

Forest Charter School

Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes—January 19, 2010

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

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
Kathy Rodrigue, Parent Representative
Melody Wilson, Vice-Chair/ Parent Representative
Janice Eggers, ES Representative
Linda Hill, ES Representative
Gary Wright, Community Representative
Samantha Buck, Student Representative
Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Minutes

Present: Peter Sagebiel, Paul Simoes, Pam Barram, Debbie Ayala-Carter, Sunshine Heaps, Kathy Rodrigue, Samantha Buck, Gary Wright, Kelly Chandler, Melody Wilson and Nancy Nobles.

Absent: Linda Hill and Janice Eggers

1. **Call to Order:** 5:30 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Action: Approval of November 9, 2009 Minutes**

Melody Wilson made the motion to accept the Minutes from November 9, 2009. Kelly Chandler seconded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4. **Action: Approval of November 17, 2009 Minutes**

Kathy Rodrigue made the motion to accept the Minutes from November 17, 2009. Sunny Heaps seconded.

Ayes: Four

Nays: None

Abstain: Three

5. **Action: Adoption of the Agenda**

Melody made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Kelly Chandler seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

6. **Discussion: Other**

Nothing to report.

7. **Information: TTUSD Update** – Peter Sagebiel

Peter gave a brief overview of the TTUSD situation and how basic aid impacts our relationship with TTUSD. He reported that there has been communication between Superintendent Holly Hermansen and TTUSD Superintendent Steve Jennings but that no meeting has been set.

Melody Wilson suggested that the Council put a steering committee in place to look into this situation and report back to the Council. Peter suggested that Superintendent Holly Hermansen be invited to the next meeting to further explain the TTUSD situation. Peter and Melody plan on meeting to discuss this before the next Council meeting and to determine if the Council should pursue forming a steering committee.

8. **Information: Student Achievement** – BJ Hatcher

Due to bad weather, BJ was unable to attend the meeting. Peter reported for BJ on the November CAHSEE results. He also reported to the Council that FCS continues with tutoring and that there are structured plans in place for intervention. Earlier this year the use of CAHSEE intervention money was expanded to the 9th and 10th graders but FCS will be more discriminating to ensure that money is available for 11th and 12th graders.

The next CAHSEE testing period for 12th graders is February 2nd and 3rd.

9. **Information/Action: Field Trips** – Debbie Carter

Debbie asked the Council to approve two field trips:

- Foresthill; Camp Augusta; May 17, 2010
- Truckee; UNR-Keck Museum; January 21, 2010

Kelly Chandler made a motion to approve the Camp Augusta and UNR-Keck Museum field trips. Gary Wright seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Debbie asked the Council to approve a special provision to drop the necessity for Council approval in regards to Reno area, day field trips even though they are out of state.

Kathy Rodrigue made a motion to rewrite the policy that requires Council approval of out of state field trips in regards to Reno area, low risk, day trips. Sunny Heaps seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain

10. Information: G.R.A.S.P. Update (Governance, Renewal, Assessment, Strategic Planning) – Peter Sagebiel

Peter presented information regarding the Strategic Planning Day on March 23 from 9:00 to 4:00. Peter told the Council that if they can only make a portion of the day, the afternoon would be the most important. Lunch will be provided.

Peter reviewed for the Council the last GRASP training and explained that the administration has been going over the recommendations, identifying which items need to be addressed and establishing timelines.

11. Information: 2009/10 Budget – Debbie Carter

Debbie provided the Council with a brief budget update, stating that the good news was that the Governor promised to “protect education from further budget cuts” in his January State of the State address. However, all schools are faced with the loss of the ‘one-time federal stimulus dollars’ next year, which is equivalent to an estimated \$200 per ADA budget cut.

Debbie is planning ongoing training sessions for the Council on the FCS budget and how it works. She will cover income, expenditures, SB740, etc.

12. Information/Action: FCS Foundation Update – Debbie Carter

Debbie gave a quick overview and updated the Council on the Pennies for Peace program; a sub account is now open at Citizen’s Bank so that deposits can be made directly to the account instead of being submitted to Debbie. She will be paying invoices from this account this week.

Debbie had a status report hand-out for the Council on the general foundation fund; the status report showed checks that are drawn on the account. Debbie asked the Council to approve the submitted Foundation checks.

Melody Wilson made a motion to approve the Foundation checks. Kelly Chandler seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Debbie asked that the Council approve the hire of a CPA to file the Foundation’s taxes.

Kathy Rodrigue made a motion to hire a CPA to file FCS Foundation taxes. Samantha Buck seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

13. Information: Race to the Top Fund – Peter Sagebiel

Peter explained to the Council the new federal grant initiative, Race to the Top. The County Superintendent's office has applied on behalf of the Charter Cooperative. Information on requirements to receive funding is still forthcoming from the government and Peter will keep the Council informed. At this point there is still an opportunity for the County to rescind the application for this initiative, if the requirements are too over-bearing.

14. Information/Action: Supplemental Salary Schedule – Debbie Carter

Debbie asked the Council for approval to change the Supplemental Salary Schedule. She is positioning the school to have more flexibility in setting salaries and asked for a low end change from \$20.00 to \$10.00.

Gary Wright made a motion to revise the Supplemental Salary Schedule. Kathy Rodrigue seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

15. Discussion: FCS Fund Drive – Peter Sagebiel

Peter updated the Council on the school wide fund drive and had a hand-out of the draft mailer that will be sent to FCS families. The Council discussed the draft and made suggestions on the wording.

Debbie reminded the Council that FCS is one of the only charters that does not have a fund drive and that most balance their budgets on these funds. The suggested donation of \$200.00 per family was agreed on.

16. Information: SB 740 - Peter Sagebiel, Debbie Carter

Debbie gave a quick overview of SB 740, explaining that it puts in place a system that tracks how we spend our money and drives our budget (instruction, student, facilities.)

Debbie and Peter explained to the Council that the SB 740 funding determination was submitted to the CDE and that it will probably be on the February agenda. FCS is requesting 100% funding for five years.

17. Information: Siteline Update – Peter Sagebiel

Peter told the Council that he and Debbie will be meeting with the potential property group on January 27th to discuss possibilities of a planned building that would

consolidate the Nevada City/Grass Valley FCS sites to one building. Peter will report to the Council in February on this meeting. The two floor plan options that were drawn up by Siteline are hanging in Debbie's office; the Council was invited to check them out.

18. Information: Online Classes – Peter Sagebiel

Peter reported to the Council that he was approached by Dave Taylor with a 'virtual high school', an exciting new online learning option. He will be meeting with Dave this Thursday and will have more information to report on at the next Council meeting.

Presently, FCS is offering Algebra I, Computer Literacy and Creative Writing online. We are also piloting an online College Advisory class with one student this spring.

19. **Action: Consent Agenda** – Debbie Carter

Debbie asked to table the warrants and will report at the February meeting.

Sunny Heaps made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda new contracts. Samantha Buck seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

20. **Information: Director's Update** – Peter Sagebiel

- **Enrollment:** Enrollment is at 610. This is an increase from last semester, and it will have a positive impact on the budget
- **Foresthill play:** Peter reported that this was an amazing production and was fun to watch; K-7th graders; the play was an educational story of Thomas Edison; Kelly sent kudos to ES Leanne Engel for putting this together.
- **Teaching and Parenting with Love and Logic Workshop:** Peter encouraged the Council members to attend this workshop which FCS is co-sponsoring with two other schools; a \$10 donation is requested from participants to help with costs.
- **FCS information nights:** FCS has three parent information nights scheduled; January 27, March 31 and May 19 from 5:30-7:30; Dawn Anthney and Paul Simoes are heading these.
- **Bumper stickers:** Peter had the new FCS bumper stickers to share with the Council.
- **New FCS brochure:** Peter showed the Council the draft brochure; he said that he hopes to have it in place within the next month.
- **ES Laura DesLaurier award:** Truckee ES Laura DesLaurier was nominated by a former student for the Unsung Hero award stating that Laura had been a 'huge influence' in her life.
- **Other:** Nothing to report

21. **Discussion: Future Agenda Items**

- Co-op development
- Holly Hermansen at next meeting to discuss TTUSD situation
- Fund drive letter
- Budget training

22. **Information: Reminder of Future Meetings**

- February 23, March 24 (note this is a Wednesday), April 20, May 18, June 15

23. **Action: Adjourn at 7:35 PM**

Kelly made the motion to adjourn. Melody Wilson 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