

# *Forest Charter School*

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## **Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes—May 27, 2014**

**5:30 p.m. Closed Session**  
**6:00 p.m. Regular Session**  
**470 Searls Avenue**  
**Nevada City, CA 95959**

### **Council Members:**

Dan Thiem, Chair  
Debbie Marchi, Parent Representative  
Nicole McCulloch, Parent Representative  
Leslie Whitcomb, Parent Representative  
Ruthanne Buckley, Community Rep., Vice Chair  
Sarah Rongey, Student Representative  
Linda Katz, ST Representative  
Gina Holbrook, ST Representative  
Nancy Nobles, Secretary

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook, Leslie Whitcomb, Peter Sagebiel, Debbie Carter, Paul Simoes, BJ Hatcher and Nancy Nobles

**Absent:** Linda Katz and Nicole McCulloch

- 1. Call to Order: 5:40**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Information/Action: Closed Session for the Director's Evaluation and CAHSEE Waiver**
- 4. Information: Director's Evaluation and CAHSEE Waiver**

The Council reconvened to open session at 7:00. Motions for the Director's Evaluation and the CAHSEE waiver for student #53259 were both approved in closed session.

Ruthanne Buckley made a motion to approve the CAHSEE waiver for student #53259. Gina Holbrook seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

Ruthanne Buckley made a motion to approve the Director's Evaluation. Debbie Marchi seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**5. Action: Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2014.**

Gina Holbrook made the motion to accept the Minutes. Sarah Rongey seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

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

Gina Holbrook made the motion to adopt the agenda with amendment. Nicole McCulloch seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**7. Discussion: Other**

Nothing to report.

**8. Information: 2014/15 Charter Council Elections— Dan Thiem**

Dan presented that the elections are complete for the 2014/15 school year. Sarah Rongey will be continuing as the student representative, the new ST representative is Dave Stanger and the new parent representative is Kaleen Ojeda-Chatigny.

**9. Information: 2014/15 Adopted Budget Narrative—Debbie Carter**

Debbie reviewed the Budget Narrative that was sent electronically to the Council. She highlighted that the budget is based on an enrollment of 700 students. Debbie added that based on the adopted budget and the school's 3 Year Projection, the school is looking very solid with continued fiscal support from the State coming in.

Debbie also explained the budget will be boosted by a strong enrollment, one more year of lottery money, new education tech money (\$24,000 from a Microsoft lawsuit), business service charges are being reduced from 5 to 4% (a savings of \$80,000 a year.)

**10. Information/Action: LCAP—Peter Sagebiel, Debbie Carter**

Peter reviewed the Local Control and Accountability Plan for the Council (LCAP). He added that the Plan remains essentially the same as presented at the last meeting; the only changes made were in the budget numbers based on new information.

Ruthanne Buckley made the motion to approve the LCAP. Gina Holbrook seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

#### **11. Information/Action: 2014/15 Adopted Budget—Debbie Carter**

Debbie presented the Adopted Budget including the Three Year Projections and the Cash Flow. She explained that differences, changes and increases that are reflected in the Three Year Projections. Debbie also explained that the Cash Flow is based on the projected budget. She added that the State's deferrals are starting to be returned to the schools and that FCS's budget is in a solid place.

Leslie Whitcomb made the motion to approve the 2014/15 Adopted Budget including the Three Year Projections and the Cash Flow. Debbie Marchi, seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

#### **12. Information/Action: Education Protection Account (EPA)—Debbie Carter**

Debbie explained to the Council the EPA funds which are collected from voter approved Proposition 30 which increased State sales and income taxes. The program will be phased out in 2016 and funds will replace revenue normally paid by the State for a limited amount of time. Debbie added that these funds were directed to the ST salaries last year and she recommended the same for this year.

Gina Holbrook made the motion to approve the Education Protection Account. Sarah Rongey seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

#### **13. Information/Action: 2014/15 Salary Schedule—Debbie Carter**

Debbie presented to the Council 2014-15 Salary Schedule including: Certificated ST Salary, Summary, Classified Salary Schedule, Stipend Salary Schedule, Substitute Salary Schedule, and Supplemental Salary Schedule. She explained that most of the salary schedules remain the same COLA increase as last year but need to be approved yearly. The two exceptions are the Classified Salary Schedule and the Certificated ST Salary Summary.

The Classified Salary Schedule was revised for the 13-14 school year to reflect a full day as 7.5 hours versus 8 hours. This resulted in the classified staff earning less than a full year of PERS service credit. Debbie is recommending approval of a revised schedule that would pay 10 days of vacation pay in July only. The proposed schedule revises the hourly rate so that the annual

rate remains the same, however the classified staff would receive a full year of PERS service credit for a year worked. Vacation days are not eligible for accumulation and must be paid out in July.

The second change in regards to the Certificated ST Salary Schedule is the addition of the 25:1 student /teacher ratio. The ST salaries remain the same.

Leslie Whitcomb made the motion to approve the 2014/15 Salary Schedule. Ruthanne Buckley seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi, Gina Holbrook and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

#### **14. Information: Learning Centers—Peter Sagebiel**

Peter gave an overview of the FCS learning centers and how we meet legal compliance in establishing these centers. He explained that a charter school in the Shasta area is in litigation because of learning center issues with their sponsoring agency. Peter added that this case could set precedence for other charters. He will present more information at a future meeting.

**Gina Holbrook was dismissed at 7:30.**

#### **15. Information/Action: New High School Graduation Requirement—Paul Simoes**

In Paul's absence, Peter explained the new high school graduation requirement, Contemporary Skills. The course will replace the outdated Internet Safety course. The 2.5 unit course will include a variety of content including: financial skills, budget, life choices and internet safety. Peter added that the class can be expanded to 5 or 10 units; with some units going towards enrichment.

Sarah Rongey made the motion to approve the new high school graduation requirement. Debbie Marchi seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

#### **16. Information: Student Achievement —BJ Hatcher**

BJ presented information and a PowerPoint on the recent CAHSEE testing. He reported that the 10<sup>th</sup> grade results were back and that they were "very impressive." 81% of students passed the math section of the CAHSEE, which is above the state average and our highest percent passing ever. 88% of students passed the EA section of the CAHSEE. BJ added that he expects the test results to rise when the make-up test results are in.

BJ reminded the Council that CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) is the testing that has replaced STAR and that this year we are 'testing the test.'

BJ explained that the students 'hit' 90% participation in most subjects and grades. He added that there were lower participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade but pointed out that there are only 40 students in that grade level, so the numbers are impacted greatly by only a few students not testing. BJ said that overall the testing went smoothly.

**17. Information: Parent and Staff Survey—Peter Sagebiel, BJ Hatcher**

BJ presented a PowerPoint of the recent Parent and Staff Survey. He explained the categories and comparisons between the different learning centers (Nevada City, Truckee and Foresthill.) BJ added that the survey provides feedback that will be used as goals and direction for FCS.

**18. Information: Energy Plan—Debbie Carter**

Tabled.

**19. Information/Action: A & B may be considered for Consent Agenda –Debbie Carter**

Debbie presented the consent agenda for approval.

Ruthanne Buckley made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Leslie Whitcomb seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Debbie Marchi, Sarah Rongey and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**20. Information: Director's Update –Peter Sagebiel**

- **Prom :** Prom went very well with BJ pitching in as a last minute DJ.
- **Graduations and Year End Celebrations: New Family Information Nights:** The next information night was on April 30<sup>th</sup>; there were over 50 people at this second information night.
- **Governor's Workshop:** Debbie attended the recent workshop; and found it very useful.
- **2014-15 Enrollment:** Continues to go wells at all of the learning centers.
- **Other:**

**21. Discussion: Future Agenda Items**

- Foundation Report (as needed)
- Action Plan Update (as needed)
- Energy Plan (August)
- One Time Funds (Debbie)
- Appoint Community Member
- Director's Evaluation Debriefing

**22. Information: Reminder of Future Meetings**

**2014:** June 10

**23. Action: Adjourn at 8:12 p.m.**

Sarah Rongey made the motion to adjourn. Debbie Marchi seconded.

**Ayes:** Dan Thiem, Ruthanne Buckley, Sarah Rongey, Debbie Marchi and Leslie Whitcomb.

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

***Respectfully submitted:***

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Nancy Nobles, Secretary

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Date

***Charter Council Approved:***

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Dan Thiem, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Ruthanne Buckley, Vice Chair

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Date