



Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 24, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

**Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
Date: October 24, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Statement

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School's mission is to provide a quality educational experience that empowers students to engage in critical thinking and social transformation, from the classroom to the Puerto Rican community. This mission is grounded in the philosophical foundation of self-determination, a methodology of self-actualization, and an ethic of self-reliance.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair: Evelyn Rivera

Roll Call by: Monica

- Evelyn Rivera – Present
- Milagros Fernandez – Present
- Jamie Moctezuma – Present
- Mike Staudenmaier – Present
- Rebekah Marcano – Present
- Milagros de la Rosa – Not Present

Quorum established.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes made by Rebekah Marcano, seconded by Jaime Moctezuma. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Public Participation

No public participants present.

Marvin: Suggested incorporating a rotating staff member, such as the registrar (Michelle Oquindo) or Crystal Morales (youth and childcare programs), to speak during public participation. This allows board members to meet and understand the roles of key staff behind the reports they receive.

Evelyn: Agreed it was a good idea.

Jaime: Proposed limiting the presentation to 10 minutes to keep the agenda on track and avoid sharing sensitive financial information.

Consensus: Presenters will be limited to 10 minutes and will leave after their portion.

4. Principal's Report

Evelyn: Principal Melissa was unavailable, but her written report was shared and reviewed. No questions raised.

5. Executive Director's Report – Marvin

- Collaboration with YCCS continues to be strong. A town hall was held; renewal for a five-year contract is expected.
- YCCS is experiencing conflict with CPS regarding charter school communication processes. Some schools are considering leaving CPS for ISBE authorization.
- A new worksite was launched at 1112 N. California. Students are transforming a storefront into a training center. Future collaboration with PRCC could lead to affordable housing rehab projects.
- A federal grant application for \$1.288 million was submitted. If approved, future collaborations with Bickerdike and LUCHA are possible.
- Employment Retention Credit (ERC):
 - Original claim was \$899,000.
 - IRS has withheld \$250,000. Appeal in progress.
 - \$600,000 potentially forthcoming due to moratorium lift.

Mike: Clarified the amount and status.

Marvin: Confirmed \$880,000 is net after the 17% fee to Pinnacle, the processing firm.

Rebekah: Asked if cuts were widespread.

Marvin: Cuts stem from moratorium-related reviews.

Mike: Asked about the Department of Labor (DOL) grant timeline.

Marvin: Expect news within 6 weeks. Application was intensive but necessary due to potential state funding reductions. Already awarded \$262,000 by Illinois YouthBuild Coalition, with an additional \$60,000 pending inclusion in the budget.

6. Budget Discussion

Mike: Inquired about changes in YCCS tuition funding year over year. **Marvin:** Shifted from enrollment-based to needs-based funding formula. Revenue now considers student needs such as IEPs or transitional living situations.

Grants and Revenue Sources Reviewed:

- Tuition (~\$2 million), IL Empowerment, NCLB (YCCS)
- YouthBuild, YES, YS3, TXX, RSP, CYEP (ASN)
- Cook County Violence Prevention (\$75,000 over 3 years)

Mike: Asked if YouthBuild funds are restricted.

Marvin: Funds can support partial teacher salaries, rent, support staff, etc.

Surplus:

- ~\$240,000 surplus
- Staff received raises and holiday bonuses
- \$120,000 planned rollover
- Potential student trips (Puerto Rico, Mexico) discussed

Facilities:

- Concerns over building conditions (e.g., sump pump repairs)
- Discussion on purchasing 2739 building from PRCC
- Preference toward new property investment to avoid ongoing maintenance burdens

Financial Planning:

- Rebekah and Milagros emphasized the importance of long-term planning, including student scholarship funds and wealth-building education.
- Marvin and Monica have initiated a partnership with Wintrust for financial planning. Former PPP relationship enabled current ERC pursuit.

Website Update:

- New PACHS homepage presented
- Monica collaborating with Peanut Media

- Monthly maintenance (\$50); site is now responsive and easy to update

Board Feedback:

- Jaime, Milagros, and Mike praised the site for clarity and improved user experience
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7. Fiscal Report Approval

Motion to approve budget made by Mike Staudenmaier, seconded by Jaime Moctezuma.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Board Structure and Committees

Evelyn & Marvin: Reviewed bylaws and board officer responsibilities.

- Vice Chair position remains vacant
- Members encouraged to review roles and come prepared to discuss nominations at future meetings

Jaime: Suggested holding a retreat for new and current board members

Committee Discussion:

- Marvin proposed creating an Annual Report Committee and an Events Committee
- Mike volunteered for Annual Report Committee
- Jaime volunteered for Events Committee
- Evelyn and Monica to support coordination

Rebekah: Advocated for sustainable committee structures and strategic financial investments

9. Announcements

Next Meeting: January 23, 2025

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Evelyn Rivera, seconded by Mike Staudenmaier and Milagros Fernandez.

Meeting adjourned.