

Forest Charter School

Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes April 28, 2009

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009
5:30 p.m.
224 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95954**

Council Members:

Larry Homan, Chair-Community Member
Nancy Markson, Co-Chair/ES Representative
Linda Hill, ES Representative
Sandy Saccomanno, Parent Representative
Sue Barnickol, Parent Representative
Pam Barram, Parent Representative
Janice Comstock, Parent Representative
Kathy Rodrigue, Parent Representative
Annabelle Ziegenhagen, Student Representative
Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Minutes

Present: Larry Homan, Sandy Saccomanno, BJ Hatcher, Nancy Markson, Linda Hill, Sandy McDivitt, Pam Barram, Kathy Rodrigue, Peter Sagebiel, Debbie Ayala-Carter, Camille Taylor and Nancy Nobles.

Absent: Sue Barnickol, Annabelle Ziegenhagen, Janice Comstock

1. **Call to Order:** 5:35 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Action:** Approval of Minutes of March 24, 2009

Linda Hill made the motion to approve the Minutes from March 24, 2009. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

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

Sandy Saccomanno made the motion to adopt the agenda. Linda Hill seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

5. Discussion: Other

Linda Hill would like a discussion of the new cell phone trend called 'sexting' put on the agenda of the next meeting.

6. Action: Resignation of Janice Comstock from the Council

Debbie Carter presented Janice Comstock's letter of resignation to the Council.

Linda Hill made a motion to accept Janice's letter of resignation. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

7. Information: Charter Council Terms – Debbie Carter

Larry Homan reported that he would be stepping down as Council Chair for the 2009-10 school term. Nancy Markson, Linda Hill and Annabelle Ziegenhagen are serving one year terms and will come up for re-election next year. Nominations will be held in September and the new board elections will be in October.

8. Information/Action: Approval to start relationship with Sitaline Architecture regarding evaluation of facility needs –Peter Sagebiel

Peter presented options for a new facility for FCS which would consolidate all of the sites in the Nevada City/Grass Valley area. There was discussion on the pros and cons of existing buildings in the area (size, subletting) compared to having a building built to FCS specifications (growth, expansion, square footage.) There is the possibility of a local investor that would build a school site to FCS specifications with the promise on the part of FCS of a long-term lease.

Peter proposed that we hire Sitaline Architecture to do an evaluation of our facility needs. The evaluation cost is \$5000.

Nancy Markson made a motion to approve beginning a relationship with Sitaline Architecture to start an evaluation of FCS facility needs. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

9. Information: TTUSD Update – Peter Sagebiel

Sandy and Peter attended a meeting at the NCSoS earlier in the day with TTUSD Superintendent Steve Jennings, NCSoS Superintendent Holly Hermansen and NCSoS CBO Donna Fitting. The discussion was on the explorations of possible NCCC sponsorships. Points covered included:

- Requesting TTUSD for payment of \$250,000 which they have been holding.

- Holly is conscious about a thoughtful enrolling process of seeking district sponsorship.
- 2009-10 school year should be a transition year.
- ADA numbers: we have put energy towards keeping the numbers down; we want enrollment caps instead of ADA caps; Sandy and Peter felt confident that we can stay below the 2007-08 ADA cap from the 2009-10 school year.

Sandy hopes that by the fall of 2009 the NCCC will have clarity around sponsorship.

10. Information/Action: Creekside Update – Sandy McDivitt

Sandy stated that it had been a tough decision to cut ties with the Creekside Co-op but that the decision had spurred on Camille Taylor and the Creekside team to write their own charter. Presently they are working with the Newcastle district and they are getting support from that superintendent.

11. Information/Action: 2009/10 Salary Schedule –Debbie Carter

As one way to meet the challenges of the budget crisis, Debbie presented the new salary schedule which would bring in revenue for the school without increasing staffing. FCS has an enrollment projection of each ES having 25 students on their roster; then to build on that to 27. FCS is looking at an enrollment cap of 675; we have capped at 646 in the past. This would be a temporary solution (possibly 2 years) until the budget is under control.

Pam Barram made a motion to accept the proposed salary schedule effective July 1, 2009. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

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

- Pennies for Peace
- Global Studies Academy field trip 2009/10
- Truckee Six Flags bus fees

Debbie has received a request for the Forest Charter School Education Foundation to open a 'sub-account' for Pennies for Peace. This fundraiser has been very popular and is receiving wide-spread attention from schools throughout Nevada County. By opening this sub-account, community members and other Nevada County schools will be able to make their checks payable to

"Pennies for Peace" and make deposits directly into this account. This account would be short-term (3 to 6 months) and would be liable and auditable under the FCS Foundation. Since our Charter Council is the interim acting board of the FCS Foundation, Debbie requested approval to open this account for Pennies for Peace and to write the following two checks:

(1) check for \$765.00 to the Shakespeare Festival for a deposit on the 09/10 fieldtrip to Ashland

(2) check for \$420.50 made payable to All West Coach Lines for the Truckee students Six Flags Field trip.

Linda Hill made a motion to accept the Foundation status. Pam Barram seconded.

NOTE: At 6:25 Larry Homan had to leave the meeting and Nancy Markson took over as Chair

13. Information/Action: Approval of field trips – Debbie Carter

Debbie presented the following field trips for approval:

- Creekside Coop: Pidgeon Point; grades 3,4 & 5th; May 4, 5 & 6
- Global Studies Academy 9th & 10th grades: Malakoff Diggings end of year camping trip; May 14 & 15
- Truckee science class; SF Exploratorium; May 14 & 15
- Truckee 6 & 7th: Fleischmann Planetarium; Reno; June 2
- Truckee 12th; Donner State Park Kayaking; June 3

Sandy Saccomanno made the motion to approve the proposed field trips. Pam Barram seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

14. Information/Action: Council Approval for student to receive diploma –BJ Hatcher

BJ asked that the Council approve student ID # 53058 diploma pending her passing of the CAHSEE test. He explained that she has passed the English portion but not math. Results will not be in until July.

Linda Hill made the motion for approval of Student ID # 53058 to receive her diploma upon passing the math portion of CAHSEE.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

15. Information/Action: Policy Approval – Debbie Carter, Peter Sagebiel

Debbie presented and requested approval of the following policies:

- Revisions to the classified personnel policy
The following information was added:
 - Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
 - Worker's Compensation
 - State Disability Insurance
- New Credentialed Personnel Policy
- Retaking high school classes

Peter handed out copies of the policy regarding students re-taking classes for a better grade. He explained that the policy came out the experiences of 2 years of graduation approvals. Peter reported that colleges like to see that students re-take classes for a better grade. FCS needs to know why the student wants to re-take a class so the policy isn't abused.

Linda Hill made a motion to accept the policy approvals. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

16. Student Achievement – BJ Hatcher and Peter Sagebiel

- Science Fair: Nancy Markson reported that FCS Truckee student Mattheus Wagner placed 1st; this was the 4th year that FCS placed in the competition.
- CAHSEE Testing: BJ reported that we have four seniors that need to pass the math portion; we need three more to get 95% participation (10th graders)
- STAR Testing: BJ said that overall the testing went very well. The four day testing period worked better than three. Starting with the math portion also seemed to help. FCS tested 500 students; 18 missed all or part of the test—10 of those have already tested. BJ is following up on the remaining students make-up testing.
- Middle school math support: Peter reported a concern that FCS math scores are low. ES's Ruthanne Buckley, Heather Buck and Steve Ross have been meeting on plans for student support in the 2009-10 school year with an emphasis on 4, 5, and 6th grade math intervention.

17. Action: Consent Agenda

Pam Barram made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda new contracts and warrants. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

18. Update/Information: Director's Update

- Speech contest: ES Linda Smith's student, Richie Anderson placed first in the Nevada County speech contest.
- Upcoming fundraisers include: Creekside's Souper Bowl—5/2; Academic Adventure's yard sale—5/2; Academic Academy's Cinco de Mayo dinner and dance—5/5.
- Completed fundraisers: Academic Academy's The Princess Bride play and a BIG yard sale. Both were successful and brought in more money than anticipated.

19. Discussion: Future Agenda Items:

- Sexting; cell phone trend (Linda Hill)
- August Council meeting date
- Graduation approval for CAHSEE student #53159 (BJ Hatcher)
- San Francisco science field trip (Nancy Markson)
- Administration salary schedule
- Summer employees
- Single Plan approval; SARC (School Accountability Report Card)

20. Reminder of future meetings:

May 19, June 16

21. Adjourn: 7:25 PM

Linda Hill made the motion to adjourn, Sandy Saccomanno seconded

Ayes: All

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Charter Council Approved:

Larry Homan, Chair

Date

Nancy Markson, Co-Chair/ES Rep.

Date