

### CHPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES DHPH Conference Room, Cafeteria and Live Streamed Wednesday, November 9, 2022 – 5:45P.M.

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**Meeting Date: November 9, 2022**

**Recorded by: Shannon Behling**

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**AN=Action Needed; AT=Action Taken; D=Discussion; I=Information Only; CR=Committee Referral**

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**Present:** Angela Giron and Matt Garcia

**Absent:** Stephen Varela (unexcused)

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Cheryl Gomez

**Guest:** Richard Orona – Orona, Garcia & Duran P.C.

**Others Present:** Dr. Richard Duran, Interim President/CEO; Shannon Behling, Interim Executive Assistant; Don Ortega, Interim CFO; Marne Autobee, Chief Human Resources Officer; Jessica Gonzales, HR Admin Assistant; Loretta Cruz, IT Director; Kelly Cox, Executive Director of Student Services; Kim Sanchez, DHPH Principal; Theresa Martinez, DHPH Counselor; Robin Archuleta, Director of Enrollment/Marketing; Scott Anderson, IT Help Desk; Juanita Jacquez, IT Help Desk; Maria Fernandez, DHH Spanish Teacher; Rusty McBee, DHPH Science Teacher; Irene Padilla, DHPH Science Teacher; Melisa Cellan, School Psychologist; Matt Carloe, PS Coordinator; Amber Carleo, CCA 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher; Mike Aguilar, Director of Facilities; Mike Hildeman, DHPH History Teacher; Tom Weston, D60 Liaison; Dennis Maes, Retired Judge/Community Member; Juan Espinosa, Journalist/Community Member; Eppie Griego, City Counsel/Community Member; Anthony Nunez, Former City Counsel/Community Member; Nick Angiocchi, Community Member; Tracy Trujillo, Community Member; Tiffany Larkins, Community Member; Bernadette Lujan, Parent;

**This regular CHPA Board of Directors' meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. in the DHPH Cafeteria by CHPA Board Secretary, Angela Giron.**

**Roll Call of CHPA Board Members** – Attendance constituted a quorum with 2 members of the current 3 present.

**Executive Session 5:46p.m.**     **AT**     **Matt Garcia moved to enter into Executive Session for discussion of personnel matters pursuant to CRS 24-6-402-4(b), (c), & (f) and seconded by Angela Giron, with a unanimous vote, no discussion. Motion carried.**

Dr. Duran was invited into Executive Session.

**Exit Executive Session 7:20 p.m.**

**AT**     **Matt Garcia moved to exit Executive Session to enter Public Session, seconded by Angela Giron with a unanimous vote, no discussion. Motion carried.**

**I**     **Mr. Orona requested that any objections to the Executive Session discussion be disclosed at this time. No objections stated.**

**Open Session began 7:20 p.m. I**

Angela Giron announced that the CHPA Board received a resignation notice from Stephen Varela minutes before this meeting began. Mr. Orona recommended that the Board take action regarding the resignation notice at this time.

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**AT Angela Giron moved to Accept the resignation of Stephen Varela effective immediately, seconded by Matt Garcia with a unanimous vote, no discussion. Motion carried.**

### Pledge of Allegiance took place

### Oath of Office for Ex-Officio Members

I Angela read the Oath of Office for the Faculty Reps (CCA: Laycee Rexroth-remote, ECMS: Arjun Sahdev-remote; DHPH: Dr. Elizabeth Aragon Blanton), Higher Education Rep (Fred Galves), and Student Rep (Jesus Torres Valdovinos); the official swearing in process is complete for these individuals.

### Modifications/Approval of Agenda

I Mr. Orona recommended that the Board modify agenda to approve new Board Members now (Item 14. B)

**AT Matt Garcia moved to approve the two new Board Members – Don Ortega, Community Rep and Joseph Garcia, Parent Rep, seconded by Matt Garcia with a unanimous vote, no discussion. Motion carried.**

I Angela read the Oath of Office for the new voting members (Don Ortega, Community Rep and Joseph Garcia, Parent Rep); the official swearing in process is complete for these individuals. Don was in attendance virtually and Joseph joined the Board in-person once sworn in.

**AT Matt Garcia moved to approve Angela Giron as the Interim Board President indefinitely until further review can take place, seconded by Joseph Garcia, with a unanimous roll call vote of all 4 members, no discussion. Motion carried.**

I Dr. Duran recommended that the Public Forum be moved up in the agenda to take place now rather than at the end of the meeting.

**AT Matt Garcia moved to approve Public Forum be moved up on the agenda to take place now, seconded by Joseph Garcia, with an unanimous vote, no discussion. Motion carried.**

### Public Forum

1. Dr. Aragon Blanton – Stated that she wrote her letter months ago and has been waiting to give her opinion. “The statements I am making now are mine and mine alone and I want them documented.” She went on to say that there has been a certain political movement with a particular board member. He did not mention the 3 generations of the Hispanic movement Chicano that were present in the audience in August and who are fighting for equality. What is the purpose of him serving on our Board (referencing Stephen Varela). Hal Stevens created a hostile work environment and stated over and over that Mr. Varela was his only boss he had to listen to. This person (referencing Mr. Varela) stated he has a background in Chicano studies and did not act accordingly. Dr. Aragon Blanton stated” Did you know that strong females have participated in all movements and what message does Mr. Varela and Mr. Stevens recent behavior towards women send to our students when they see only females being fired and targeted. My agenda is to educate children and I need to make clear that I will not be treated in a rude or disrespected manner. I expect to be treated as a professional. As a staff we believe that Colorado did not want him, Pueblo did not want him, and we do not want him.

2. Maria Fernandez – I do not need to go up there after Dr. Aragon’s speech. She said it all perfectly.
3. Judge Dennis Maes – I want to thank the CHPA community and staff for being brave and standing up. All they wanted was their school back and in the face of losing their jobs they still stood up for what was right. Congrats on taking your school back! Quite frankly the bylaws got in the way and we still have work to do to fix that. To Dr. Duran – thank you for coming back after your short retirement and we thank you for stepping back in. Thank you to Mr. Orona for being willing to step in during the tough times. On the topic of Governance – if you are going to have bylaws then live by them. If they need adjusted, then adjust them. Mrs. Giron you are tasked with a difficult thing in taking this meeting over in a moment’s notice. You will be helping Dr. Duran do the agenda from now on and a little session about Board Governance with the staff would be beneficial. Spend the resources necessary to get good programming and student achievement. Mr. Orona knows what he is talking about so trust in him and you are in good hands now. Let’s face it, the financial conversations that have been happening are concerning and there is reason for this community to be concerned. We need an update and a report about the finances asap. D60 had a meeting and talked about the financial state of CHPA – if there is an issue, own up to it and fix it. The reason this school was founded is back – it is reborn and people are here for the right reason now and not for their personal agendas as the past persons who have now left.
4. Rusty McBee – I will be brief. I had comments prepared that do not need to be stated now with the news of Varela’s resignation that we got earlier. Thank you to Anthony Nunez, James Bortello, Judge Dennis Maes, Garrison Ortiz, Dr. Duran, and all those community members who stood by us through all of it! It is obvious that the right values are back at the forefront – thank you all very much!
5. Theresa Martinez-Blasing – I had statement prepared but now I do not need to read it – like everyone else. Thank you to the existing Board Members and leading with professionalism and the right focus. Thank you to the community – Juan Espinosa and Shannon Behling (Mr. McBee gave a shout out). I agree with Mr. McBee, we are moving forward in the right direction and it feels good!
6. Nick Angiocchi – hours spent preparing a statement out the window but that is okay! The news we got today is great and it feels good and warm. Look forward to the growth and healing and happy to be a part of it! Thank you to Mrs. Giron for all her true passion and love for the school. CHPA is back in charge of CHPA. Si se puede!
7. Kim Sanchez – Thank you to everyone and I was planning to speak tonight to ask for Varela to resign again but now we finally made it! As a building leader, it has been a challenge to manage this on top of the academic needs for our students. We can focus on the students and not the things that were making it more challenging.
8. Bernadette Lujan – I am not sure I am at the right Board Meeting – this seems to be all about the business end of matters. Maybe I should not speak because it is about personnel matters. Mrs. Giron asked Mr. Orona what should be done. Orona recommended that it go through administration first – next step is Dr. Duran and this will be followed up. Bernadette said she is not going away. Giron said this will happen by the end of the week.

### a. CEO’s Report

- I Due to a confluence of events, a perfect storm resulted in the finance department this past summer which included: the loss of senior finance personnel; two weeks with only one staff member; no CFO hired and two new finance staff hired in late August. This resulted in the loss of time to prepare adequately the Trial Balance which was due September 30, 2022. Simultaneously due to the loss of staff and the steep learning curve of new staff we were behind in requesting funds due to CHPA, which resulted in a cash flow problem to cover payable bills. While we worked hard to recoup funds and made progress in paying vendors, we are still catching up and plan significant catching up in November and December. As a result of the perfect storm, we are still working on completing the Trial Balance now with the assistance of D60 personnel. With completing this task, we can provide the info to our auditors to complete the Annual Audit which is also late as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report. We fully realize not meeting the deadlines is

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not what was to happen. As such, D60 sanctioned CHPA as per our contract and withheld 5% of our PPR payment and will continue until we can meet deadlines which is appropriate. Systems are being put into place for this type of scenario can be addressed appropriately if it occurs in the future.

### Faculty Representative Report

a. Laycee Rexroth – CCA

I

Connected virtually and could not give report – technical difficulties.

b. Arjun Sahdev – ECMS

I

Started with academic achievement – quarter one assessments were given, finals have been created and are being reviewed by admin, Segura and Beeman have help implement one day reading and math lessons for learning loss caused by COVID – celebrations include a Halloween dance that was sponsored by Mrs. Millers program – Mrs. Bojorquez and Melo had performances at the Día de los Muertos event.

c. Dr. Elizabeth Aragon Blanton – DPH

I

In the midst of all going on we had some great celebrations and academic wise we have done the ASVAB, Accuplacer – had students give PP to parents at PT Conferences. Mexican Independence Day – food kick off and acknowledging day of the dead and awareness of how to create change – had many Chicano leaders honored. Gave a general shout out to IT for all they do! All teachers are using Schoology and getting training on Go Guardian – positive incentives were given for count week and shout-out to McBee and Padilla – Science students rocked the PSAT!

### Student Representative Report

a. Jesus Torres Valdovinos

I

Angela thanked him for being here. I care for our students and I am thankful to be here. We have an ECP students with Theresa Martinez and she is a cool person – all students are taking college courses and 11 are on track to graduate with PCC Associates and 8 with their Para Cert. I was told that the school ran out of lunch last Thursday, I informed Dr. Duran and it is being addressed. The transition for the high school in different buildings was rough but us getting better.

### Higher Education Representative Reports

a. Cheryl Gomez

I

Pueblo Community College – January 26<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a grand opening for Health Professionals now located at St. Mary Corwin. Our PCC programs attract people from other states and countries and we have programming not offered on the front range so people are coming here. We received lovely news this evening and I can rest easy tonight and be here next month. Giron asked to collaborate about the FASFA and how to help students (BGC also does this and partners with PCC)

b. Fred Galves

I

happy to be here and Pueblo is my hometown. I am a lawyer and law professor out of California. There is a partnership being sought for online programming –

partner with local companies like CS Winds for hiring programs – working with civil engineering initiatives which is really exciting. Pueblo is going to have a huge apprenticeship program put in place (PTECH). President Mottet is a facilitator and Dr. Duran can be the facilitator for talking with faculty about the mission and vision educator to educator to get test scores up and improvements. CU Law School has reached out to do a program to teach students “street law” so he will work in this with Dr. Duran.

### Board Committee Reports:

#### a. Bylaws Committee

I Angela stated we had a meeting even though Mr. Varela was the chair and busy with his campaign. Changes made were to move to 7 members from 5. Dr. Duran thanked the Board for looking at this and given what they have been through this past year, we will get advice from lawyer and do an overall look at the bylaws for more changes and safe guards to prevent similar situations. Potentially we can have 3 parents reps and 3 community reps with 1 being either/or Parent/Community Rep.

### Recruitment and Nominating Committee

I Angela said again they met even though Mr. Varela was the chair and was too busy to meet. We did do interviews and were able to move forward in getting vacancies filled. We do have more applicants to interview for seating more if the bylaws are approved to go to 7 members. We looked at gaps in the expertise and wanted to fill those gaps – James had finance so we chose Don with finance knowledge. That is where we are with recruitment and nominating committee.

### Approval Items:

#### a. Approval of Bylaw Revisions

**AT Motion to approve the proposed bylaw changes to 7 Board Members by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Joseph Garcia, with a unanimous vote by all. No discussion. Motion carries.**

#### b. Approval of new CHPA Board Members – **Action Taken earlier in per Modifications to the Agenda**

- Parent Representative – Joseph Garcia
- Community Representative – Don Ortega

**Consent Agenda Items: (3 Minutes)** – Mr. Orona, CHPA Attorney, advised the Board to conduct a separate action on each item listed in the consent agenda.

#### a. Board Resolutions

- Disposition of DHPH ten-plex modular building

**AT Motion to approve the proposed resolution for the ten-plex by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Angela Giron, with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**

- Disposition of Modular 9

**AT Motion to approve the proposed resolution for Mod 9 by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Angela Giron, with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**

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- Disposition of Modular 43
  - AT **Motion to approve the proposed resolution for Mod 43 Matt Garcia, Seconded by Angela Giron, with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**
  
- Professional Services – Construction management Finance
  - AT **Motion to approve the proposed Professional Services Construction Management Contract by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Angela Giron, with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**
  
- b. Ratification of D60 Charter School Contract
  - AT **Motion to ratify the/accept the renewal Charter School Contract for CHPA with District 60, as presented by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Joseph Garcia, with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**
  
- c. Funding for President/CEO Search – \$50K
  - AT **Motion to approve the funds for the President/CE Search by Joseph Garcia, Seconded by Matt Garcia, with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**
  
- d. Contracts:
  - Go Guardian
    - AT **Motion to approve the expenditure of the Go Guardian Contract by Joseph Garcia, Seconded by Angela Giron with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**
  
  - iReady
    - AT **Motion to approve the expenditure of the iReady Contract by Joseph Garcia, Seconded by Angela Giron with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**
  
  - GSN
    - AT **Motion to approve the expenditure of the GSN Contract by Joseph Garcia, Seconded by Angela Giron with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**
  
- e. Bills and Payroll Reports: July 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022 – Don Ortega
  - AT **Motion to approve the Bills & Payroll as presented by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Joseph Garcia with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**
  
- f. Approve Board Meeting Minutes:
  - August 9, 2022
  - September 1, 2022
  - September 17, 2022
  - October 20, 2022
  - October 28, 2022

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**AT Motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for 8/9/22, 9/1/22, 9/17/22, 10/20/22, and 10/28/22, by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Joseph Garcia with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**

g, Personnel Report

**AT Motion to table the presented Personnel Report with the ability of calling a special meeting to further discuss by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Joseph Garcia with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**

### Other Comments:


- I Matt said thank you to the community and the board. The last few months have been not so fun and he thanks everyone for hanging in there. He also stated he looks forward to moving on and making improvements.
- I Joseph thanked everyone for hanging in there and for him being able to contribute to this Board. He stated that this school allows for the students to stand up for their rights and they did just that with the recent events, He stated he sees growth and leadership in this school and that is being taught to the kids. He also said “just because we pulled the biggest weed does not mean that the job is done, we still need to water and grow.”
- I Angela stated that our school community is so vital and important to the school’s existence and that we still have mis-steps to correct. She thanked everyone for their patience and demonstration and commitment throughout these hard times. Because of the support we have, we will be the greatest and the strongest we have ever been after this.

### 9:33p.m. Adjournment

**AT Motion to adjourn by Matt Garcia, Seconded by Angela Giron with a roll call vote and 1 abstention by Don Ortega due to technical difficulties. No discussion. Motion carries.**

Prepared by:   
Shannon Behling, Interim Executive Assistant

Date: 11/9/22

Verified by:   
Angela Giron, CHPA Board Secretary  
(Signed by Board President in absence of Secretary)

Date: 1/4/2023

