

Forest Charter School

Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes—November 17, 2009

Tuesday, November 17, 2009
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, Sandy Saccomanno, BJ Hatcher, Paul Simoes, Linda Hill, Pam Barram, Debbie Ayala-Carter, Janice Eggers, Sunshine Heaps, Kathy Rodrigue, Samantha Buck and Nancy Nobles.

Absent: Melody Wilson, Kelly Chandler, Gary Wright

1. **Call to Order:** 5:30 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Action: Approval of October 13, 2009 Minutes**

Linda Hill made the motion to accept the Minutes from September 15, 2009. Sunny Heaps seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

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

Linda Hill made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Janice Eggers seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

5. **Discussion: Other**

Nothing to report.

6. Information: TTUSD Update – Peter Sagebiel

Peter reviewed the TTUSD situation for the new members. He then reported that FCS is still receiving funds monthly from TTUSD. Peter said that he had spoken with Superintendent Holly Hermansen and that she doesn't expect to schedule a meeting with TTUSD Superintendent Steve Jennings until January or February of 2010. Holly also told Peter that she is very interested in keeping FCS sponsored by the County and that she likes the FCS program. Peter said that he feels this is going in the right direction.

7. Information: Form 700 – Debbie Carter

Debbie collected the Form 700s from the new members. Absent council members, Gary Wright and Melody Wilson will be contacted about getting their forms to Debbie by Friday, November 20.

8. Information: Student Achievement – BJ Hatcher

BJ reported that November 3rd and 4th CAHSEE testing went well and that there were only a few absences. He is waiting for the results which will be arriving in January.

BJ gave a Power Point presentation using pie chart graphs regarding CAHSEE intervention money and how it is distributed to the students. New to FCS this school year is preemptive intervention for 9th and 10th graders that are identified as needing support. Peter added that CAHSEE results show again the importance of a focus on math and that FCS is supporting more tutoring for the students.

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

Peter presented to the Council a review of the GRASP strategic planning and training session on November 9th which he said was both useful and positive. The goal of GRASP is to put in place support and organizational strategies. Peter said that after reviewing the operation of FCS, GRASP reported that the school is already in the 90 percentile overall and has a strong foundation.

FCS will use the GRASP suggestions that fit the FCS culture and the future focus of the school. Part of the process will be to evaluate, prioritize and organize the suggestions.

Chair Pam Barram said that after attending the session she could see the foundation that FCS already has in place.

10. Information/Action: 2009/10 1st Interim Budget – Debbie Carter, Peter Sagebiel

- Peter presented a PowerPoint titled "Budget – Reality and Solutions" which gave an overview of the FCS budget. He presented ideas for the upcoming school year to increase the community visibility of FCS such as bumper stickers, the updated brochure, newspaper articles and word of mouth.
- A hand-out of the Budget Narrative was given to the Council members and Debbie went over the narrative and explained the budget breakdown, identifying the budget challenges schools are currently facing and how FCS is meeting these challenges. She said that the ESs have been supportive of the budget by being conservative with the student budgets.
- Debbie gave the Council members a copy of the FCS 2009-10 1st Interim Budget and answered members' questions before asking for approval of the budget.

Linda Hill made a motion to accept the 2009-10 1st Interim Budget. Janice Eggers seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain

- A hand-out of the FCS multi-year projection was given to Council members and Debbie explained the three year projection (through 2012), break-down and process.

11. Information: FCS Foundation Update – Paul Simoes, Debbie Carter

- Paul explained to the Council that Sierra College has had a change in policy regarding fees. In the past there was no cost to high school students but starting in the spring of 2010 the college will charge a fee of \$26.00 per unit, therefore a 3 credit class would cost \$78.00. per class. Students can take up to two classes per semester. Paul asked if the Foundation would be willing to help students in need with financial aid starting in the fall of 2010. The FCS College and Career Center would handle the criteria for scholarships on a per student basis. BJ said that on an average FCS has 15-20 students who take classes at Sierra College per year.
- Debbie explained to the Council that more adult size sweatshirts are needed for the Foundation fundraiser started last year. She said that there are plenty of the child size. Money generated from this fundraiser goes towards scholarships. Approximate cost of the sweatshirts is \$300.00. The Council agreed that Debbie should move forward on this purchase.

12. Discussion: FCS Fund Drive –Debbie Carter, Peter Sagebiel

Debbie and Peter presented to the Council the idea of a yearly school wide fund drive which would fund FCS as a whole. Ideas were discussed around a school direct mailer. Suggestions included: pictures to personalize the request, bullet the items being supported with the funds, suggested amounts.

This will not be a mandatory fee. Debbie said that FCS is one of the only charters that does not have a fund drive and that most balance their budgets on these funds. A suggested donation of \$200.00 per family was discussed.

13. Information: Siteline Update – Peter Sagebiel

Peter gave a presentation on Siteline's *needs assessment* for a possible new FCS site in the Nevada City area. All sites would be combined, easing logistics for students and ESs. The next step is to get input from ESs and FCS parents on the document and he is planning to develop a committee comprised of different stakeholders.

14. Action: Consent Agenda – Debbie Carter

Kathy Rodrigue made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda new contracts and warrants. Linda Hill seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

15. Information: Director's Update – Peter Sagebiel

- **Enrollment:** Enrollment is at 602 and is closed to high school students for the current semester unless there are special circumstances; enrollment interviews are now for spring semester enrollment.

- **FCS Brochure:** Peter shared the draft of the new brochure.
- **A-Plus conference:** The A-Plus conference was held in Monterey and was attended by administrators Peter and Debbie along with ESs Janice Eggers, Steve Ross, Eleni Rice, Ruthanne Buckley and Susan Binon; the conference was a nice reminder that there is a larger movement in personalized learning .
- **Harvest Festivals:** BJ and Paul reported that the festivals at PACE and the K-8 block classes were “a hoot” and that the kids at all of the sites had a great time; events included sack races, shrunken apples, games, crafts and a costume parade at the Truckee site.

Peter complimented the coordinators of the co-op sites—Paul, BJ, Valerie Jones and Heather Buck for their continued support in these programs.

- **Other:** Peter reminded the Council to keep an eye on the *abundance model*; Janice added that she sees FCS as very positive even with the budget cuts.

16. Discussion: Future Agenda Items

- Sweatshirt fundraiser—action item
- Approve minutes for Strategic Planning Meeting
- Fund drive
- Council members need to contact the secretary if they can’t make a meeting

17. Information: Reminder of Future Meetings

- Wednesday, December 16th at 5:30—IF NEEDED
- 2010: January 19, February 23, March 23, April 20, May 18, June 15

18. Action: Adjourn at 7:22 PM

Linda Hill made the motion to adjourn. Janice Eggers seconded.

Ayes: All

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Date

Charter Council Approved:

Pam Barram, Chair

Date

Melody Wilson, Vice-Chair/Parent Representative

Date