

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
December 15, 2015  
Time: 1:30 pm**

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Vern Riffe Center  
Room 1960, 19th Floor  
77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

**Luis "Tony" Ortiz**, Chair  
Dayton

**Michael Florez**, Vice Chair  
Cincinnati

**Jose Feliciano Jr.**, Secretary  
Aurora

**Mary Santiago**  
Lorain

**V. Anthony Simms-Howell**  
Cincinnati

**Elizabeth Guzman-  
Bowman**  
Columbus

**Emanuel Torres**  
Columbus

**Gregory Guzmán, PhD**  
Maumee

**Rev. Juan Rivera**  
Campbell

**Dan Molina**  
Loveland

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**Rick Perales**  
**State Representative**  
District 73 ~ Greene County

**Dan Ramos**  
**State Representative**  
District 56 ~ Lorain County

**Gayle Manning**  
**Senator**  
District 13 ~ Huron & Lorain  
Counties

**Charleta Tavares**  
**Senator**  
District 15 ~ Franklin County

**Attendance**

**Commissioners - Present**

Michael Florez - Vice Chair  
V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
Gregory Guzmán, PhD.  
Beth Guzman-Bowman  
Rev. Juan Rivera  
Dan Molina

**Legislative Members - Present**

Senator Gayle Manning  
Senator Charleta Tavares  
Representative Rick Perales

**Commissioners - Absent**

Mary Santiago - Excused  
Jose Feliciano, Jr. - Excused  
Tony Ortiz - Excused  
Emanuel Torres

**Staff - Present**

Lair Marin- Community Liaison  
Andrea Lewis- Public Policy Officer  
Georgina Alvarez - Organizations Development Officer  
Briana Black - Administrative Clerk  
Lilly Cavanaugh—Excused

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Michael Florez as acting Chair calls meeting to order at 1:32 p.m., due to the absence of Chair Ortiz. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag is recited.

**Call of the Roll**

There are 9 Commissioners present, thus constituting quorum.

**Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Florez invites Dan Molina to be sworn in by A.G. Walter McNamara. Commissioner Molina recites the Oath of Office and is pinned by Vice Chair Florez.



### Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Florez presents previous meeting's Minutes to the board for review and approval.

**Motion #1 - 12 - 2015** - To approve the October 27th, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Moved by Commissioner Guzmán. Seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion carries. Approved with one abstention.

### Committee Reports

Vice Chair Florez invites Commissioner Guzmán to provide an update for the Workforce & Economic Development Committee. There is none.

Vice Chair Florez then invites Commissioner Guzmán to provide the Education Committee update. Guzmán and Public Policy Officer Andrea Lewis highlight details in regards to the Ohio Latino Education Summit: OCHLA's host for this year is the University Toledo, along with key partners the Ohio Department of Education and the El Puente Learning Center. The keynote speaker for this year's summit will be Lonny Rivera of the Ohio Dept. of Education, and ODE has already pledged \$10,000.00 to provide financial support for the event. The call for proposals has been distributed, and the day's events will include a special track for students.

Vice Chair Florez opens the floor to questions in regards to the Education Committee update. There are four.

First, Vice Chair Florez asks if a location has been set for the March 10th Board Meeting which will be taking place in Toledo the afternoon before the Education Summit. Commissioner Guzmán states that he has been working on securing a location, one possibility is the Lourdes University in Sylvania, OH.

Second, A.G. Walter McNamara informs Commissioner Guzmán that it is important he will need to know specific details in regards to the facility where the Meeting will tentatively be taking place, so he may confirm whether or not it complies with the standards and requirements for public meetings. Commissioner Guzmán informs McNamara and the Board that he is working with the Vice President of Lourdes Univ., Mary Arquette in regards to the procurement and setup of the Meeting location, and he assures McNamara that he will work closely with him in order to ensure that the space will be adequate.



Third, PPO Andrea Lewis states that Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh was also speaking with personnel of Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center who has offered a room in their building for the Meeting if necessary.

Finally, Commissioner Rivera asks whether or not the other speakers for the Education Summit have been chosen, and suggests that the Education Committee look into inviting the president of Ashland University. Commissioner Guzmán states that thus far only two speakers for the summit have been chosen (Bob Vasquez, President of Toledo Public School Board and Lonny Rivera of ODE) and that the call for proposals is still open.

There are no other Committee updates.

### Agency Report

Vice Chair Florez then invites PPO Lewis to initiate the October and November Monthly Report. Ms. Lewis highlights three key items of business:

First, she reminds the Board that January 28th, 2016 OCHLA will be holding a workshop for educators/instructors of undocumented students along with ESC of Central Ohio.

Second, she briefly explains a letter the Office received from the Southwest City School District on gang recruitment, as many unaccompanied minors entering the area are overwhelmed by their financial debts and are forced to enter gangs. Lewis states that she has consulted several entities on the matter in hopes of gaining insight into some solutions for these minors, including the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Franklin County Juvenile Court, consulates of other countries, and the Human Trafficking Commission.

There are three questions in regards to this item of business. First, Vice Chair Florez encourages Ms. Lewis to contact the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorneys Office, as they have specific task force relating to gang recruitment and gang violence. Ms. Lewis thanks Florez and confirms that she will contact their office. Second, Commissioner Simms-Howell suggests that she contact the FBI Director for that area, to which Ms. Lewis states that she is also inclined to contact. Finally, Commissioner Guzmán brings to Ms. Lewis' attention that while gang violence is very prevalent within the public school sector, the Commission cannot ignore its existence within the private school sector and should also think on these schools when searching for solutions. Ms. Lewis agrees that private schools may need to be considered as well.

Ms. Lewis then presents here third key item of business, which entails a letter that she received from an inmate of Belmont Correctional Institution. Several inmates



from Belmont Correctional are reaching out to the Commission to urge the institution to provide ESL classes and chaplain services. Lewis informs the Board that she has already reached out to the Warden, and to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in regards to chaplain services. Thus far, OCHLA has been able to at least assist the inmates by personally translating the commissary list into Spanish.

Vice Chair Florez opens the floor for questions in regards to the October Monthly Report, and there are three.

First, Commissioner Simms-Howell states that a past case of request for prison ministry and ELL classes was that many of the inmates could speak Spanish but they were illiterate; therefore, the written translations from English to Spanish were not helpful to them. Ms. Lewis thanks Commissioner Simms-Howell for sharing his insight.

Second, Commissioner Rivera inquires as to where the facility is located. PPO Lewis states that the correctional facility is located in St. Clairsville, OH which is in the Southeast region. Commissioner Rivera suggests perhaps looking for an organization or church that could provide both chaplain services and ESL classes to the inmates. Ms. Lewis informs the Board that the institution has little guidelines in regards to what entity is offering the services, Belmont just requests that their authorities be present at any meetings/gatherings. She states that one of the main issues with pinpointing someone to offer services to the inmates is that there is not a large Latino population in that region.

Finally, Vice Chair Florez brings to the Board's attention that, at least in Hamilton County, the rate of recidivism after participating in drug programs is fairly high and the most effective means to stopping inmates from relapsing into criminal behavior has been the their personal pursuits of religion. Representative Perales asks Vice Chair Florez if education programs is not also a pivotal factor in reducing the rate of recidivism for inmates. Vice Chair Florez states that the education programs has not had as great of an impact as religious intervention. Community Liaison Lair Marin informs the Board that the Ohio Hispanic Coalition here in Columbus offers assistance to many of the prisons, and so perhaps touching base with President Julia Arbin could be insightful. PPO Lewis thanks everyone for their input and assistance.

Vice Chair Florez asks if there are any more questions in regards to the October Agency Report, and seeing none calls for a motion to approve the Report.

**Motion #2 - 12 - 2015** - To approve the October Monthly Report as submitted. Moved by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Guzman-Bowman. Motion carries.



Vice Chair Florez then invites Community Liaison Lair Marin to provide the Latino Community Network update for the month of November.

Ms. Marin highlights three key items of business.

First, she shares an overview of the LCN's monthly tasks and results, including multiple events promoted via Facebook/Twitter and the OCHLA site, 85 job opportunities promoted (including State positions), and 20 constituency inquiries resolved. Ms. Marin will be visiting colleges in January in order to begin recruitment for more interns/volunteers.

Second, Community Liaison Marin informs the Board the 2016 Ohio Latino Health Summit will tentatively take place at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Finally, she provides a brief update on results from the DHO Gala.

Vice Chair Florez opens the floor to questions in regards to the Latino Community Network update for November. There is one. Commissioner Simms-Howell briefly informs the Board about the gala that the Dayton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recently held and how inexpensive they were able to make the cost of each participant. Ms. Marin reminds the Board that the Commission has made a note to discuss the possibility of bringing the DHO Gala to other cities in Ohio. Representative Perales offers to host the Gala in his district, and Marin thanks him for the offer.

Vice Chair Florez asks if there are any more questions, seeing none he hands the floor to Organizations Development Officer Georgina Alvarez for an update in regards to the Organizations Development Center.

Ms. Alvarez has three key items of business.

First, gives a brief update in regards to the recent work of the Ohio Latino Connection, a group of four Latino serving organizations El Centro, Adelante, Spanish American Committee, Columbus Hispanic Coalition, and Su Casa, who have the objective of working together to improve the quality of life of Latinos in the community.

Second, she provides a brief overview of the 2015 Agenda Latina which took place Friday, December 4th at the Riffe Center and was facilitated by Margarita de Leon and Manny Espinoza of Kaleidoscope Group, LLC. She informs the Board that the three main priorities for the organizations who attended this event were the lack of bilingual services and interpreters, the importance of electing/appointing more Latinos to Board and Commissions, as well as an interest in voter registration programs/campaigns to increase Latino interest and understanding when it comes to voting. The organizations also requested that OCHLA bring like-minded groups together and help



all organizations to understand one-another's best practices. A few other items mentioned were an interest in understanding the Governor's agenda, the Commission's place in regards to the Governor's office, as well as cross-organization advocacy and training.

Finally, she recaps the November 5th Quarterly Meeting of the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce in which the organizations held a planning session to strategize for 2016, as well as outline a mission, objectives, and activities as a collective entity.

Vice Chair Florez opens the floor for questions in regards to the Organizations Development Center update, seeing none he calls for a motion to approve the November Monthly Report.

**Motion #3 -12 - 2015 -** To approve the November Monthly Report as submitted. Moved by Commissioner Guzman-Bowman. Seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion carries.

### **Old Business**

Vice Chair Florez highlights two key items of business:

First, he reminds the Board that ethics training for the 2015 year needs to be completed by all Board Members by December 31st, 2015. The only Commissioner whose training has yet to be confirmed is Secretary Feliciano's. There is one questions in regards to this item of business. Representative Perales inquires whether he needs to complete an ethics training course as a Legislative Member of the Board, in which A.G. McNamara states the legislators are already required to complete annual ethics training that would satisfy the need for the Commission's training.

Second, Vice Chair Florez asks for an update in regards to Resolution 2015-01: On Recognizing March 31st as Cesar Chavez Day in Ohio. PPO Lewis reminds the Board that the Commission is currently reaching out to legislators in order to find a sponsor for legislation to implement a Cesar Chavez Day in the state of Ohio. There is one question in regards to this item of business. Vice Chair Florez requests that the Commission have an official update prepared to present at the February 2nd Board Meeting/2016 Board Retreat. Representative Perales states that there are receptive legislators for Resolution 2015-01, it is just a matter of deciding the proper diplomatic process to support it.

Vice Chair Florez asks if there are any more questions in regards to Old Business, and seeing none he proceeds to the New Business.



## New Business

There are three items of new business.

First, Vice Chair Florez briefly outlines plans for the 2016 Board Retreat, which include a Monday evening dinner on February 1st, the Board Meeting on the morning of February 2nd, followed by the Board Retreat throughout that Tuesday afternoon. There are two questions in regards to this item of business. First, A.G. McNamara informs the Board that we will not be present at the dinner on Monday evening, and reminds everyone about the open meetings law and states that no business in regards to the Commission should be discussed/conducted during this time. Vice Chair Florez thanks McNamara for his reminder. Second, Commissioner Simms-Howell requests if the meeting could be held in another city, such as Dayton. Vice Chair Florez confirms that for the 2016 Board Retreat, the Commission will meet at the Holiday Inn Columbus Downtown-Capitol Square, but perhaps the meeting could be held elsewhere in future years.

Second, Florez reiterates that the March 2016 Board Meeting will take place in Toledo on Thursday, March 10th, followed by the Ohio Latino Education Summit on Friday, March 11th.

Finally, Vice Chair Florez presents the 2016 Meetings & Special Events Calendar to be reviewed by the Board.

Vice Chair Florez opens the floor to questions in regards to New Business, and seeing none he proceeds to the next item on the agenda.

## Public present:

- Raul Soto – Ohio Dept. of Education

**Motion #4 -12 - 2015** - To open the floor to public commentary. Moved by Commissioner Guzmán. Seconded by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Motion carries.

Vice Chair Florez hands the floor to Raul Soto of the Ohio Dept. of Education. Mr. Soto is elated to inform the Board that Lonny Rivera has just been named Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Ohio in 2016. Additionally, Mr. Soto states that ODE is delighted to have the opportunity to continue working with OCHLA to help carry out the Ohio Latino Education Summit.



Chair Ortiz opens the floor for questions in regards to Raul Soto's comments. There are none.

**Motion #5 - 12 - 2015** - To adjourn meeting. Moved by Commissioner Guzmán. Seconded by Commissioner Guzman-Bowman. Motion carries.

Board meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Florez at 2:24 p.m.

Luis "Tony" Ortiz, Chair

Jose Feliciano Jr. , Secretary

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**ADDENDUM TO MINUTES  
December 15, 2015**

<b><u>Motion #1 - 12 - 2015</u></b>	To approve the August 25, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes.
<b><u>Motion #2 - 12-2015</u></b>	To approve October Report as submitted.
<b><u>Motion #3 - 12 - 2015</u></b>	To approve November Report as submitted.
<b><u>Motion #4 - 12 - 2015</u></b>	To open the floor to public commentary.
<b><u>Motion #5 - 12 - 2015</u></b>	To adjourn meeting.



**ADDENDUM TO MINUTES**

**December 15, 2015**

***ATTACHMENTS***

<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>
October 2015 Monthly Report November 2015 Monthly Report	Executive Director Cavanaugh Executive Director Cavanaugh

