

Pemayetv Emahakv, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 18, 2017

Tampa

Present: Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr., Mitchell Cypress, Andrew J. Bowers, Jr., Manuel Tiger, Christopher Osceola, Jim Shore, Elrod Bowers, Brian Greseth, Michele Thomas, Marcus Brigg-Cloud, Alice Sweat, Jennie Shore, Helene Buster, Dixie Houston, O'Hara Tommie.

Chairman, Marcellus Osceola called the meeting to order. Michele Thomas conducted roll call. Marcellus Osceola introduced agenda item number four, appointment of member to Pemayetv Emahakv, Inc. Mr. Greseth was asked to present resolution. Marcellus Osceola asked for a motion to approve resolution. Christopher Osceola made a motion to approve, seconded by Andrew J. Bowers, Jr.. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Osceola asked board members to review minutes from the May 19, 2017 meeting. He asked for questions or comments. Marcellus Osceola asked for a motion to approve resolution. Motion made by Andrew J. Bowers, Jr., seconded by Mitchell Cypress and was approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Osceola introduced resolution number six, Approval of 2017 – 2018 Staff Roster. Mr. Greseth presented the resolution. Mr. Greseth stated he was reviewing staffing from 2012 – 2013 to present. The only additions have been a sixth grade teacher and paraprofessional. Other additions to the staff came as a result of rolling STOF staff / programs over to PECS; culture, immersion program, pre-kindergarten, pre-kindergarten after-school program, summer credit retrieval program, homework help program and transportation. One teacher, Kendra Murphy, teaching out of field ESE. Manuel Tiger wanted clarification; PECS has a total of 83 employees. Mr. Greseth responded yes. He stated PECS has eighty-five teachers and paraprofessionals. Michele Thomas added Officer Holly Ramsey is assigned to PECS but is employed by Seminole Police Department. Marcellus Osceola asked for a motion to approve resolution. Motion made by Christopher Osceola, seconded by Andrew J. Bowers, Jr. and was approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Osceola introduced resolution number seven, Approval of 2017 – 2018 Operating Budget. Mr. Greseth presented the resolution. Members reviewed proposed budget. Marcellus Osceola mentioned this budget had already been reviewed and included in the working STOF budget. Mr. Greseth stated the school budget increased approximately \$800,000.00 with the inclusion of the new programs rolled over from STOF. PECS did add one teacher and one paraprofessional as well. Christopher Osceola mentioned he heard the State was planning to increase student funding. Mr. Greseth explained the increase would be approximately \$70.00 per student. Christopher Osceola asked if that would include all students, which Mr. Greseth responded with a yes. Manuel Tiger questioned the after-school program funding and the homework help program. Marcellus Osceola called for questions or comments. Chairman Osceola called for a motion to approve. Motion made by Christopher Osceola, Jr., seconded by Andrew J. Bowers, Jr. and the resolution was passed by a unanimous vote.

Marcellus Osceola congratulated Mrs. Jennie Shore on being named National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Elder of the Year. All agreed the recognition is well deserved. Christopher Osceola also stated he was happy to seeing PECS was able to hang onto Marcus Briggs-Cloud. He stated he was extremely impressed with the Immersion Program video presentation to the board members and was afraid we may lose Marcus. Christopher stated he realizes we have staff being taught to instruct, but feels Marcus is a key part of the program.

Discussion Item –
School Update

Mr. Greseth announced PECS received the Little Red Schoolhouse Award for the video presentation on the Este Cate Emponvkv Encuko (Immersion Program) from the Florida Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals in the school culture category. The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) will be showing the video at this year's conference. Marcus and staff will be presenting on the Immersion Program and Mr. Greseth on charter schools.

Student enrollment; 205 elementary students, 172 are tribal members making the elementary 84 % tribal member. Middle school has 75 students total, 60 are tribal members putting the middle school at 78% tribal. Overall, we are 81% tribal member, 88% tribal / tribal descendent. Total school enrollment is 317.

Discussion on PECS, Okeechobee County, and Glades County school calendars.

Discussion on how schools are handling the eclipse.

Traditional Language and History Program

Marcus Briggs-Cloud reported staff attended a native language workshop in Minnesota. Last year we lost eight creek speakers, which leaves approximately 32 fluent speakers. He reported pretty soon the Immersion Program students would be added to the fluent speakers list.

Andy Buster, Martha Billie, and Jennie Billie were invited to present / share at the staff orientation. In the near future Andrew Bowers, Martha Jones, and Houston Cypress will be presenting / sharing.

Karen Two Shoes and Edna McDuffie provided a health presentation for culture staff. A walking program has been implemented for culture staff.

Immersion Program continues through the summer. Two months is too long for students to be immersed in the English language, which would be detrimental to their progress.

Jennie Shore and Jade Osceola continue to work on the Creek dictionary each Tuesday morning from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.

Marcus and Helene Buster presented the need for a new building. The existing building is in need of a new roof and other repairs and is not large enough to expand the student body. Helene had the opportunity to give Marcellus Osceola a tour of the facility on a recent visit. Mr. Osceola suggested developing a needs assessment. The request is for a new building that would house the entire Culture Department; Immersion Program, Language classes, Arts & Crafts classes, and Dual Language Program. A hand-drawn building concept was represented for review. Marcellus Osceola relayed to Board Members he feels the work happening there is very important and needs to be supported. The need for a new facility is necessary. They are currently housed in a temporary modular that is in need of major repairs. The size of the facility does not allow the program to grow in size. He reported he asked the staff to put together a list of needs to be reviewed by Planning and Development. He stated he hopes the Board will support the program. Marcellus feels something will need to happen soon; a new building or a new modular.

Andrew Bowers asked Marcus how he grades the younger instructors. Marcus explained it is mostly self-evaluation during the weekly instructor classes with elders. Marcus reported each of them are getting more comfortable speaking and are able to speak in Creek for longer periods of time.

Michele Thomas reported language teachers from the Miccosukee Tribe have visited the Immersion Program to get ideas regarding developing their program.

Motion made by Manuel Tiger to adjourn, seconded by Andrew J. Bowers, Jr.. All approved.