

# *Forest Charter School*

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## **Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes—April 17, 2012**

**Tuesday, April 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, Cheri Ray, Dakota Crider, Steve Ross, Peter Sagebiel, Debbie Carter, Paul Simoes, BJ Hatcher and Nancy Nobles.

**Absent:** Matt Heaps and Dan Thiem

- 1. Call to Order: 5:05**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Closed Session**
- 4. Action: Reconvene to regular session; 5:51**  
**No action taken.**
- 5. Action: Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2012**

Cheri Ray made the motion to accept the Minutes. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All    Nays: None    Abstain: None

- 6. Action: Approval of Minutes of March 29, 2012**

Linda Katz made the motion to adopt the Minutes. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All    Nays: None    Abstain: None

## **7. Action: Adoption of the Agenda**

Linda Katz made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Cheri Ray seconded.

## **8. Discussion: Other**

Dakota Crider wanted the Council to know that ‘the dance was fun!’

## **9. Information: Renewal Update—Peter Sagebiel**

Peter reported to the Council that the Charter Renewal with the County was approved unanimously. FCS has submitted the renewal to the State Board of Equalization for approval. Peter is hopeful that we will retain our present CDS number and will know more at the May Council meeting.

Peter added that FCS was denied by the Chicago Park School District because of concerns that the addition of a large student enrollment might impact their small school culture.

## **10. Information: Chicago Park MOU—Peter Sagebiel**

Peter presented to the Council information on the MOU with Chicago Park School District regarding the Chicago Park property transfers and basic aid. The MOU will articulate the collaboration between FCS and the District and will be brought to the Council in May for approval.

## **11. Information: State Budget Update—Debbie Carter**

Debbie updated the Council on the State budget, reporting that budget funding will hinge on the November election. The Governor is hopeful that the proposed tax increase will be approved by the voters to alleviate continued cuts to education.

Debbie explained that there are two proposed items on the November ballot and the fear is that people will be confused and vote both down. The second bill is the “Our Children Our Future” bill which would structure taxes based on your income instead of sales tax. Monies collected would go directly to the schools.

## **12. Information/Action: Surplus Computers—Debbie Carter**

Debbie asked the Council to approve the surplus of ten desktop computers. All of the computers are over 5 years old.

Linda Katz made a motion to approve the surplus of computers. Dakota Crider seconded.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      Abstain: None

## **13. Information: 2012-13 Charter Council Elections —Pam Barram**

Pam reviewed with the Council the election process and terms and presented to the Council which positions will be open. She will be stepping down as Chair and Dakota will be leaving the student representative position. We will need two parent representatives, a student representative and a community representative. Linda Katz’s term is up, but she is willing to stay on for another year. Student Zach Barram has offered to serve as student representative.

Peter said he will continue searching for volunteers and that we will extend the voting date to May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**14. Information/Action: Salary Increases—Debbie Carter**

Debbie asked the Council for approval of salary increases beginning in the 2012-13 school year for Ess, office staff and the administration. She explained that the entire staff has not received a raise in three years and reviewed the fiscal impact of a step increase or an across the board raise of up to 3%. Debbie shared the 3 Year Projection with the Council and explained it is a “conservative budget” given the shaky state budget situation. She is looking closely at the budget projections and does not want to give raises that might have to be cut in the future. Debbie’s preference was the ‘up to 3% raise.’

Cheri Ray made a motion to approve salary increases of up to 3%. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All              Nays: None              Abstain: None

**15. Information/Action: 2012-13 Calendar—Peter Sagebiel**

Peter asked the Council to approve the proposed calendar for the 2012-13 school year. He explained that the NjUSD calendar was not ready as of this date and that there would be a possibility of some changes, e.g., spring break. Changes will be brought to the Council if needed at future meetings.

Linda Smith made a motion to approve the proposed 2012-13 calendar. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All              Nays: None              Abstain: None

**16. Information/Action: Re-Approve the Conflict of Interest Policy—Peter Sagebiel**

Peter asked the Council to re-approve the Conflict of Interest Policy as an incorporated board. Per state regulations this policy is approved yearly.

Cheri Ray made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All              Nays: None              Abstain: None

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

- BJ presented information on the recent CAHSEE testing for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. There were 92 tenth graders expected to test with 18 ‘no shows’ for one or both days. He reported that there is only one 12<sup>th</sup> grader that needs to pass all the ELA portion.
- BJ reported that the March STAR testing for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders went very well. Only a couple of students missed the testing, due to weather. He added that the rest of the STAR testing would begin next week.

**18. Information: WASC—Paul Simoes**

Paul reported that the WASC visit in March went “very well.” All four of the visiting committee members were from charter schools, which opened a good rapport between the committee and the ESs, administrators and students.

Paul added that the brief report that they gave for the FCS staff before leaving was both positive and supportive. FCS will receive the full report in a few months.

The Council congratulated the administration for a job well done!

#### **19. Information/Action: Strategic Plan—Peter Sagebiel**

Peter reviewed the Action Plan and the recommendations made by WASC. He explained that WASC recommended that the goals be pared from five to three: 1.) Academic Intervention, 2.) Facility, 3.) Professional Development. Peter asked for approval of the Strategic Plan.

Steve Ross made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan. Cheri Ray seconded.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      Abstain: None

#### **20. Information/Action: Consent Agenda – Debbie Carter**

Debbie asked the Council to approve the Consent Agenda.

Linda Katz made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Steve Ross seconded.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      Abstain: None

#### **21. Information: Director’s Update – Peter Sagebiel**

- **2010-11 Enrollments:** Enrollment is at approximately 685 and has held steady this year at a time when there is an atmosphere of declining enrollment in schools.
- **CCSA Conference:** Peter, Debbie, Dawn and BJ attended; a great event to network and meet with colleagues; great break-out sessions.
- **Valentine’s K-8 Party:** Peter expressed appreciation for the co-coordinators, Valerie Jones and Heather Buck and all of the ESs that helped; another nice celebration with wonderful energy.
- **Teacher Who Makes a Difference:** the annual honor was given to Truckee ES Linda Hill; Linda works with mostly high schoolers and she is “very present” with the students; she is always available for events as a volunteer.
- **Spring Semi-Formal dance and Prom:** the dance went well; small attendance but a fun event; possibly a different venue and earlier in the school year in the future. The Prom is coming up in May; tickets are on sale.
- **Other:** Peter shared a handout promoting the CCSA 20 Year Anniversary and National Charter Schools Week, May 6-12.

#### **22. Discussion: Future Agenda Items**

- Special Ed presentation (fall)
- Foundation Report (as needed)
- Adopted Budget

**23. Information: Reminder of Future Meeting**

- May 15; June 12 (if needed)

**24. Action: Adjourn at 6:45 p.m.**

Linda Katz made the motion to adjourn. Dakota Crider seconded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

***Respectfully submitted:***

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Nancy Nobles, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Charter Council Approved:***

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Pam Barram, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date