

Pemayetv Emahakv, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 18, 2019

Tribal Administration Building
Hollywood, Florida

Present: Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr., Mitchell Cypress, Manuel Tiger, Andrew J. Bowers, Jr., Christopher Osceola, Lee Zepeda, Suresh Geer, Shawn Ray, Alice Billie, Delois Alvarez, Brian Greseth, Michele Thomas.

Chairman Marcellus Osceola called the meeting to order. Michele Thomas conducted roll call. Chairman Osceola asked board members to review minutes from August 17, 2018. Chairman Osceola asked for comments or questions then asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Andrew J. Bowers, Jr., seconded by Christopher Osceola, and was approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Osceola moved to item number four, discussion items.

Mr. Greseth introduced Jade Osceola, PECS Middle School Teacher and newly named Glades County District of the Year. Mr. Greseth explained he worked with the State regarding Jade's teacher certification status and she is now listed as a Teacher of Record for our high school credited Creek classes. This was her first year to be included on the Teacher of the Year ballot for middle school and her peers voted her Middle School Teacher of the Year. No run off required. Jade and Kimberly Toms, Elementary Teacher of the Year, then were in the running for Glades County District Teacher of the Year. Mr. Greseth shared he feels each year the District title is between our two teachers. Chairman Osceola shared congratulatory comments.

Lice Policy

Mr. Greseth explained our current lice policy is 2 days excused absence. If the student is not cleared by the school or community nurse to return the 2 days excused absence does not start over. Andrew Bowers asked if a product could be purchased to get rid of lice. Mr. Greseth replied yes, and families could also go to the community clinic and the medical staff could prescribe medicated product. Mr. Greseth also shared there are also salons that provide lice removal service.

Consolidating PECS Elementary and Middle Schools

We currently have two schools on one campus; elementary, school number 0056 and middle school, school number 0057. When the school was first built it was a kindergarten – fifth grade school. When the sixth grade was added it was added under the elementary school. When seventh and eighth grade were added Charter School Associates helped us attain a 2-year, 175,000.00 state grant for new school construction. At that time, it was decided to add a separate school, so we were eligible for the new school construction grant monies. Since that

time we have been operating as two schools. Preparing two school improvement plans, two budgets, two audits, and we currently get two separate school grades. It would be much easier if we were to consolidate the two schools. Mr. Greseth spoke to Scott Bass, Glades County Schools Superintendent, and he supports the consolidation. Michele Thomas stated if the Board Members support consolidating, a resolution would be placed on the next Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda for Board approval.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

PECS Elementary Teacher and Florida State Teacher of the Year, Joy Prescott, has been given the honor of selecting one PECS student to receive a two-year Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. We will use the selection criteria established to select the Louise Gopher Academic Award. The state will visit PECS to make the scholarship presentation.

Logo – Trademark

Mr. Greseth stated he asked Charter School Associates to research how to trademark the PECS logo. We can do so by hiring an attorney to file the proper documentation. The cost would be \$450.00. Andrew Bowers reported during the recent Glades County School Board Election, a candidate used the PECS school logo, along with other Glades County School logos on her campaign signs. This was seen by some as our school endorsing this candidate. This was not the case. Andrew Bowers feels her intention was to say she supports all county schools, if nothing more but to prevent future logo issues maybe we should have a trademark. Chairman Osceola feels it would be a good idea to protect ourselves. Michele Thomas also added she would like to consider copyrighting the language curriculum developed at PECS. Chairman Osceola stated he believed that would only be needed if the curriculum is being published. Lee Zepeda reported he has worked with Jim Shore's office in the past regarding copyrighting and it becomes somewhat tricky because when you copyright something it becomes public domain. He also stated if we become our own publishers, then the works would remain in house. Mr. Zepeda recommended speaking to someone in Mr. Shore's office.

School Update

Mental Health. Mr. Greseth stated at our last meeting Chairman Osceola asked if STOF Counselors could work with non-tribal kids. At the time the answer was no, due to grant restrictions. Mr. Greseth reported Tony Bullington, Center for Behavior Health, is now moving to hire one, hopefully two new mental health counselors that would be able to work with any PECS students as a billable service to the school. The school would use the newly allocated state mental health funds to pay for the services. Chairman Osceola asked how long the grant was for. Mr. Greseth stated currently one year at a time.

Portables. Mr. Greseth reported the portables were delivered in July, but we still are not in them. He received word today the permits have finally been issued. What seemed to have happened was the previous staff members didn't handle our project in the proper order

involving permitting. Mr. Greseth reported we are hoping to be occupying the portables by the end of the month. Fred Barrios has scheduled a meeting on Jan 30 to discuss the new culture building. Chairman Osceola apologized for how things have been handled and is happy to hear the project is nearing completion.

School Update

The Children from Real Life Children's Ranch visited PECS in December. Our students enjoy hosting the visitors each year. Our 7th and 8th grade students traveled to Washington D.C. We had 33 students and 22 parents this year. Basketball season has been going well. The girls' team is just under 500 and the boys' team just over 500 for the season. We started clubs on Fridays this year. We still have Homework Help Monday – Thursdays. We asked staff to volunteer their time and talents and we are happy to have guitar, drama, puzzles & games, pep squad, weight lifting, God Squad and Sweet Grass Warriors which are both Christian-based Clubs. We had over 200 students sign up for clubs. During Christmas, we had our first drama performance. We had an active shooter training after returning from Christmas Break.

Traditional Language and History Program Update

Jade Osceola reported in August, they held a professional development workshop for staff with cultural informants: Andy Buster, Betty Osceola, Andrew Bowers, and Houston Cypress. September student council elections and clothing contest were held. Thank you to Tribal Council Members for coming to PECS and speaking to our students regarding political office and duties and thank you to Manuel Tiger for attending our Student Council Inauguration. In October, Immersion Students met with University of Florida Extension Agents for agricultural lessons, that were all translated into Creek. In November 8th grade students skyped with students from Miami. They shared historical and cultural facts and answered questions. The Immersion Program is working with a dietician from the Brighton Clinic to create new breakfast, lunch, and snack menus. The philosophy is that our elder language speakers are irreplaceable, and we want to contribute to their longevity. Six new videos exclusively narrated in Creek have been created. The Immersion Program has two new students. Marcus Briggs-Cloud led trainings to help four new Indigenous Language Immersion Programs get started, patterned after our model. Eduarda Anselmo was voted Culture Employee of the Year. Chairman Osceola asked if the elders are on board with the new food program. He realizes this may be a shock to them. Jade replied Marcus has been working with them slowly to introduce new things like smoothies and fruit infused water. Chairman Osceola asked how many students are currently enrolled in the Immersion Program and are there any children currently on a waiting list? Michele Thomas responded there are twelve current students, and children on the waiting list. Chairman Osceola asked if the new portables will allow more students to be enrolled. Michele Thomas responded it gives us more room, but staffing would be the issue. We will continue to actively recruit fluent Creek speakers. Chairman Osceola stated he feels the work being done is great and he appreciates all the efforts be put forth.

Motion made by Christopher Osceola to adjourn, seconded by Andrew J. Bowers, Jr. All approved