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**Approved Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the ASPIRA Board of Directors
September 11, 2024**

Directors Present:

Debra Cruz, Director
Luis Diaz-Perez, Director
Yolanda Frontany, V.C. Personnel
Gabriela Gonzaez, Director / College Rep
Rosemary Lugo-Gross, V.C. Development
Luis Martinez, Director
Marco Morales, V.C. Programs (Acting Chair)
David Rodriguez, Treasurer
Cynthia Yuqui, Secretary

Staff Present:

Edgar Lopez, President & CEO
Elizabeth Roth, CACD
Jose Reyes, COO
Sonia Sanchez, Board Liaison
Abby Rogers, Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Acting Chairman Marcos Morales at 6:35 pm

2. Roll Call

Secretary Yuqui called out the roll and a quorum was determined to be present

3. Approval of the Agenda

**D. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Cynthia Yuqui.
Motion prevailed unanimously by roll call vote.**

4. Approval of June 26, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

**D. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes of June 26, 2024 meeting.
Seconded by R. Lugo-Gross. Motion prevailed unanimously by roll call vote.**

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments made

6. Chairman Report (Acting Chair Marco Morales)

- High School Student Director, Anthony Pritchett graduated from ABF in June and will no longer serve on the board of directors. A letter will be sent to him thanking him for his service on the board. Once the student council elects a new president, they will automatically become the student representative on the board.
- Marco Morales and David Rodriguez met with CPS as part of the renewal process to discuss governance, strategic planning, finances & CEO's KPIs.
- Marco encouraged board members to become familiar with the mission & vision of ASPIRA.

7. CEO Report

CEO Lopez read his report. Highlights include:

- James Edwards is the new principal at ABF.
- We continue in the process for our Charter School Certification renewal. The renewal is for ABF, AEC and Haugan. Antonia Pantoja High School is part of the Youth Connections Charter Schools and YCCS is also undergoing their renewal process.
- 300 students participated in the Summer Youth Program. They held a summit at the end of the program.
- ESL classes have 26 parents and students enrolled.
- ASPIRA parents have been attending Board of Education meetings to advocate for more funding for charter schools.
- 150 kids are participating in our year-round youth employment program.
- Our school enrollment is down at all our schools.
- Aspira staff have started a fundraising committee to raise money for the schools.

8. Board Member Term Renewal of Director Rosemary Lugo-Gross

C. Yuqui made a motion to renew Director Rosemary Lugo-Gross' appointment to the ASPIRA Board of Directors for a two-year term. Seconded by Y. Frontany. Motion prevailed unanimously by a roll call vote.

9. Board Member Term Renewal of Director Luis Martinez

L. Diaz-Perez made a motion to renew Director Luis Martinez' appointment to the ASPIRA Board of Directors for a two-year term. Seconded by D. Cruz. Motion prevailed unanimously by a roll call vote.

10. Motion to Enter Closed Session

David Rodriguez made a motion to enter a closed session to consider the following subjects:

- a. **The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, specific volunteers, or legal counsel for ASPIRA. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)**
- b. **The selection of a person to fill a public office, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)**

Seconded by D. Cruz. Motion prevailed unanimously by roll call vote.

11. Return to Open Session
12. Action to accept resignation of Board Member/Officer, Dr. Armen Alvarez
R Lugo-Gross made a motion to accept Dr. Armen Alvarez's resignation from the Chairperson position and from the Board of Directors, effective August 19, 2024. Seconded by D. Cruz. Motion unanimously by roll call vote.
13. Election of Officers
 - a. Election of Chairperson
Y. Frontany nominated David Rodriguez for Chairperson of the board of directors. Seconded by C. Yuqui.
David Rodriguez was elected Chairperson by unanimous roll call vote.
 - b. Election of Vice-Chairperson for Programs
D. Rodriguez nominated Debra Cruz for Vice-Chairperson for Programs. Seconded by C. Yuqui.
Debra Cruz was elected Vice Chairperson for Programs by unanimous roll call vote.
 - c. Election of Vice-Chairperson for Personnel
D. Rodriguez nominated Yolanda Frontany for Vice Chairperson for Personnel. Seconded by R. Lugo-Gross.
Yolanda Frontany was elected Vice Chairperson for Personnel by unanimous roll call vote.
 - d. Election of Vice-Chairperson for Development

**D. Rodriguez nominated Rosemary Lugo-Gross for Vice-Chairperson for Development. Seconded by Y. Frontany.
Rosemary Lugo-Gross was elected Vice Chairperson for Development by unanimous roll call vote.**

e. Election of Treasurer

**D. Rodriguez nominated Marco Morales for Treasurer. Seconded by C. Yuqui.
Marco Morales was elected Treasurer by unanimous rollcall vote.**

f. Election of Secretary:

**D. Rodriguez nominated Cynthia Yuqui for Secretary.
Seconded by L. Diaz-Perez.
Cynthia Yuqui was elected Secretary by unanimous rollcall vote.**

14. Adjournment

**C. Yuqui made a motion to adjourn. D. Rodriguez seconded.
Motion prevailed.**

Prepared by S. Sanchez, Board Liaison

APPROVED On November 14, 2024