

**Christine Duncan Heritage Academy**  
26 marzo 2020 Regular Meeting  
President's Report by Luis I. Quiñones, Ph.D.

These have been very tenuous times. I have been following the COVID-19 news closely, especially as this relates to New México's public schools. It is evident to me that the school closures will continue well beyond that April 6 "return to work" timeline. Many educational events have been cancelled (or postponed) including, all NM School Boards Association regional meetings, the Spring Budget Workshop scheduled for April 1-3, all spring sports and more. Additionally, I learned a couple of school boards who cancelled their March regular meetings - one cancelled its April meeting, as well. Each school is different, therefore, decisions by other schools may or may not reflect or influence our decisions. It is havoc, but I trust all of us will deal with this as best we can and come out with renewed energy and enthusiasm once school is re-convened.

I was invited by Mr. Moncada to attend the NM Association for Bilingual Education President's Reception in February 11. I was invited as I was the NMABE president in 2001-2002. It was good to see many educators continue the quest to promote bilingual education for the good of all of NM's students.

I travelled to Rochester, NY, March 3-7, 2020. I was invited to speak regarding bilingual/multicultural education and education, in general, as this relates to best outcomes. I also spoke to an anti-war group, the Rochester Coalition on Latin America, in regards to education, militarism in the schools, and the working class. Finally, I spoke at Geneseo University (SUNY) to faculty and students. I mentioned CDHA several times regarding the dual language immersion model that is the best model for English Language Learners, plus dominant English learners, as well. I was also interviewed regarding education on IWWX radio in Rochester.

In consultation with Mr. Ben Maes, outgoing president, and Mr. Moncada principal, I cancelled the March 18 meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I became aware of the State Attorney General's March 17, 2020 memorandum offering guidance for holding or postponing meetings during this time. I felt there was no need to put any board members, students, or staff at risk for a meeting where there was no urgency. Additionally, I went through O'Hare International Airport in Chicago on my way to and from Rochester, NY (which is in northern New York state). I wanted to make sure I sat out the recommended 14 days time period suggested by medical personnel.

Mr. Moncada informed me that CDHA lawyer, Mr. Dan Hill, offered the legal opinion to have the March 2020 meeting to comply with regulations. Therefore, we rescheduled the March meeting for March 26 with the mandate that it be held through a Zoom Conference, eliminating risk to participants and complying with all elements of the

Open Meetings Act. Mr. Moncada also pointed out that having a regular meeting via Zoom will give us experience for the April 2020 meeting when we will have our 2020-2021 budget to discuss and approve/disapprove. I thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this time. ¡Adelante!

## **As per the NM AG's March 17, 2020 Memorandum**

- Notice of the meeting must still comply with the mandates of OMA, and it should contain detailed information about how members of the public may attend and listen via telephone, live streaming, or other similar technologies

- ---this should include such detail as relevant phone numbers, web addresses, etc.;

- While provided by alternative means, the public must have some form of access to the meeting to substitute for the access it would during any normally scheduled public meeting subject to OMA;

- Where possible, videoconference is the best alternative method of holding meetings;

- At the start of the meeting, the chairperson should announce the names of those members of the public entity participating remotely;

- All members of the public entity participating remotely must identify themselves whenever they speak and must be clearly audible to the other members of the public entity and to the public;

- The chairperson or person leading the meeting should suspend discussion if the audio or video is interrupted;

- All votes of the public entity should be by roll call vote;

- The public entity should produce and maintain a recording of the open session of the meeting.