed doing focus groups with parents to  
44 see what they know about Community Schools. One discussion was the  
45 fact that a lot of people do not fully understand what a Community School  
46 is. Also discussed the idea of asking the Board questions. What do they

1 hope to achieve with a successful campaign? What outcomes do they hope  
2 to see? What myths are there about Community Schools? Also to discuss  
3 is what is the benefit of a Community School. What separates a school that  
4 thinks they are a Community School? And a Community School  
5 implementing the four pillars. Board Member Tenorio stated they are great  
6 questions and looking forward to further discussions. Ralph Ramos asked  
7 if this Board was included in the DAC (District Advisory Council). He  
8 suggested the Community Schools people get a report out to get involved  
9 with DAC. He stated they are redoing the website and maybe a section for  
10 Community Schools to have part that with LCPS. Brook Mathieu stated  
11 they are in the beginning phases but are in a good place to get things rolling  
12 over the summer. This will go on towards next spring as they are trying to  
13 do this really well and be sure it gets the spotlight that it deserves. Cheryl  
14 Carreon stated she is changing hats on this committee since she recently  
15 retired from LCPS she is going to continue with this committee in the  
16 capacity as social media communications and she works with NEA New  
17 Mexico, NEA Las Cruces, and New Mexico and Las Cruces Partnerships  
18 for Community Schools. Part of an establishment of new form called  
19 Community Share, which is a platform to assist Community School  
20 members with getting resources and inviting people into the classrooms.  
21 On July 31st, approximately 12:00 - 4:00, working at Cruces Creatives and  
22 having a back to school/teacher appreciation celebration to allow members  
23 to sign up. Board Member Tenorio appreciated all the help this  
24 subcommittee is getting from various people.

25  
26 Results Data and Evaluation - Board Member Miller-Tomlinson shared the  
27 dashboard. The questions arise of how to evaluate our Community  
28 Schools, how to know that they are effective, how to know we are providing  
29 the right needs for the community. The first page shows demographics.  
30 There are discussions on what should be measured and what are the  
31 measures of success. Look at pillars of Community Schools, look at the  
32 tools and resources that are available. Also have to weigh that against what  
33 to be reported to the State, to the Public Education Department and how to  
34 serve both masters, the PED and then also the information we are actually  
35 interested in looking at a community. Currently tracking number of students,  
36 enrichment, participating in fine arts, high yield tutoring, home visits, in  
37 STEM or STEAM programs, tutoring, and have been provided wraparound  
38 services, which are aggregate numbers. They can filter down to the school  
39 levels in the dashboards. This is an overview for the schools to use to see.  
40 Parent view, which is student information system, this is where parents can  
41 look at records. Students also have access to monitor their grades and  
42 learning. Principals and coordinators can come together, compare data,  
43 and look at individual data that is available to many. Ralph Ramos stated  
44 his is highly impressed with all the work done and that it goes beyond  
45 Community Schools and that can be used for all schools. He appreciated  
46 the engagement of the parents and students and being able to monitor and



1 seeing who is logging on. Board Member Miller-Tomlinson is appreciative  
2 of being able to help throughout the state to do the work.  
3

4 **V. LCPS Updates - Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson:** Board Member Miller-Tomlinson  
5 stated that Mr. Ralph Ramos has been named the permanent superintendent.  
6 Ralph Ramos appreciates and misses Dr. Trujillo. And he is pleased to serve in  
7 this capacity. Board Member Miller-Tomlinson stated this year has been head  
8 slapping, tired, crying, tears for various reasons, long and trying year, but we did  
9 make to the end. Students returned to school on April 6th. Though it was as  
10 different year, teachers taught, students learned. Made sure to the best of ability  
11 that students and families were taken care, academic needs, social/emotional  
12 needs, fed, and healthy. We did have a successful year here in Las Cruces Public  
13 Schools. We work toward graduation including students, families, teachers, and  
14 everyone but it is also a beginning for the young adults. This year they had the  
15 graduation at Field of Dreams and beautiful two days of ceremonies.  
16

17 Right now in the midst of extended learning time. This was an opportunity provided  
18 by the state legislature to provide funding for adding 10 additional days of  
19 instruction to the school year. All the schools are participating in extended learning  
20 time. High schools was a bit different as they did some of their days earlier in the  
21 spring, some Saturdays so some programs finished yesterday. Elementary and  
22 middle schools will finish on Monday, June 14th. Sonoma Elementary has an  
23 olympic theme with olympic games which are being tied into literacy, numeracy,  
24 science, social studies which is very integrated approach. She would like to invite  
25 everyone, Las Cruces High School as part of their extended learning time, they  
26 are doing a production of Beauty and the Beast. It will be outside. They built all  
27 the sets, have the orchestra playing, some students from NMSU helping from the  
28 music department, the theater department. Low incidence students are part of the  
29 production and so a very inclusive production. It will tomorrow and Saturday.  
30

31 There is high school summer school continuing. Due to the pandemic the sports  
32 calendar is extended, so spring sports are ongoing across the district until the end  
33 of June, track, baseball, softball, tennis, and golf.  
34

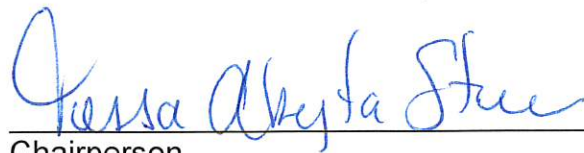
35 Not all students had met graduation requirements by the end of the school year.  
36 They needed time to recover credits. There is always a summer commencement  
37 for those students, these will graduate on July 1st at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Trujillo had  
38 stated there would be something for the class of 2020 when we were able, and  
39 those graduates have been invited who like to walk across the stage and be  
40 recognized to participate in a commencement ceremony on July 1st at 11:00 a.m.  
41 at the Field of Dreams. There are just under 250 students who have expressed  
42 interest in coming back for the ceremony.  
43

44 Cheryl Carreon shared her screen with a platform that is being used in Arizona  
45 successfully which is Community Ecosystem. This is a way to help teachers and  
46 administrators connect with community partners which help facilitate. It is called

Community Share. The whole platform is [www.communityshare.us](http://www.communityshare.us), but there is one just for Las Cruces [www.communityshare.us/las-cruces](http://www.communityshare.us/las-cruces). Cruces Creatives has been the place that oversees this part. Cruces Creatives is a local maker space where artists and many different people go in, and people can learn to knit, work on bicycles. They are working on grant money to expend to all teachers, but it is all open to all teachers at Community Schools. They are asking teachers and community partners to sign up. This is just taking off. Right now teachers are waiting for community partners to sign up, and community partners are waiting for teachers to sign up. Back to school teacher appreciation night which will be July 31st. She will send a flyer to LCPS. She asked the Board to sign up as a community partner with any talents, skills, or interests that individuals have to be able to present. This could be a great place for teachers to find resources for experience to bring into their classroom from a community partner that is willing to and has some training doing the presenting. She is asking the Board to come to the July 31st meeting date. She also asked if any Board Member had business contacts that they felt comfortable reaching out, they are looking for swag or coupons, anything teacher related (50-100 coupons) or something.

**VI. Next Meeting September 9th:**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member Flores, seconded by Board Member Miller-Tomlinson. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:14 p.m.



Chairperson



Approved