

Forest Charter School

Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes—January 18, 2011

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

5:30 p.m.

224 Church Street

Nevada City, CA 95959

Council Members:

Pam Barram, Chair/Parent Representative

Kelly Chandler, Parent Representative

Sunshine Heaps, Parent Representative

Larry Homan, Community Representative

Melody Wilson, Vice-Chair/Parent Representative

Janice Eggers, ES Representative

Linda Smith, ES Representative

Emma Robards, Student Representative

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Minutes

Present: Peter Sagebiel, Debbie Carter, BJ Hatcher, Paul Simoes, Janice Eggers, Pam Barram, Kelly Chandler, Larry Homan, Linda Smith, Melody Wilson, and Nancy Nobles.

Absent: Sunny Heaps

1. Call to Order: 5:31

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Action: Approval of November 16, 2010 Minutes

Janice Eggers made the motion to accept the Minutes from the November meeting. Linda Smith seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

4. Action: Adoption of the Agenda

Emma Robards made the motion to adopt the Agenda with a change to item #13 (Local Education Authority). Janice Eggers seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

5. Discussion: Other

Nothing to report.

6. Information: Appointment of Larry Homan – Peter Sagebiel

Peter presented Larry Homan to the Council for approval as the Community Representative. Larry had previously been with the Council for four years and held the position of Charter Council Chair.

Linda Smith moved to approve the appointment of Larry Homan as Community Representative. Emma Robards seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

7. Information: 2010-11 Budget – Debbie Carter

Debbie presented to the Council an update on the Governor's recent budget proposal. The proposal included:

- no mid-year cuts to K-12 education for 2010-11
- extended flexible spending for two years
- New June 2011 deferral into 2012
- "Flat Funding" into 2011-12 school year ONLY if special election passes

Note: 5:44 Melody Wilson arrived at the meeting.

8. Information/Action: TTUSD MOU – Peter Sagebiel

Peter asked the Council to approve the addendum to the MOU with TTUSD. Peter added that when the addendum to the MOU is signed the \$250,000 will be released to FCS. TTUSD will have 15 business days to release the check to FCS.

Janice Eggers made a motion to approve the addendum to the TTUSD MOU. Melody Wilson seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

9. Information/Action: Enrollment Policy – Peter Sagebiel

Peter presented the new enrollment policy for the Council to approve. The Council had received the policy electronically before the meeting for review. Member input included: a change in projected dates for Parent Info Nights to 'TBA' instead of specific days, a matrix of the enrollment process, length of time students will be kept on a waiting list and the number of days a spot will be held in the case of a lottery and parent isn't available.

Peter will bring the policy back to the Council in February for approval with changes.

No action was taken.

10. Information: Student Achievement and WASC Mid-Term Report – BJ Hatcher, Peter Sagebiel

- BJ reported on the CAHSEE testing results from November. Six seniors passed however, the overall number of seniors needing to pass has risen due to new enrollments. Junior testing went very well. The 12th graders will be testing again on February 1st and 2nd.

BJ said that students are highly motivated to pass the CAHSEE. FCS continues to use tutoring and study guides to assist students in preparing. 11th graders who have not yet passed the test are now going to be required to take the CAHSEE testing class.

- Peter and BJ gave a PowerPoint presentation on the updated WASC Mid-Term Review for 2009/10 Narrative. Prior to the meeting the document had been e-mailed to the Council for review. They discussed changes that had been made since the previous year and explained the changes.

11. Information/Action: Single Plan for Student Achievement –Peter Sagebiel

Peter asked the Council for approval to the 2010 Single Plan for Student Achievement. The Council had received the document via e-mail prior to the meeting for review. Peter and BJ gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Council and noted the revisions and changes and explained the overall process.

Emma Robards made a motion to approve the Single Plan for Student Achievement. Janice Eggers seconded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

12. Discussion: Facilities Update – Peter Sagebiel

Peter reported to the Council that the NCE 7/11 group has been meeting and will present a recommendation to the Board on January 25. The 7/11 group will be making recommendations on the many different options in regards to the vacant school.

Peter continues to work with realtor Scott Hicks and reported that there are a couple of other buildings FCS is looking at and a piece of property with a 'build to suit' option.

13. Information: Status with Local SELPA – Peter Sagebiel

Peter explained to the Council that FCS and the other schools in the Cooperative are looking in to the option of becoming a separate LEA (Local Education Authority.) Advantages to that status would be a seat on the board which would give the Cooperative a voice and a vote. A letter of intent is being written and will be submitted by February 1st.

14. Discussion: EdPerformance Testing – Peter Sagebiel

Peter opened the discussion on the EdPerformance testing that FCS uses to support student learning. Kelly questioned how much money it costs per student, whether it gives the information that the school wants and overall if it is a valuable tool.

Peter explained that it is an “objective test” instead of only gathering subjective information from teachers or parents. ES Janice Eggers said that she sees the test as another tool for the teachers and parents. She said that the students at the Truckee Learning Center all test in August on independent study time (at home) and she added that the results give a good visual to parents and are easy to read. Both Janice and ES Linda Smith spoke about the worksheets and packets that can be accessed from the EdPerformance program and that they are individualized for the student’s needs and target problem areas. The test is also helpful for home school parents to confirm that they are teaching properly.

BJ spoke on the importance of the EdPerformance testing for IEPs and SSTs. Debbie finished by reporting the test cost is \$10 per student and that there is no charge if a student doesn’t test. The \$10 fee covers any number of tests for the school year.

15. Action: Consent Agenda – Debbie Carter

Debbie asked the Council to approve the Consent Agenda. There were no warrants to report.

Emma Robards made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Janice Eggers seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

16. Discussion: FCS Education Foundation Report – Melody Wilson

Melody was absent from the Foundation meeting; Debbie reported to the Council. The Giving Campaign has earned \$5,784. The Foundation discussed the letter that had gone out to FCS families for the campaign and changes that might be made in the future. There is a need for monthly reminders to be sent out for those opting to make donation payments.

17. Information: Director’s Update – Peter Sagebiel

- **2010-11 Enrollment:** Enrollment is at 696; FCS is presently closed for enrollment; the administrators, office staff and ESs are holding this increase in enrollment well and with “grace.”
- **FCS Website:** The new website is being designed; office staff was trained recently and started transferring information from the old site to the new one. There will be a meeting after the next staff meeting and anyone that has input is welcome to attend or they can contact their ES or Steve Ross with ideas.

- **Writing Contest:** At the recent writing contest, FCS had 4 students that placed. ES Linda Smith said the event was “very awesome.” Janice added that a student in Truckee won a \$1000 prize as a writing contest winner.
- **Spelling Championship:** ES Linda Smith coordinates the academic contests for FCS students. She reported that the Foundation had funded our student that had won the spelling contest at the county level so that she could compete in the state tourney. Linda added that we have six students competing in the 5-6th grade math tourney and that there is a speech contest coming up soon.
- **WASC Accreditation:** FCS is going through the WASC re-accrediting process; WASC will visit the school in 2012; the ESLR’s has been re-worked and refined with ES input.
- **Charter Renewal:** The renewal is due June, 2012; FCS will submit the renewal in the fall and Peter expects to bring this to the Council in the spring for approval. Peter said that we have a good relationship with our sponsor and that we will work “hand in hand” on this.
- **November Brown Act Training:** FCS had 5 participants at the training; the training was led by Stan Miller. New things were learned and the attendees felt it affirmed that the Council has a good process in place.
- **9-12th Block Class Resource Officer:** BJ and Paul have made a good connection with GVPD’s Officer Zach; Officer Zach has visited the 9-12 Block Classes; very positive overall.
- **Other:**

18. Discussion: Future Agenda Items

- Budget expense training
- Enrollment Policy
- 2nd Interim Budget
- WASC Update
- SARC
- SELPA Letter
- Independent Educational Evaluations Policy (Action)

19. Information: Reminder of Future Meeting

- 2011— February 15; March 15; April 12; May 17 Foresthill; June 14

20. Action: Adjourn at 7:37 PM

Emma Robards made the motion to adjourn. Larry Homan seconded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Date

Charter Council Approved:

Pam Barram, Chair

Date

Melody Wilson, Vice-Chair

Date