

# Forest Charter School Governance Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2006

Forest Charter School Meeting Minutes  
Director's Office

1. Meeting was **Called to Order** at 5:52pm
2. **Roll Call/Present:** Larry Homan, B.J. Hatcher, Linda Hill, Peter Sagebiel, Susie Morris, Nancy Markson, Camille Taylor, Maris Sanford and Debbie Ayala
3. **Flag Salute**
4. **Other:** The council reviewed the process and responsibilities for next year, when we are under the county. Currently, Sandy can sign a document (i.e. facility lease) and have it ratified with the charter council at the next meeting. Nancy raised a concern, as a block class teacher, about the confusion that took place during the first week of classes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Sandy suggested she discuss the situation in more detail with her outside of the charter council meeting. Susie is volunteering in the new choir class and loving it!
5. **Student Representative:** Linda made the motion to approve Marina Sanford as the FCS Student Representative on the charter council. Camille Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None
6. **Review and Approval of December 5, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** Nancy requested the minutes be amended to change 'travel club' to 'international travel club' Camille made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Susan Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None
7. **County Transition:** *(Handouts included NCCC Flowchart, Email from Larry Meek, memo from Paul Minney, Sample Letter for Termination of MOU and Closure of School, Response from charter directors, Transition checklist and MOU 8.14)*
  - Sandy reviewed section 8.14 of the MOU "Charter School Exit" and outlined how we have met each step.
  - Sandy reviewed the email from Larry Meek and the memo from Paul Minney and shared how all of the charter directors met with Terry McAteer and discussed each item on the memo. Sandy pointed out that there were two violations of the MOU: 1) Larry Meek cancelled all of the CCC meetings (section 4.4 of the MOU) and 2) Excess Service Center Funding (section 5.4) paying for the previous TRESA superintendent severance package from excess monies.
  - Sandy read the memo composed by all of the charter directors in response to the Paul Minney memo and reviewed the transition checklist developed by the directors. We will discuss these transition checklist items at the CCC meeting scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> at NCSoS. Terry McAteer will be present at this meeting.

- After talking to Terry McAteer, we are confident that the letter FCS submitted to TRESA terminating sponsorship effective June 30, 2007 has met the mandates of the current MOU, section 8.14.
- Sandy and Debbie are being proactive in researching funding timelines.
- Maris asked about the letter to parents discussing the transition process. Sandy has put information in the newsletter (and will continue to update each month). We also held a parent forum tonight and will continue to provide clear communication to our parents. To date, we have met the mandates in the MOU, which supersedes Paul's memo. Also, Paul Minney's memo is based on "draft" regulations on school closures. It has not yet been adopted by CDE. Maris wanted to know if the district was looking for a 'loophole'.
- Susie voiced her concern regarding what the district is doing, which is why the school needs to be proactive. Our school will have to petition for a new charter with the county. Our existing charter will remain with TRESA. Four of the charter schools will be placed under one charter number, however the two independent study schools (FCS and Twin Ridges Home Study) will be under separate charter numbers. Camille pointed out that FCS is an asset to the county, not a liability.
- Maris volunteered to help in any capacity during this transition. Sandy asked everyone to remain positive with our parents and students.

**8. Fieldtrip Approval:**

- Yosemite: 5 day trip for the Idea Academy
- Orville: Day trip for Advanced Photo Class
- Full Belly Farm: 3 day trip for Creekside Co-op

Nancy made the motion to approve the above fieldtrips. Linda Seconded. AYES: All  
NOES: None

**9. International Summer Travel:** Nancy requested approval to:

- As a charter council, approve that international travel is part of our curriculum.
- Go out and research the feasibility of international travel.
- Find out what it would mean for FCS to have a 'summer calendar' or if we can be sponsored through the summer program at the county.

Currently FCS does not have a summer calendar. Nancy is applying for a \$10,000 Grant which will help to offset the cost of an international trip. Debbie suggested we consider a starting a school Foundation to house large grants. Camille volunteered to research and Debbie will provide her with information on the APlus Foundation. Nancy would like to talk about the International Travel club at the next open house. If we receive the grant the funds must be used by May 2008. Nancy will know by March 5<sup>th</sup>. Camille made the motion to table this item until the March meeting. Maris Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

**10. Charter Document:** (*Handout*) Charter Council members were asked to read and provide input to our charter document at the next meeting.

**11. 1<sup>st</sup> Interim:** (*Handout*) Debbie provided the 1<sup>st</sup> Interim budget for the council to review. Susie made the motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Interim. Nancy Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

12. **Directors Update:**

- **Legal Settlement:** The school settled out of court for \$25,000. We are following up with the district on the amount the school is responsible for, which was not brought to the CCC for discussion. Dave Taylor thought there might be insurance coverage.
- **December Student Performances:** Sandy shared that she really enjoyed watching all of the student performances! Anya's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class put on a performance in collaboration with Kim Sagebiel that was like a college performance. Ruthanne and Valerie Jones put on a craft faire with a Dr. Suess performance. Denise Wey had a beautiful art/ceramics display. Creekside put on a traditional holiday pot luck and each class did a short presentation for the parents. The Truckee site held a talent show with guitar performances by students.
- Camille shared that she had received positive feedback from a parent who left the school in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and was concerned that the school was not academic enough. However, after receiving grades in a traditional school, the student is doing very well and the parent is very pleased with the education received at Creekside.
- **Art and Music Block Grant:** FCS received \$9022.00 as a one-time grant. We hope to use some of the funds doing an "Art Miles" mural which will be created by students all around the world. Also, we have started a choir this semester which can also benefit from this funding. Susie will be bringing up a wealth of music to share with the choir!
- **National Energy Education Grant of \$2500.** The Earth Science class (Steve Ross) would like to put a small weather station on the roof of the Nevada City building to collect data on weather.

13. **Consent Agenda:** Linda made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Camille Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

14. **Closed Session:** 8:10pm  
Personnel  
Student #07.01 Waiver

15. **Open Session:** 8:21pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm

**Our next meeting will be held on February 27 at 5:30**

Respectively Submitted,

Debbie Ayala, Secretary

*Charter Council Approval:*

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Larry Homan, Chair

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Date