

**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010  
National Dance Institute's Dance Barns  
1140 Alto Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Meeting was called to order by Catherine Oppenheimer at 6:05 p.m.

In attendance were NMSA Board members:

Catherine Oppenheimer  
Cynthia Montoya  
Sherry Thompson  
Garrett Thornburg

In attendance were SA-NM Board members:

See list above  
Thomas O'Connor

Absent:

JD Bullington, NMSA Board member  
Lee Berk, SA-NM Board member

Consultants present:

Consulting Head of School Jim Ledyard  
Consulting Director of Admissions Adelma Hnasko  
Consulting Executive Assistant Christina Aranda Martinez  
Consulting Business Manager Logan Martin

Members of the Public Present:

Executive Director of Thornburg Foundation, Suzanne Barker Kalangis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **The minutes of the February 9, 2010 Board minutes were approved after a motion by Sherry Thompson, seconded by Cindy Montoya. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

## HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

- Auditions. Jim Ledyard reported that he met with all the panelists prior to the auditions for training purposes. The first 3 days of auditions showed 81 very talented, interesting applicants. The next 3 days of auditions are scheduled on March 18-20, 2010, with 165 applicants. The process has been well organized.
- Hiring of Dance Chair. Jim reported several telephone interviews have been conducted. There is a solid candidate pool. By the end of the week, he will have 2 to 3 dance candidates to choose from. Catherine Oppenheimer requested a meeting be scheduled with the Dance Panelists to determine what class scheduling will be needed for the applicants being accepted to NMSA.
- Renovation of the School Building. Jim reported the construction team for the School met March 15<sup>th</sup>. The new fire alarm has been scheduled for installation. When completed, NMSA administrative offices can move into the building. Anticipated date—April 15, 2010.
- Faculty Salary Schedule. Jim and Logan Martin are working on the salary schedule as well as the contract for employment. Jim requested authorization to place teachers on their respective salary schedules based on both their teaching and relevant experience. Jim would like a salary schedule with some flexibility. Catherine Oppenheimer would like the Board to review the schedule.
- Deliverables. Applications Report. Approved by Catherine Oppenheimer and Sherry Thompson per February 9, 2010 Board approval. Arts Faculty Report. Reviewed and approved by Board.
- **Garrett Thornburg moved to approve the Faculty Salary Schedule Authorization presented. Sherry Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
- **[February 9, 2010 Minutes--Motion by the Board] Garrett Thornburg moved to allow Board members Catherine Oppenheimer and Sherry Thompson approve Jim Ledyard's deliverables for December 2009, January and February, 2010. Cindy Montoya seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
- **Sherry Thompson moved to approve Jim Ledyard's Arts Faculty Deliverable. Garrett Thornburg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

## REVIEW OF OPEN MEETING ACTION ITEMS

- Residential application process. Jim Ledyard and Adelma Hnasko are working on the application. Will provide a draft to NMSA's attorney, Patty Matthews for review.
- Draft of Curriculum Development Plan. Jim presented Mary McLeod's power point presentation of the draft Curriculum Development Plan. Questions were asked and discussion ensued.
- Training and Experience Index. This cannot be calculated until the faculty is hired. The first school year the Santa Fe Public Schools Training and Experience Index is used. In October, 2011, NMSA will create its own T&E.

## COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

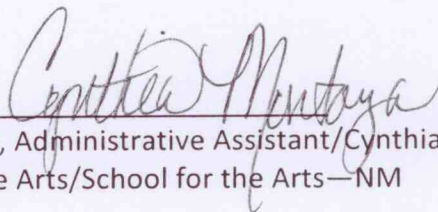
- Student Selection Policy. Discussion was held on the revised Draft Student Selection Policy (see attached). After questions and further discussion, the Board approved the Student Selection Policy.
- Residential Sliding Scale Plan. The proposed Residential Sliding Scale Plan will be presented to the PEC pending NMSA Governing Board approval. Discussion was held during the SA-NM Board meeting regarding the proposed Residential Sliding Scale Plan. Reiterated from the SA-NM Board meeting, the NMSA Board requested the plan also present a projection of 20 boarders and 40 boarders; include two different income totals and a formula giving a deduction for each additional child in the household beyond four. With the noted changes, the Board approved the Residential Sliding Scale Plan.
- **Cindy Montoya moved to approve the Student Selection Policy as presented. Sherry Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
- **Garrett Thornburg moved to approve the Residential Sliding Scale Plan as revised. Sherry Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

## FINANCE REPORT

- Budget Adjustment Request (BAR). Logan Martin explained the Budget Adjustment Requests (BAR) to the Board. Adjustments of the BARS are to place the budget authority in the correct account code. BARS require Governing Council approval prior to submission to PED for approval. After discussion ensued, the BARS presented were approved by the Board.
- **Garrett Thornburg moved to approve the Budget Adjustment Requests submitted. Cindy Montoya seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM

Submitted By:



Christina Aranda Martinez, Administrative Assistant/Cynthia Montoya, Board Member  
New Mexico School for the Arts/School for the Arts—NM

# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

## STUDENT SELECTION POLICY

New Mexico School for the Arts is a public/private partnership comprised of School for the Arts – NM (SA-NM), a nonprofit arts educational institution, and New Mexico School for the Arts (NMSA), a statewide charter high school. NMSA was created to give New Mexico students who demonstrate exceptional promise, aptitude and passion for the arts the opportunity to work toward mastery in their chosen fields and to earn a New Mexico high school diploma.

The concept of a student selection policy for a New Mexico charter school is a departure from normal practice. NMSA is the only such institution in the state permitted to choose its students following an audition and based on published criteria. There is no lottery involved. The two primary principles underlying the NMSA student selection policy are access and nondiscrimination. According to the School's authorizing legislation (SB 34, 2008), "...admissions criteria shall be designed to admit students who show exceptional promise or aptitude in the arts and a strong desire to pursue a career in the arts." The legislation makes it clear that the School's admissions and recruitment activities must reach out to the widest feasible audience of New Mexico students, encouraging applications from those who meet the broad criteria, and attempting to "eliminate barriers to prospective students in the application process." It goes on to stipulate, "To the greatest extent possible without jeopardizing admission standards, students shall be admitted in equal numbers from each of the State's congressional districts. The originating statement further specifies that, "the admissions process shall be conducted in a way that provides equal opportunity for admission to each prospective student regardless of that student's exposure to previous artistic training and without regard to the student's ability to pay residential costs."

The second principle is nondiscrimination. NMSA subscribes to all federal and state standards with respect to both students and staff in this regard. Its frequently published policy statement is as follows: *NMSA, a public/private partnership comprised of the New Mexico School for the Arts and School for the Arts – NM, admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, sexual preference, culture, and religion or with any disability to all of the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to its students. NMSA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, sexual preference, culture, disability, and religion in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, arts and other programs.*

In collaboration with the NMSA Board of Governors, the Head of School and the Director of Admissions designed recruitment practices and admissions procedures in the fall of 2009 that implement these student selection policies. They are described in detail on the School's Web site and in published materials. They include, but are not limited to, a plan for statewide mailings, advertisements, and radio spots; introductory meetings for prospective families at strategically selected sites throughout New Mexico; announcements on the Web of admission criteria,

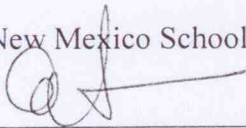
application materials and audition protocols and rubrics; and the selection of admissions panels in each of the School's four arts departments. These panel members are active artist educators, primarily from New Mexico, who conduct the individual and group auditions, rate each applicant according to the published criteria and rubrics and then turn the final decisions over to the Director of Admissions and the Head of School. The Head of School makes the ultimate selection of students to be admitted or wait listed. His or her decision is discretionary and not subject to review. A student or parent may request an explanation from the Head of School outlining the general explanation for the admission decision.

It is possible that a real or perceived conflict of interest may arise involving a panel member and an applicant. If a panelist has a direct or indirect relationship to an applicant, whether by family or professional association, the panelist must disclose this fact to the other members of the panel. Having taught or knowing a student who is applying shall not necessarily be considered a conflict. If a conflict of interest does exist, the panelist will recuse himself or herself from filing a report on that particular applicant.

Once an applicant has been offered admission to NMSA, he or she may apply for admission to the residency program. This process involves further background checking to ensure that the student is suited for dormitory life. Since space in the residence hall is limited, other criteria that may be considered are distance of the applicant's hometown from Santa Fe, gender (there will be a pre-set number of rooms for boys and girls, on different floors), and overall quality of the application.

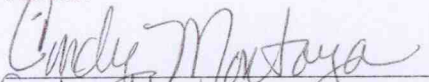
This Student Selection Policy was adopted by resolution of the Board of Trustees of SA-NM and the Governing Board of NMSA, effective as of March 16, 2010.

New Mexico School for the Arts



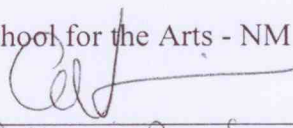
Catherine Oppenheimer, Chair  
Of the Governing Board

Attest:



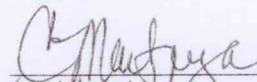
Cindy Montoya, Secretary  
Of the Governing Board

School for the Arts - NM



Catherine Oppenheimer, Chair  
Of the Board of Trustees

Attest:



C. Montoya, Secretary  
Of the Board of Trustees