

Forest Charter School

Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes May 19, 2009

Tuesday, May 19, 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

Kathy Rodrigue, Parent Representative

Annabelle Ziegenhagen, Student Representative

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Minutes

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

Absent: Kathy Rodrigue, Sandy McDivitt

1. **Call to Order:** 5:35 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Action: Closed session at 5:36. Student graduation approval for student #53159 –BJ Hatcher**

BJ Hatcher asked for Council approval of student #53159's diploma pending the passing of the CAHSEE test.

Nancy Markson made a motion to approval graduation and diploma for student #53759 upon passing the CAHSEE. Sue Barnickol seconded. Student representative Annabelle Ziegenhagen was excused from the closed session.

Ayes: Six

Nays: None

Abstain: One

4. Information: Closed session action.

Motion was approved in closed session.

Out of Closed Session at 5:40.

5. Action: Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2009

Sandy Saccomanno made the motion to approve the Minutes from May 19, 2009. Linda Hill seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

6. Action: Adoption of the Agenda

Pam Barram made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Linda Hill seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

7. Discussion: Other

8. Information: Charter Council Interest for 2009-10 – Peter Sagebiel

Peter reported that we will have Council openings next year for a new Chair, a student representative, community representative and possibly two parents. He said that the Council might consider staggered terms for continuity. Peter felt that G.R.A.S.P. will help with recommendations on this subject in the future.

The Council discussed an amendment in the by-laws preventing members from the same family sitting on the Charter Council at the same time. BJ Hatcher agreed that we should limit this as we have a large pool of 600 students and 1200 parents to pull from.

Peter will do some exploration on these points, especially the possibility of parent/student sitting on the Council and he will bring a proposed amendment to the by-laws to the next Council meeting.

9. Information: TTUSD On-going update – Peter Sagebiel

Sandy and Peter had attended a meeting with NCSOs Superintendent Holly Hermansen, TTUSD Superintendent Steve Jennings, the TTUSD CFO, and Twin Ridges Home Study Director Jenny Travers. Peter reported that the \$250,000 is still being held with no response from TTUSD. The group also discussed the changes that the Creekside Co-op leaving FCS brings to TTUSD by lowering our overall Truckee enrollment. The \$250,000 remains the priority.

10. Information: Creekside Update –Peter Sagebiel

Peter reported that the Creekside Co-op has successfully petitioned Newcastle School District to be a dependent charter and that they have “left the nest” of FCS. They have a possible site proposed and many enrollment calls. Creekside hopes to continue a partnership with FCS with field trips and events. The materials transfer from Creekside back to FCS is progressing.

11. Information: Education Specialist Evaluations – Sandy McDivitt

Due to Sandy McDivitt’s absence, Sandy Saccomanno made a motion to table the discussion on ES Evaluations. Pam Barram seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

12. Information/Action: Resignation of Sandy McDivitt – Sandy McDivitt

Debbie Carter read the letter of resignation of Sandy McDivitt, Executive Director, FCS.

Sandy Saccomanno made a motion to accept the resignation of Sandy McDivitt as of 6/19/09. Nancy Markson seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

13. Action: 2009/10 Budget Approval – Debbie Carter

Debbie passed out the 2009-10 Narrative and Budget Summary, pointing out that we expect to receive ongoing updates from the state and will present a more accurate budget in the fall. Based on the current fiscal climate, our adopted budget reflects the following:

- Revised Certified Salary Schedule to reflect an increase in the number of students an ES can hold on their roster; from 25 to 27.
- A “Freeze” on all certified and administrative annual salaries.
- An increase in the student cost for block classes to \$60 per hour per semester.
- An increase in block class support from the general fund from \$10,000 to \$15,000 school wide.
- A “Freeze” on all conferences.
- An increase in the school’s Reserve from 3% to 6%.
- A separate Special Education Reserve of 2%.

Peter reported that we dipped in ADA numbers a bit because of TTSUD but not very much. Overall FCS has had steady growth.

FCS has two new co-ops (PACE and Foresthill) for the 2009-10 school year with a possibility of two more (Truckee and Nevada City 6th grade.)

Debbie reported that there was “exciting news” in regards to CAHSEE which has been very restricted but is now in the general fund which will be helpful to students even in the 9th grade.

Instructional budgets will remain the same.

Linda Hill also said that FCS families were not expecting their budget to be kept at this year's level but that she is happy we have not had to cut the student's budgets.

Linda Hill made a motion to approve the budget. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

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

To streamline the Administrative Salary Schedule, BJ Hatcher's title will change from 'Vice-Principal' to 'Assistant Director' and the travel stipend he has received in the past will be folded into his annual salary. In addition, the Assistant Director and Academic Dean salaries have been combined to allow these two positions to be on the same salary track. These improvements did not result in a salary increase.

Pam Barram made a motion to approve the Administrative Salary Schedule for 2009-10. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

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

- Pennies for Peace bank account:
Debbie and ES Jennifer Homan went to Citizen's Bank and set up the account so that checks can be made out directly to Pennies for Peace. This is a temporary account under the FCS Foundation that will be open approximately six months.
- Other:
Debbie said that a \$600 deposit was needed for Empire Mine and asked that a check be written from the Foundation. The check will be returned after the retirement party, assuming the site will be left in good order.

Sandy Saccomanno made a motion to accept the Foundation status as indicated by Debbie Carter. Nancy Markson seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

16. Information/Action: Approval of Field Trips – Debbie Carter

Debbie presented the following field trips for approval:

Truckee high school biology class; Fleischman Planetarium, Reno; 5/21/09

Linda Hill made the motion to approve the proposed field trip. Pam Barram seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

17. Information: Science Class Field Trip – Nancy Markson

ES Nancy Markson reported that she took a small group of science students to San Francisco and that the trip was “perfect.” High points were the train trip; the hostel where the student shared their meals with other travelers; Fisherman’s Wharf for dinner; using alternative modes of transportation (train, bus); Exploratorium (no lines!); CA Academy of Sciences. The students all kept reflection journals as part of the experience.

18. **Student Achievement** – BJ Hatcher and Peter Sagebiel

- STAR Testing: BJ reported that over 500 students were tested with only six missing (those students were in different grades and shouldn’t impact our AYP.) BJ said that the only challenge was that many students finished their testing early and did not get picked up by parents immediately. That will be addressed next year.

Linda Hill said that she is looking forward to seeing the test results and how this year’s changes will affect our API and AYP. Nancy Markson said that overall the students seemed very happy with the extra day but that we should probably not call Friday a “make-up day” as it was confusing that students were expected to be there.

- CAHSEE Testing:

BJ reported that the CAHSEE tests have all been packaged and sent to the County. One 10th grader did not test; four took one part and he hopes that FCS will get participation credit for that, he is waiting to hear from the CDE.

19. **Single Plan; SARC—School Accountability Report Card** – Peter Sagebiel, BJ Hatcher)

Peter showed a visual presentation on the Single Plan for Student Achievement. He shared the highlights:

- Analysis of current education practice
- Student demographics
- STAR testing analysis
 - Subpopulations
 - Annual measurable outcomes
- Local measures of student performance (EdPerformance)
 - Breakdown of ELA and Math by grade
- California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)
- Single Plan Goals
 - Goal #1 – Reduce the cumulative percent of students scoring below basic and for below basic as measured by the English Language Arts California Standards test
 - Goal # 2 - Reduce the cumulative percent of students scoring below basic and for below basic as measured by the Mathematics California Standards Test.

Peter said that the complete Single Plan will be available if people want to look at the report.

BJ reported that FCS needs to be more aggressive in math intervention Peter concluded that FCS is doing well but that there is room for improvement.

A motion was made by Linda Hill to table the SARC presentation. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

A motion was made by Nancy Markson to accept the Single Plan as presented by Peter Sagebiel. Pam Barram seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

20. Action: Consent Agenda – Debbie Carter

Linda Hill made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda new contracts and warrants. Nancy Markson seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

21. Information: Director's Update – Peter Sagebiel

Linda Hill reported, in Sandy's absence, that the Souper Bowl was a "fabulous event," and nicely done.

Peter reported that the Academic Adventure Co-op was presently in Hawaii and all reports were good, the students were having a great experience.

Peter, Sandy and Debbie attended Truckee's 8th grade project presentations. Peter reported that it was an incredible night. The 3-5 minute presentations with power points and written portions are teaching skills that prepare students for high school. The projects are a team effort with the students and teachers which has been very successful.

Nancy Markson and Larry Homan recommended that FCS add Senior Projects including writing, research and presentation as a requirement. Larry said that it's a good way to get the community involved in the school and is also good for public relations.

22. Information: Sexting – Linda Hill

Linda Hill reported her concerns that the law has not caught up with the new trend of 'sexting.' While this is bad judgment on the part of teens and somewhat innocent they can be legally arrested and charged as sex offenders, a charge that will follow them in their lives. Both the senders and receivers of sexting can be legally held responsible. There are presently cases in the courts.

Linda suggested that a letter be sent to parents of mid and high school families so that they are aware of the long term legal ramifications of sexting. These letters could be sent through the ES's. Linda concluded by saying that "technology has made parenting much harder."

Peter said that he would follow up on this issue in the Fall.

Sandy Saccomanno left the meeting at 7:25

23. Information/Action: Surplus of FCS materials – Debbie Carter

Debbie requested to be able to surplus some of our computers as they become outdated, etc.

Pam Barram made a motion to surplus FCS technology materials as indicated by Debbie Carter.
Nancy Markson seconded.

24. Discussion: Future Agenda Items

- Bylaws about parent/student Council member interest
- Summer employees
- SARC
- Field trip procedures
- ES evaluations

25. Discussion: Reminder of future meetings

Nancy Markson requested that she be excused from the June meeting. It was decided that a quorum will still be present.

The August and September meeting dates were set.

- June 16, 2009
- August 18, 2009
- September 15, 2009 (Truckee)

26. Adjourn: 7:40 PM

Linda Hill made the motion to adjourn. Nancy Markson 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