



Draft

PALO VERDE RIVER CONSORTIUM INFORMATION MEETING Thursday, December 10, 2020 Venue – Online Zoom

MINUTES

(These Minutes are considered draft until Board approved)

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Call to Order

The Consortium Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Lale Cilenti, consortium director.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present: Dr. Mary McNeil, Member
Lale Cilenti, Member (Director)
Lois Shaffer, Member designee

Others Present: William Smith, PVC Vice President
Biju Raman, PVC Dean of Instruction & Student Services
Irma Gonzalez, PVC Associate Dean of Counseling
Alejandro Clark, CAEP Project Coordinator
Maria Gonzalez, Program Facilitator
Regina Fields, Program Facilitator
Dana Rethwisch, CDC Site Supervisor
Alan Helfman, AES
Santiago Jackson, AES

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Action: Approve the agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Dr. Mary McNeil, second by Lale Cilenti.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Dr. Mary McNeil, Lale Cilenti, Lois Shaffer

2. DISCUSSION/ OVERVIEW

2.1 State Conference, Filings with State

Ms. Cilenti mentioned that it's been a complicated year and it may continue to summer 2021 pending factors such as the COVID-19 vaccine. There hasn't been a substantial impact on the budget even through the complications that were brought on by the pandemic. Past dealings were mentioned including the June/July meetings and the virtual 2020 CAEP Summit conference. The Summit focused on equity and transition to virtual learning. Ms. Cilenti mentioned that she enjoyed the framework of the virtual conference and the conference topics that were covered. Summit sessions remain accessible online and Mr. Clark can provide that information to any member that is interested. Ms. Cilenti described some of the required state reports that are submitted throughout the year and continued to say that consortium stakeholders would provide update reports on each of the consortium projects during the meeting. Santiago Jackson from Adult Education Solutions (AES) was introduced by Ms. Cilenti.

2.2 State Budget Update*

Mr. Jackson discussed the states prediction of a fifty-three-billion-dollar short fall, which is one-third of the state budget, due to the effects of the pandemic. As things played out, new predications by the legislative analyst office and the governor contradicted the original short fall. The new prediction suggests a surplus between twelve and twenty-six billion dollars. The new estimates could be an indicator that education will not see a cut in funding. The 2021-2022 budget will be introduced next month and will initiate the legislative review process. A new revenue estimate will be established after May fifteenth and it will trigger a governor revision of the budget. The final budget will be signed June thirtieth. Factors like higher revenues and federal support offset the effects of the pandemic creating a surplus rather than a deficit. Mr. Jackson referred to a provided link for individuals that would like to view the CA Legislative Analyst Office website.

2.3 Project Development

Mr. Clark shared information on the consortiums project development process from conception to implementation. Access, timing, requirements, approvals, program evaluation were some of the topics that Mr. Clark mentioned. An emphasis on the timeline for program development was made to inform stakeholders and give them an idea of how long it takes to begin a program from scratch.

2.4 NUSD Parent Project Update

Dr. McNeil stated that the first Parent Project program series was a success. Regina Fields and Mr. Clark worked with Dr. McNeil on program development and implementation. District leveraged resources allowed for the utilization of district employees as guest speakers. Through this process we were able to build relationships within the district that resulted in a bigger buy in for our programs. Topics were chosen to reflect the current needs of parents during the pandemic. The program was well received, and Dr. McNeil is looking forward to continuing the program in January.

2.5 PVUSD Parent Project Update

Lois Shaffer informed the group that there have been two online meeting sessions for the third parent project series so far. Adjustments were made to transition the program to an online format. We used the online pilot program framework that was used for the Needles Parent Project. The first session on "School Re-opening" was well received with over fifty participants. The second session on "Help with Technology Tools" seen a decrease in attendance but there was great feedback from the attendees. The program will continue in January after winter break with a mini technology help series.

2.6 Solar Panel Installer

Biju Raman informed the group that the California Community College Chancellors Office approved the solar technician program curriculum and notified Mr. Raman December 9, 2020. Mr. Raman discussed that students applying for Spring 2021 will be able apply their coursework towards the new certification.

2.7 Family Night, Child Development Center

Dana Rethwisch presented information on the previous Family Night program and how it's being adjusted for distance learning. Our initial efforts included local entities like the Hope Collaborative and Blythe Head Start. The first meeting was conducted in October on positive discipline. Ultimately several factors led to the decision to transition back to the original Family Night framework. The program will be adjusted and implemented in January.

2.8 Career Cruising/Xello

Maria Gonzalez provided product information on Xello and how the product can be implemented within each district. Xello provides a comprehensive electronic career/education portfolio that instructors and administrators can use to develop pathways that lead to higher education and jobs. Ms. Gonzalez, Irma Gonzalez and Alan Helfman are developing a pilot program for Maria Gomez's ESL class that includes Xello. Dr. McNeil would like for Ms. Gonzalez to move forward with implementing Xello for the Needles High School Seniors next semester.

2.9 Basic Life Support

Maria Gonzalez gave an update on the second series of the Basic Life Support class that was provided in October. Over fifty students were certified with a two-year basic life support certification backed by the American Heart Association. Ms. Gonzalez and Mr. Clark worked to provide the basic life support class in accordance with county regulations. Changes were made to program framework to limit in person contact like electronic registration, in-class social distancing and providing personal protective equipment to students. Overall, the program was a success and Ms. Gonzalez recommend expanding the program to the Needles Community.

2.10 Website, Workforce Research

Alan Helfman mentioned that new resources were allocated to consortia for data and research. Mr. Helfman formulated a team that included West-Ed and Palo Verde College (Jaclyn Randle) to conduct workforce research on what students think they need to get a job, higher wages and/or a higher education. A second workforce research effort will provide research on items that get individuals jobs and/or higher wages from local employers. The data will be analyzed and utilized to augment the outcomes of our programs. Mr. Helfman is also working on updating the consortium website with new budget information, new leadership and webpage content.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

*Minutes approved at the _____
Palo Verde River Consortium*

Lale Cilenti, Consortium Director