

Forest Charter School

Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes—October 11, 2011

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

4:30 p.m. Closed Session

4:40 p.m. Regular Session

10725 Pioneer Trail

Truckee, CA 96161

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

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Minutes

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

Absent: Matt Heaps

1. Call to Order: 4:43

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Closed Session: No action taken.

4. Action: Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2011

Linda Katz made the motion to accept the Minutes from the September meeting. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: Five Nays: None Abstain: One

6. Action: Adoption of the Agenda

Steve Ross made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Cheri Ray seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

7. Discussion: Other

Nothing to report.

8. Information: Introduction of New Parent Representative—Peter Sagebiel

Peter introduced the new parent representative, Dan Thiem.

9. Information: Budget Training—Debbie Carter

Debbie presented to the Council a PowerPoint on FCS Cash Flow. The presentation was “Cash Flow...Optimistically Untangled” and covered a brief history of the State budget and its impact on schools, the current cash crisis and what FCS is doing in regards to the budget.

10. Information: 2011-12 Budget Information—Debbie Carter

Debbie reviewed for the Council the 2011-12 Cash Flow Report and the Revenue Detail. She explained that she is meeting with Peter on a weekly basis to review cash and will report to the Council monthly on the state of the budget and Cash Flow.

11. Information: FCS LEA—Peter Sagebiel

Peter explained for the new Council members what the significance of being our own LEA for special education purposes is and how it works. He also explained the SELPA. Peter reported that FCS received approval this month from the State to be our own LEA for the purposes of special education.

12. Information/Action: Suspension/Expulsion Policy—Peter Sagebiel

Peter reported to the Council that Superintendent Holly Hermansen has recommended that all of the charters amend this policy to include the right for the student to appeal an expulsion to the County Office of Education. Discussion is being held between the charter directors on this subject. Peter felt the amendment would be a good addition to the policy. The County Office process would confirm that all due process requirements were followed by the school.

The Policy will be brought to the Council in November for approval. No Action taken.

13. Information: Policy Binder—Debbie Carter

Debbie presented a draft of the policy binder to the Council for review. The final draft will be ready for the next meeting. The policies will be available on the FCS website and hard copies will be available at the FCS office. None of the members felt a need for a personal hard copy.

14. Discussion: Renewal Update—Peter Sagebiel

Peter gave a brief overview of the renewal process for new members. The draft was finished last month and sent to Superintendent Holly Hermansen for review. Peter explained that after review of all of the charters' renewals, she has asked for a consistent format and those changes are being made. Peter will e-mail the renewal document to Council members prior to the November meeting for review and will ask for approval at the November meeting.

15. Information/Action: Director's Evaluation Revision—BJ Hatcher

BJ will have the evaluation at the next meeting. No action needed.

16. Information: Student Achievement – BJ Hatcher

BJ presented information on the 'Skills Intervention' program that has been ongoing for two years now. This program helps with STAR and other academic skills. BJ explained that benefits from the program are starting to emerge. Benefits include: reminders to the ESs of what works and what doesn't work, tracking students and more data to follow.

BJ added that he is hopeful that the intervention information can be added to Pathways.

17. Information: WASC Accrediting Update—Paul Simoes

Paul gave a brief overview for the new members. He said that the ESs are promoting awareness of the ESLRs in the classrooms and with their students' families.

Paul added that the target date to send the draft report is in mid-December and that the WASC team will visit in March.

18. Information/Action: Consent Agenda – Debbie Carter

Debbie asked the Council to approve the Consent Agenda.

Cheri Ray made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

19. Discussion: FCS Education Foundation Report – Peter Sagebiel

Peter reported that the Foundation will be sending the annual fund drive letter out by Friday of this week. He shared the letter with the Council. Peter explained that approximately \$7000 was raised last year and that the money went towards the purchase of technology equipment for GV/NC, the Truckee Learning Center and the Foresthill Coop.

20. Information: Director's Update – Peter Sagebiel

- **2010-11 Enrollments:** Enrollment is at 677, a larger enrollment than at this time last year.
- **PLAN & PSAT Testing:** Testing has gone on the past two weeks; good participation. Peter thanked Dawn Anthney and Janice Eggers for their effort in organizing this.
- **Foresthill Visit:** Peter visited the Foresthill Co-op last week. He reported that there is a welcoming, safe environment for the students.
- **Field Trips:** Peter reported on the recent “very successful” field trips that included the Global Studies Academy’s Ashland Shakespeare trip; the PACE 6,7,8th grade Co-op Sierra Streams science field trip; and the Treetop Co-op and PACE 3,4,5th Co-op camping trip to Sagehen .
- **Block Classes:** Classes are full and popular. Peter added that there is a good connection between the students and teachers and credited BJ, Paul and Janice.
- **Other:** Peter shared information from an article in EdSource in which Governor Brown criticized the national obsession with test scores.
Peter also thanked the Council for visiting the Truckee Learning Center which serves 160 students in the Truckee area.

21. Discussion: Future Agenda Items

- Suspension/Expulsion Policy
- Policy Binder
- Director’s Evaluation Form Revision
- Renewal document for approval

22. Information: Reminder of Future Meeting

- Special meeting set for Renewal and 1st Interim on November 29 at 5:30.
- 2011: November 15; December TBA (if needed)
- 2012: January 17; February 7 (date changed); March 20; April 17; May 15; June 12 (if needed)

23. Action: Adjourn at 5:56 PM

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Date

Charter Council Approved:

Pam Barram, Chair

Date

Vice Chair

Date