

Charter Council Meeting and Retreat
January 28, 2006

Regular Charter Council Meeting

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 10.26 A.M.
2. Roll Call/Present: John Ferguson, Gail Dilka, Larry Homan, Nancy Markson, Jan McCardle, Vienna Saccomanno, Sandy Saccomanno, Steve Canavero, Camille Taylor, Peter Sagebiel, Ruthanne Buckley and Debbie Ayala
3. Flag Salute
4. Other: Vienna talked about parents coming into the block classes who were not happy or had confrontations with their kids and wondered how that should be handled. Sandy responded by saying it should always be reported to BJ or Sandy immediately. Center of the Arts is a public building. There is a TRESA policy where we can ask parents to leave a site.
5. Review and Approval of the December 13th minutes. Sandy S. made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Nancy Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None
6. David Stanger Resignation. Gail made the motion to approve the resignation of David Stanger.. Sandy S. Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None
7. Director's Update:
 - **State of the Children:** Sandy talked about the committee she has been a part of which is headed up by the county offices. There is a declining enrollment in Nevada County, however there are 20,000 kids in this county who could use our support and attention. The grades were based on parent/student and healthy family surveys. Cards went out to community members on how they would like to participate in improving the opportunities surrounding our youth.
 - **Other:** We have asked to be involved in a pilot program which supports teacher training. It is developed by PLS and supported by Dave Taylor. There will be a first meeting in March which will cover learning styles and expand into class management and other options. There is an opportunity for everyone to become involved, however to begin the pilot they are asking for 3 or 4 teachers, one to be designated a 'teacher trainer'. There is no cost to participate in the pilot.
8. Consent Agenda: None

Next Regular Meeting will be February 21st at 5:30pm and the Nevada City Offices

3-5 Year Strategic Planning Session

1. Overview/School Organizational Chart and Job Responsibilities: Sandy gave an overview as to how the program is structured and job responsibilities. (See Handout).
2. Brainstorming Session: Where will we be in 5 years?
 - Tight community for students
 - Centralized structure; classes, administration, E. S. meeting rooms
 - 3 day a week block classes for high school.
 - Fitness program
 - Offer more of the electives/enrichment opportunities which could be integrated into the core curriculum schedule.
 - Continued fiscal stability
 - More support for home school families
 - Building visual/performing arts program
 - Outdoor education, experiential (i.e. ropes course, woodleaf model)
 - Stable student body with normal attendance.
 - Foreign travel, exchange programs
 - Full time contracts for teachers who want to teach only, no ES responsibilities.
 - School identity paraphernalia: i.e. FCS t-shirts, yearbook, required ID cards. Make the yearbook a technology class.
 - Meet all of our ESLRS and have high achieving, long life learners as integral part of the school.
 - More focus on "themes" in core classes (supported by CORE teams - cross curriculum
 - Maintain flexibility: continually re-evaluating our strategic plan
 - HS trend: away from traditional towards a college model/unobtrusive model with student responsibility - empowering all stakeholders.
 - Professional growth: experimental model (PLS pilot program)
 - Building internship/work experience program (i.e. ROP, job shadowing) Expand
 - More parent involvement/parent education/training
 - Hire teachers with vision
 - IB International Benchmark
 - Strong Foreign Language program
 - Ground breaking science program
 - Technology
 - Maintain positive relationship with our sponsoring district/county/community

3. WASC:

- Overview: Steve gave an overview of the WASC process and a chapter walk-through of the WASC binder.
- Outcome of the WASC Parent Meeting held at the school on Thursday, 1/26 had a turnout of 15 parents.
- Visitation Time Schedule: Steve reviewed the detailed WASC time schedule of the four visiting members. Charter Council members are being asked to be available from 3:30 - 4:00 on Sunday, March 12th.

After hearing WASC, Larry said that he was very impressed with what has been accomplished. He has been a part of many WASC processes, including Nevada Union. He is very supportive of the small school environment. Sandy added that her previous experience did not have as much unity and vision as we see here.

4. Clarify School Direction/Discussion.

- **Budget Concerns:**

John wanted to make sure we provide Debbie the time to continually review our fiscal status on any long term planning the council would like to implement and not become to 'administrative' heavy, losing our focus on education. Sandy and Debbie discussed our budget for current year, next year and long term. Debbie is working on different feasibility studies to incorporate different ideas. In addition, SB740 will not allow the school to get 'top heavy'. Suggestions like website and department heads are more long term educational tools for ES's and students. Department Heads will also help to satisfy NCLB requirements.

- **WASC Action Plan (Goal 1)**

- **Department Heads**

Gail suggested the ES's design and develop curriculum. Peter reiterated that the Department Heads would be working with teams of ES's to create and recommend curriculum.

- **Facilities/Central location:(Goal 2)** We need to first look at a feasibility study to have a place where we could have classrooms and administration in one site.

- **Program Development: (Goal 3)**

1. Physical
2. VAPA
3. Foreign Travel
4. Vocational Ed
5. Languages
6. IB
7. Experiential (Outdoor Education)

- **Remain Fiscally solvent (Goal 4)**

- **Proactive Innovative Education (Goal 5)**

5. Goals/Claification

a. WASC

- Increase academic proficiency in math and English language arts
- Increase proficiency in working with technology
- Create meaningful partners in education
- Appropriate curriculum and support

b. Stay fiscally solvent while we develop and expand programs (G4)

c. Proactive Innovative Education (G5)

- Different learning models/teaching approaches
- Home school families - cooperative study
- Community partnership (i.e. 'Watershed')
- Staff Development/Parent Development
- Education Reform

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

Peter recommended Debbie begin a fiscal study in regards to the Department Heads.

(Gail noted that her home school families (K-6) do not feel they benefit from the general funds being spent, which supports high school students (i.e. block classes, counselor, etc.). The general consensus was that you need to look at the school as "schoolwide".

We will bring our goals back to the Charter Council after we have our WASC visit. Sandy would like to present our goals at the staff meeting so that the ES's will see how supported they are by the charter council. Next meeting we will discuss these goals and prioritize. Currently we will work on the goals identified in WASC for the 06/07 budget.

Steve talked about trying to get parent involvement. He would like to meet with the parents on charter council to discuss how we can pull parents in without making them feel they are overwhelmed. What would work with our diverse sites? Steve will email the parents (John, Sandy, Camille and Susie). There are also some parents who are also teachers (Nancy).

Adjourn: 4:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Ayala, Secretary

Charter Council Approved:

John Ferguson, Chair

_____ *Date*

