

Farmworker Institute of Education & Leadership Development
Board of Directors Meeting
FIELD main office, 410 West J. Street, Suite A
Tehachapi, California

December 12, 2015

Telephonic Conference call number 641-715-3570, 569693#

- I. Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by FIELD President David Villarino-Gonzales
- II. Reflection Poem of Farm Workers Struggle read by President Villarino
- III. Roll Call taken to determine Quorum by President Villarino.

Board Members Present

David Villarino
Anthony Chavez
Inez DeLuna (by telephone)
Dr. Robert Frost
Dr. Mark Martinez (at 9:45)
Rick Najera (absent)
Secretary/Treasurer Jenny Freeman (Absent)
General Counsel Joseph Casas (by telephone)

Quorum was present

Staff members present were Rosa Ruelas, and Haydee Corona

- IV. Approval of Minutes of 9-5-15 Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Frost moved to accept the minutes of 9-5-15 BOD. Director Chavez seconded. No discussion, motion carried.
- V. Approval of Agenda of 12-12-15. Director Frost moved to accept the agenda. Director Chavez seconded. No discussion, motion carried.
- VI. Public Forum for public comment was opened. No comments from phone or from audience. Public Forum was closed.
- VII. Executive Reports
 - A. Financial management. Financial review, First Interim Reports as of Sept 1, 2105 presented by Rosa Ruelas. Ms. Ruelas then reviewed the Balance sheet and the Income and Expense reports. Director DeLuna questioned how we were recruiting students to keep enrollment. Villarino explained how we do outreach and enrollment with our supervisory structure within the regions on Central Valley, Coachella Valley and Northern California.
 - B. Corporate Plan and Budget. Villarino reported that EPIC director and Provost Shyanne Ledford and Director of Student Services Tiffany Tosti had been relieved of their duties without going too far into personnel matters. Director DeLuna questioned why materials and devices were not ordered if funding was raised and allocated in the budget. Villarino had the same question posed

to both of them. Villarino speculated that it was a pretext to construct the appearance of a “mismanaged” operations to call attention to Nevada County as our authorizer. He then reviewed the response to the Notice to Cure from Nevada County involving education materials, credentialed staff, audit extensions, and governance issues.

C. Presentations.

1. Villarino stated that presentations regarding EPIC will be made in January/February regarding staffing, enrollment, hiring new sites and JMCS.
2. Kern Service and Conservation Corps (KSACC) manager Chavez reported the Cal Recycle and CCC were coming in January to certify KSACC and would review rosters, case files, sponsor evaluations interview students, and crew supervisors. They would review the academic side of the corps program as well. Additionally, Mr. Chavez stated

a. 1. the Kern County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to support KSACC as a recycling preference in Kern County.

b. 2. Irene Muro Lopez was back working with FIELD. She would be assigned to Southern California.

c. 3. KSACC attended the state association of conservation corps meetings and was well received.

d. 4. KSACC had visited sister corps in San Diego and LA.

3. Villarino stated that the approval of the investment from our bank of \$300k was pending although assurances were made it would be ready by mid-February.

D. New Business

Villarino introduced proposed EPIC Executive Director Rick Alvarez. Alvarez discussed his farmworker background in Coachella Valley, his degree in education from CSU Pomona, his teaching and administrative background of 30 years in Coachella Valley unified, how he became familiar with FIELD and agreed to assist with recruitment in Coachella Valley and later offered to serve as EPIC ED if appointed by the FIELD/EPIC Board of Directors.

1. Director Chavez moved to accept the first interim report of EPIC. Motion was seconded by Director DeLuna. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0

2. Director Frost moved to accept the \$300,000 investment from Rabobank. Director DeLuna seconded. No discussion, motion carried 4-0

3. Director Chavez moved to accept Marion Stephens, Steve Olmos and Pat Ainsworth as our Council of Advisors for EPIC. Director Martinez seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0

4. Director Frost moved to appoint Rick Alvarez as Executive Director of EPIC. Director Chavez seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0

5. Director Chavez moved to accept EPIC’s response to Nevada County Board of Education Notice to Cure. Director DeLuna seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0

Next scheduled regular meeting would be March 12, 2016. Venue would be determined. Motion to adjourn accepted.