

**FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at 5:40 pm  
Location: 224 Church Street, Nevada City, California  
Charter: 872

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:40 pm
2. **ROLL CALL/PRESENT:** Larry Homan, Chair, Community Member  
Susan Morris, Vice-Chair, Parent Rep.  
Camille Taylor, Parent Rep. (Secretary)  
Nancy Markson, ES Rep.  
Linda Hill, ES Rep.  
Sandy Saccomanno, Parent Rep.  
Vienna Saccomanno, Student Rep.  
Sandy McDivitt, Executive Director  
Peter Sagebiel, Academic Dean  
BJ Hatcher, Vice Principal  
Janice Comstock, Parent  
Oliver Morris, Student

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2007 MEETING**

*Nancy Markson moves to approve the Minutes of the 9/17/2007 Meeting*

*Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

5. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA (CHANGE MADE TO STARTING TIME/DAY)**

*Sandy Saccomanno moves to adopt Agenda*

*Linda Hill seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

6. **OTHER:**

**Vienna Saccomanno:** financial aid for college. NU seniors receive a packet of local scholarships. Can FCS do something similar? Peter Sagebiel said that there is something posted on FCS website. Sandy M. indicates that we should have an invitation to local organizations to present at College Day. Larry indicated that some scholarships are specific to certain schools. A counselor helps the kids complete the scholarships, but students must complete their own application. Add to November Agenda as action/discussion item.

Include contingency plan language on all future agendae

**7. REVIEW AND APPROVE CHARTER DOCUMENT**

Sandy McDivitt discusses that we've approved the Petition for Charter, but we have not established a Charter Document. She would like the Council to create and approve such a document. Sandy will prepare the document for the November meeting.

*Camille Taylor moves to table the issue of Charter Document*

*Nancy Markson seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

**8. VACANCIES OF PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:**

We should have five parent representatives. Sandy McDivitt asks to include appointment of parent representative for Janice Comstock on November agenda.

**9. CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION STUDENT AND FAMILY PRIVACY RIGHTS AND CALIFORNIA HEALTHY KIDS SURVEY**

Review of handout and explanation by S. McDivitt to address privacy issues related to surveys that go out to our students. Steve Canavero shared a sample survey, which requires active consent from parent for fifth and seventh grades; passive consent needed for ninth or eleventh grades. Linda Hill asked whether the students indicate student number or student name on income survey. Active/Passive permission form is completed by parents only. Essentially, parents need to have an opportunity to refuse participation of their child in sharing personal information. This policy is particular to protecting students with regard to sensitive information surveys. No penalty for refusal to participate. Susie Morris asks the purpose of the survey sample. Debbie Carter and Peter Sagebiel responded that the survey results were very helpful. The sample survey represents one which is mandated by the County. Steve learned that we may do a sampling as opposed to surveying an entire group. Sara Dorland found the survey helpful within TTUSD when she worked there. The CSBA Policy should be provided in future enrollment packets to all students. Linda Hill suggested that we ask for signed acknowledgment of receipt for this policy. The draft policy was provided to us by the County. BJ believes that it is a California-wide policy to entitled schools to Title IV and TUPE funds. Susie recommends a cover letter to the survey explaining its purpose.

*Vienna Saccomanno moves to approve the CSBA Student and Family Privacy Rights Policy*

*Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

*Sandy Saccomanno moves to approve the California Healthy Kids Survey*

*Vienna Saccomanno seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

**10. WEEKEND AND SUMMER FIELD TRIPS POLICY**

Council reviewed attached draft policy. (Formatting is consistent with other FCS policies.) Stan Miller voiced reservations to Sandy McDivitt regarding the concepts of this subject, but NCCC liked our draft policy, which have since been resolved. Sandy McDivitt recommends adopting this policy. The County does not have a policy on this matter. Julie and Terina are currently collecting samples to develop a county-wide policy. Terina has approved the Costa Rica trip specifically. As it applies to the Costa Rica trip, students not enrolled in a class, but who are participating in pre and post trip activities are eligible for academic credit. Those attending who are not doing pre/post trip work can reference the trip as enrichment on their academic resume. Linda Hill likes that the policy is general enough to include different scenarios, but specific enough to address summer/weekend trips. The county is working on a more comprehensive policy. Could change the title of the policy to "WEEKEND AND SUMMER FIELD TRIP CREDIT POLICY"

*Nancy Markson moves to approve the Weekend and Summer Field Trip Credit Policy*

*Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

**11. CASH IN LIEU DEBBIE WOULD LIKE TO TABLE DISCUSSION**

*Camille Taylor moves to table this issue to the November meeting*

*Linda Hill seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

**12. FUNDRAISING:**

*Escrip: can all sites sign up their parents for escrip? Could ESs facilitate school-wide sign-ups?*

*Still waiting for foundation in order to order sweatshirts.*

**13. SIG SITE VISITS**

*School Insurance Group will be visiting all sites for safety coverage/compliance.*

**14. CREEKSIDE COOPERATIVE UPDATE**

*Things are going very well at Creekside. Several small grants have come in for the edible gardening project, partnership with SWEP adds new dimension to the PTO sponsored Enrichment Classes on Friday. Tamara is a wonderful addition to the teaching team. Enrollment is at 46 and interest for next year's Kindergarten class is already very strong. Issues regarding Student Services for Creekside Cooperative students are being addressed and the parents, students and ESs there are happy.*

**15. TRUCKEE SITE UPDATE**

*Conducted their first Back to School Night which was a resounding success. Really educated the parent, great turn-out and block class teachers came, too. New teachers: Marissa (MS and HS Drama), Gretchen (Language Arts and High School*

English), Nate (MS Language Arts and World History). Progress reports just came out this week. On the whole, students are doing well. Small fundraiser/family social. \$5/\$7 contribution and dinner. Good turn-out. Parent Support Group (not a PTO) leaning toward placing funds in the FCS Foundation. Janice Comstock is leading the Parent Support Group. Hoping more parents will come in the future. New parking lot is established. They would love a playground! Basketball court has been marked off. Not as many students in study hall this year...a better schedule for the kids.

## 16. FIELD TRIPS

*Truckee Site: Ropes Course with Synergia in North San Juan. Wystars will lead with Jen and Josh...all experienced. No chaperones.*

*River Co-op: SYRCL River Trip on the Yuba with Bitney Springs College Prep group (10 River Co-op and 25 Bitney Springs) A few parent chaperones on this trip. SYRCL leads these float trips...purpose to view salmon run, etc.*

*Sandy Saccomanno moves to approve the Truckee Ropes Course Field trip and River Co-Op SYRLC River Trip on the Yuba*

*Linda Hill seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

## 17. CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** New contracts
- B.** Warrants

*Camille Taylor moves to approve consent agenda items*

*Nancy Markson seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

## 18. DIRECTOR UPDATE:

- CCSA Certification (thanks to Steve Canavero for initiating this)
- Visit by CCSA CEO Caprice Young to FCS on October 9 (Thanks to Theresa Smittle for preparing lunch for the group.) We presented on the blended and personalized learning model as well as raising issues of facility, efficiency (closing charter and then establishing new charter), and efforts in data collection. What did it take to get the certification? Our WASC accreditation and self-study were major factors. Our self-study showed that we were in compliance with their standards. Candace remembered Olivia Saccomanno who served on the board.
- The Union article on ArtMiles: new journalistic interests in our school's activities in Mr. Sinh's, whose interest in art led him to write a wonderful article. He is also interested in our global studies efforts and may continue to publish positive articles on FCS.
- APLUS Conference October 17-19. Sandy McDivitt will be attending and facilitating a workshop on inspiring staff. On Wed afternoon, several workshops: Charter Governance (Debbie Carter will attend this, as well). Linda Hill will also

attend. 4 sections occurring simultaneously. Sandy will attend the workshop on credentialing. Vienna and Sandy McDivitt will be in the Broadway Review.

- Update on our relationship with the County and NCCC: We continue to develop strategies that work with different personalities. A new attendance system is being reviewed...establishing a model that is more efficient than eschools in NU (reportwriter). They are trying to find something that is supported and palatable and that supports the office staff. TRESB Board Meeting tonight was to address the auditing report (lots of questions). Clarification on funds origins and distribution. Debbie reports that the report looks in line with her expectations. It is all an unraveling mystery. Current County leadership believes in organized policies which supports FCS well.
- Other: As of Monday, our River Co-Op teacher, Sarah Gordon, resigned. She was feeling overwhelmed. There is a great group of students, but she had not taught middle school before. Her vision was wonderful and we are trying to continue the vision. The Co-Op student ESs came together and came up with a solution: Dom Delciaro was contacted and she has accepted the position. A transition plan has been established, correspondence to parents has been sent, Sarah has spoken to the students and Dom will shadow after the Fall Break and will then take over the class. In this crisis, the team found a great solution. Sarah Gordon has accepted a part-time position of math block class instruction. This is a win-win alternative for all. Dom intends to bring more to the program while supporting the original vision.
- Other: Choral Ensemble teacher has resigned. Susie Morris has accepted the position as instructor. Thanks Susie!!!

- 19. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** scholarship packets for high school seniors, first interim report, cash in lieu, charter document, inclement weather statement on agenda, future Council meetings (members to bring calendars).

Larry urges the members to respectfully listen to the person who has the floor in future meetings in order to maintain efficiency within the meetings.

- 20. FUTURE 2007 MEETINGS:**

Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 5:30 pm – Nevada City  
December [no meeting scheduled]

*Susie Morris moves to calendar the above Charter Council meetings*

*Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*

- 21. ADJOURN:**

*Sandy Saccomanno moves to adjourn*

*Susie Morris seconds the motion*

*Ayes: All*

*Nays: None*

*Abstain: None*