

Forest Charter School

Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes—January 17, 2012

**Tuesday, January 17, 2012
5:30 p.m. Regular Session
224 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95959**

Council Members:

Pam Barram, Chair
Linda Katz, ES Representative
Steve Ross, ES Representative
Dakota Crider, Student Representative
Matt Heaps, Parent Representative
Cheri Ray, Parent Representative
Dan Thiem, Parent Representative
Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Minutes

Present: Pam Barram, Linda Katz, Matt Heaps, Peter Sagebiel, Debbie Carter, Paul Simoes, BJ Hatcher, Cheri Ray, Dakota Crider, Dan Thiem, Steve Ross and Nancy Nobles.

Absent: none

1. Call to Order: 5:32

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Action: Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2011

Dan Thiem made the motion to accept the Minutes from the November meeting. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

4. Action: Approval of Minutes of November 29, 2011, Special Meeting

Steve Ross made the motion to accept the Minutes from the November meeting. Dan Thiem seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

5. Action: Adoption of the Agenda

Cheri Ray made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Matt Heaps seconded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

6. Discussion: Other

Nothing to report.

7. Information: Proposed State Budget—Debbie Carter

Debbie presented to the Council information on the Governor's proposed 2012-13 budget. She explained that if the November tax initiative is passed K-12 schools will be spared more budget cuts for the most part. If the initiative is denied, then there will be more "trigger cuts." Debbie said that she will prepare the Adopted Budget with 'cuts' to be safe. She added that there is a proposal to dissolve SB740.

8. Discussion: Renewal Update—Peter Sagebiel

- Peter explained to the Council that FCS is presently in negotiations with the Chicago Park School District and their superintendent, Dan Zeisler in regards to a charter sponsorship. Discussions with Chicago Park have been going well and their board is looking at the pros and cons of adding charter schools to their district. Peter added that there is still the possibility that FCS will continue working with NCSOs and that "either way this will work out really well."
- Peter informed the Council that FCS has come to an agreement with TTUSD. There are details that still need to be finalized and Peter will bring the final agreement to the Council at the February meeting for approval. He added that FCS is presently waiting for a contract from TTUSD. The Council made a motion to table the motion to approve the pending settlement until it has been finalized.

Dan Thiem made a motion to table approval of the TTUSD settlement until the February meeting. Linda Katz seconded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

9. Information: 501c3—Debbie Carter, Peter Sagebiel

Peter gave an overview of the incorporation process and the advantages and explained that based on Council approval, FCS had moved forward with the help of the attorneys. He added that it was beneficial to hire the lawyers to complete the incorporation so that it could be included in the Renewal Petition.

Debbie reported to the Council that the new bylaws that are attached to the incorporation will be sent to the Council by the end of the month for review. The Council will vote to approve the bylaws at the February meeting.

10. Information: Verification Process for Special Setting (VPSS)—Peter Sagebiel

Peter explained the VPSS and how it will benefit FCS. He feels the training and certification would stretch the teachers outside of their credentialed subject. FCS is gathering a pilot group of teachers to try this program out and Peter is looking forward to hearing what the pilot group thinks after they are trained.

11. Information: Student Achievement – BJ Hatcher

BJ presented information on the recent CAHSEE testing for 11th and 12th graders. He reported that overall the results are the “best we’ve been” at this time of the year. 12th graders will test again in February and 11th graders will test in May. Peter added that FCS continues to have CAHSEE interventions classes available for students.

12. Information: Disaster Plan—Debbie Carter

Debbie reported to the Council on the Emergency/Disaster Plan that was approved five years ago. She explained that FCS is in the process of updating the plan and that it would be sent electronically to the Council for review by the end of the month. Debbie will ask for approval at the next meeting.

13. Information: School-Wide Action Plan—Peter Sagebiel

Peter discussed with the Council the process for developing future Strategic Plans. FCS will continue with the plan and the goals that are in place. WASC has recommended that both the Single Plan for student achievement and Action Plan be folded together, using the same academic goals.

Peter plans to ask the Council for input for the Strategic Plan. The Plan will be brought to the Council in April for approval.

14. Information/Action: Director’s Evaluation Form Revision—BJ Hatcher

BJ presented to the Council the revised Director’s evaluation form for review and approval. He added a thank you to Debbie for her help. BJ gave an overview of the process to the new members and explained the changes which include: a number rating instead of ‘meets/needs’ and summary narratives at each section. The Council liked the comment sections and felt that the revised version ‘struck a good balance.’ Peter added that he appreciated the overview narrative at the end of the evaluation. There were small changes suggested.

Linda Katz made a motion to approve the Director’s evaluation form with the recommended changes. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

15. Information/Action: Health Benefit Update—Debbie Carter

Debbie presented information to the Council on a recent rebate that FCS received from Blue Shield. The health care provider showed a profit of over 2% this year and returned the excess in the form of a rebate. Debbie recommended the money be dispersed to all 'benefit eligible' employees. Discussion was held on whether the money should only go to employees that paid in to the health plan or all employees. The Council felt that it would be a good morale builder for all 'benefit eligible' employees. The rebate per employee will be approximately \$400.

Dan Thiem made a motion to approve the dispersal of the health benefit rebate. Cheri Ray seconded. ES representatives abstained from voting.

Ayes: Five Nays: None Abstain: Two

16. Information/Action: Substitute Salary Schedule Revision—Debbie Carter

Debbie asked the Council to approve changes to the substitute salary schedule.

Steve Ross made a motion to approve the substitute salary schedule revision. Dan Thiem seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

17. Information: WASC Accrediting Update—Paul Simoes

Paul reported that the WASC report is done and has been sent to the team leader. He explained that the next step will be an evidence gathering at the January staff meeting and then setting a schedule for the WASC team visit.

The WASC team will visit FCS Sunday, March 18th through Wednesday, March 21st. Peter added that there will be a 'meet and greet' on Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00. He invited the Council members to attend.

Council members agreed that Tuesday the 20th would be a good day to schedule their meeting with the WASC team. Paul will keep the Council updated on the schedule.

18. Information/Action: Consent Agenda – Debbie Carter

Debbie asked the Council to approve the Consent Agenda.

Matt Heaps made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Cheri Ray seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

19. Discussion: FCS Education Foundation Report – Peter Sagebiel

Peter reported that the Giving Event fundraiser has had 43 donors and a total of \$3500.00. While the fundraiser has brought in a smaller dollar amount than last year, the participation is higher.

Peter added that the website now has a PayPal account for people that want to set up monthly donations to the Foundation.

20. Information: Director's Update – Peter Sagebiel

- **2010-11 Enrollments:** Enrollment is at approximately 675.
- **Winter Festivals:** Festivals were held at the K-8 block classes, the Truckee Learning Center, PACE Co-op and the Foresthill Co-op. Peter complimented the coordinators for the successful events.
- **Expanding PACE 6-8 Co-op:** FCS is in discussion with Dave Stanger about joining ES Michelle Litton and expanding the PACE 6-8th co-op. Michelle would focus on English/humanities and Dave would focus on science/math. The change might add an extra day or extra hours per day.
Special education employees would possibly be moved to an office site.
- **Transitional Kindergarten:** Peter attended a workshop that covered possible changes that the Governor is implementing for kindergarten. The plan would add an extra year of kindergarten for 'young 5's.' He said more details would follow in the future.
- **IEP Legal Issues Workshop:** Peter attended the workshop that was presented by the County's SELPA director.
- **New Employees:** Pat Hanlon has been hired as a supplemental employee, (not end of month.) He was hired to help the office staff.

Math teacher, Karen Mingst has been hired to teach Algebra I and Geometry at both the 9-12 block classes and the Global Studies Academy. Student representative Dakota Crider added that she is a "great" teacher.

- **Other:** The online publication The Journal reported that the latest trend in education is a "personalized" learning system.

21. Discussion: Future Agenda Items

- Approval of TTUSD settlement
- Single Plan
- Emergency/Disaster Plan
- Bylaws for Incorporated Status
- SARC
- WASC visiting schedule

22. Information: Reminder of Future Meeting

- The March meeting was changed from the 20th to the 27th due to WASC.
- February 7 (date change); March 27 (date change); April 17; May 15; June 12 (if needed)

23. Action: Adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Linda Smith made the motion to adjourn. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Date

Charter Council Approved:

Pam Barram, Chair

Date

Vice Chair

Date