



Minutes of the December 7, 2007 business meeting at Room 1932, 19th. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Blanche Aviles Casey
Ramona Reyes
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Richard Romero
Phillip R. Barbosa
Daniel Porras
Michael G. Florez

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Lilleana Cavanaugh
Susan De Luca

Guest attendance list

Attached

ABSENT

Chris Rodriguez- Excused
Mary Santiago- Excused
Simon Rodriguez- Excused
Humberto Gonzalez - Excused

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were seven commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 12-2007

To approve the November 13 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Romero wished Happy Holidays to everybody. He expressed that this past year the commission has moved on with the increase in funding, the OLANet

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initiative and the work of the different committees and feels excitement about the future in the New Year.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his report for November. Copy is attached as Exhibit A. In addition, copy of Senate bill 260 is attached as Exhibit B.

MOTION #2 - 12-2007 - To approve the Director's Report. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive and Finance

Chair Romero informed that the committee met today and discussed their work during this year and make plans for next year. He also informed that the committee decided to have a Board meeting on January 18 and the Retreat in February 8 and 9. He expressed that they will address the issue concerning SGIImages at the January 18 meeting.

Finance Committee

Commissioner Aviles Casey presented the Financial Report. Copy is attached as Exhibit C.

MOTION #3 - 12-2007 - To accept the Financial Report. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

Communications Committee

Commissioner Reyes informed that she is working with the Director to get talking points in case the current commissioners are asked to represent the Commission on OLANet. Their representation will give more publicity to OLANet in their respective areas. She also informed that the committee is working with the Chair in relation to purchase ads to promote OLANet and send press releases and media advisories.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Chair Romero informed that the committee and the consultant met and discussed plans to meet with various non-profit organizations to let them know about the grant opportunities. They also discussed doing several training

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programs about how to fill out grant proposals, give all the necessary details they need in order to receive a grant. The discussed also a possible Legislative Day in May.

Director Escudero informed that this is a three piece program: first: in March and April is the grant writing and legislative advocacy training; second: Host a legislative visit day; third, in late 2008 and early 2009 a community challenge with eight communities foundations around the state.

Education Committee

Commissioner Aviles Casey informed that the committee met with Ruben Herrera and Guadalupe Velasquez and they came to the conclusion that they will be no next step for Soluciones before having a road map to follow for this program. All information must be gathered and a Strategic Plan must be implemented. The suggestion to implement a third grade tutoring program was also discussed.

Director Escudero informed that three years ago the Commission created a Community Advisory Council to help form and implement the education campaign, and put together the statewide roundtable conference two years ago on January 2006. He also informed that the group met last Saturday to begin the initial conversation, talking about what are some of the different issues, and what are the concerns.

The first piece of the plan for next year is:

Action - Looking at the possibility of conducting a statewide education conference in early June.

Second:

Network - Who are our friends in State government? Who are the key agencies, who are the key offices within the Department of Education and the Board of Regents that we have to be communicating with, sharing information in order that in 2009 our agency has our education initiatives align with theirs.

Third:

Grow the Advisory Committee - Make this committee a statewide advisory committee on education issues and coordinate at least a quarterly meeting with them.

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Director Escudero informed that if anyone is interested in getting more information on Soluciones 2006, could search for www.osu.edu/soluciones.

Director Escudero informed that the results of the conference was a formation of an initial set of local community roundtable groups, to focus in building coalitions with policy makers, educators, administrators, parents and community leaders. A support plan was developed, but due to the lack of funding at the time, the Commission was not able to continue.

Workforce & Economic Development

Director Escudero reported on the progress of the conversations with the Department of Development on a memorandum of understanding. They are working on a comprehensive proposal to create a Latino small business development pilot, looking at what the local Hispanic Chamber and Greater Chamber are doing.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Romero informed that he received an email from Commissioner Simon Rodriguez with the idea that commissioners give certificates of appreciation to Hispanics in their community that are doing outstanding work on behalf of the Hispanic Community.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Memorandum of Collaboration

Commissioner Porrás expressed concern and asked two questions regarding this memorandum. (1) the cost and in what item of the budget this cost is going to be allocated (2) will the Commission will be able to continue its work after being in this leadership.

Director Escudero answered Commissioner Porrás questions. He expressed that the Commission has to be sure that Ohio is the first priority. This is a networking opportunity. The Commission has 12 months, before the next budget, top dos its work and be prepare to report its progress to the Governor and the Legislature. That in the past the cost of attending out of the State

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conferences or meetings has been between \$3,000 and \$4,000. He expressed also that he will not jeopardize the work the Commission is doing in Ohio.

Chair Romero expressed for the records that he will abstain from voting on this issue because he is working with Dr. Andrade in other issues not related to the Commission and of his relationship with the Hispanic Leadership Institute.

A vote on this issue was postponed for the January 18, 2008 meeting.

Discussion on Senate Bill 260

Director Escudero informed that the Commission through Susan De Luca made an analysis of the legislation and made recommendations to the Commission. Director Escudero read Senate Bill 260. The analysis of the bill found three critical areas of concern: (1) The bill threatens community policing efforts that may damage relationships with local law enforcement and the communities they protect (2) The bill is an unfunded mandate that put some requirements on law enforcement without additional resources and sets as penalties for not compliance by state and local agencies the denial of homeland security dollars for those who do not participate with SB260 mandates. (3) There is no support on the national level by law enforcement, sheriffs, across the country for proposals like this.

The Director expressed that this proposal is not moving forward at this time and the recommendation to the Commissioners is that the Commission does not take any formal action or resolution at this time and continue to monitor progress, especially after the Holidays and the next calendar year. Copy of the report is attached as **Exhibit D**.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #4 - 12-2007 - To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

Chair Romero wished everybody Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

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Chair Romero announced that the next Board meeting is on January 18 and the Retreat on February 8-9.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5 - 12-2007 - To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by ____???:____ Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Richard Romero, Chair

Michael G. Florez, Secretary

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES

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MOTIONS CARRIED

Motion #1 -12-2007	To approve the November 13 minutes
Motion #2 -12-2007	To approve the Director's Report
Motion #3 -12-2007	To accept the financial report
Motion #4 - 12-2007	To accept public commentary
Motion #5 - 12-2007	To adjourn the meeting