

**FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL
MONTHLY CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: 224 Church St., Nevada City, CA

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Larry Homan, Chair-Community Member Susan Morris, Vice-Chair, Parent Rep. Camille Taylor, Secretary, Parent Rep. Nancy Markson, ES Rep. Linda Hill, ES Rep. Sandy Saccomanno, Parent Rep. Sue Barnickol, Parent Rep.

MINUTES

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| <i>Action</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call to Order 5:33 pm2. Pledge of Allegiance3. Approval of Minutes of January 15 Charter Council Meeting with the following corrections

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Debbie Carter: "lotter" should be "lottery" on item 8</i>
<i>Linda Hill: misspelled name at item 11</i>
<i>Sandy S: item 17 misspelled "Caairo"</i></p><p><i>Sandy Saccomanno moves to approve the 1/15/2008 Minutes</i>
<i>Linda Hill seconds the motion</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: One (L. Homan)</i></p></p> |
| <i>Action</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Adoption of Agenda

<p><i>Susie Morris moves to adopt the 2/26/2008 Agenda and Special Agenda</i>
<i>Sandy S seconds the motion</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None</i></p></p> |
| <i>Discussion</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Other: This is an opportunity for members of the audience and charter council to address the Council on non-agendized items. Agendized items may be either addressed at this time or when the items come up for discussion. The Council cannot discuss or take action on non-agendized items tonight, but items may be agendized at a later Council meeting for discussion and/or action. Public comments are limited to five (5) minutes. |

Stan Miller: Sandy McDivitt received the 2007-2008 Who's Who Award for Outstanding Performance from Association of California School Administrators. Mr. Miller spoke to Sandy's deserving leadership qualities in our community and in education.

Susie Morris: Oliver made a drawing in an art class for a school poster for anti-smoking posting. Susie submits the poster on his behalf. Sandy asked to know more about it.

Action

6. Chess Club at Forest Charter School [Steve Ross]

Steve Ross: Tournament in February with 14 participants. Steve would like to do more tournaments, chess camp, lessons, etc. In order to make it happen, Steve would like to collect donations from participants to Foundation to purchase equipment.

Sandy McDivitt: Steve was in the paper with his chess club event in February. This relates to student achievement and exercising the brain through chess. Wanted to acknowledge Steve about this and the other things he brings to our school.

Camille Taylor moves to allow Steve Ross to use FCS facility for chess club, including FCS and non FCS participants and to accept donations to be directed to the FCSEF accounts for supplies.

Linda H seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Discussion

7. Student Achievement [Steve Canavero]

Sandy M: each charter council meeting should address student achievement. One of Steve C's roles at FCS is to analyze data for FCS and how our students are doing. Steve will address how FCS looks now, our intent with the single plan, and what we hope to achieve in the future.

Steve C: 2 streams coming out of our program: State assessments and internal Ed Performance.

Single Plan is our comprehensive plan for the school on how to raise achievement (2005) were to decrease # of students who achieve below and far below basic scores by 10% annually, placing us well ahead of growth curves.

Stan M: in state's view between proficient and basic is what is acceptable.

Steve C: How have we done: year 1 baseline, year 2 did not meet goal, year 3, met our math goal in 15%, not in Language Arts. Year 4, did not meet our goals this year.

Limited longitudinal capabilities due to the school's relative youth, as well as other data on individual students.

API has grown every year except this year.

Federal AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) Participation is our issue. State has a comprehensive accountability program. Participation must be 95% schoolwide and in subgroups. Sometimes the school meets the AYP but not in subgroups. In 2007 BJ's efforts brought us to AYP compliance.

CAHSEE: 10th graders pass at higher rate than 11th grade, 12th grade passes higher than 11th grade. Against the State, we exceed state performances in Language Arts and Math.

Stan M: CAHSEE tests at 8th grade minimum competency exam levels.

Linda H: In proctoring it seems that the exam is getting easier

Steve C: Ed Performance to capture growth increase in children who are below proficient. Assessment in Fall and Spring, hoping to see growth through the school year. Longitudinal difficulties include participation fall to spring and year to year. Do the results reflect the same group. Conclusions: not alone, out perform state but not county, growth pace is average to slightly below average, evaluation to continue.

Sandy M: now what? How will we push forward. Our plan is to continue to identify through assessment and then break up into groups of teachers to find out what they are doing to help student who are at risk. Will establish for K-8 department head soon.

Linda H: we've been a new school, establishing department heads, but that it is so hard to have a student who is making progress but is testing below proficiency levels and the growth is not seen/acknowledged.

Sandy M: Keep spirits of children high to inspire learning.

Peter S: not one solution in this school with our personalized learning model, but focus, coordinate and constantly seek new solutions

Informational

8. Boundary Waiver [Sandy McDivitt]

Sandy M: about a month ago, a parent mentioned in an IEP that they were El Dorado County residents. As a result, we have researched solutions to this challenge of boarder waivers. The corridor is served under TTUSD because it is so isolated from education options in El Dorado County. New Eschool forms requested county or residence, which brought this to light. NCSOS is totally supporting our efforts to obtain a waiver for this 10 mile geographical corridor. If we didn't have the support of NCSOS, we would have had ADA pulled for the 20 students and would have lost the 20 students in this corridor. Tomorrow, we will present the waiver document (via Nevada County). Deadline for Waiver Application is Thursday! [Sandy reads narrative to Council] Lawyers will walk the waiver to CDE on Thursday. There must be a public hearing, posted in local newspapers prior to March 12, FCS Charter Council resolution to support the Waiver, desired outcome and rationale.

Action

9. Science Fair [Nancy Markson] not an action item. Science fair is coming up and students are preparing for projects. Classroom presentation on March 18, deadline for county fair is March 19. County Fair awards is April 9 at Elks Lodge. We're hoping to continue FCS reign. No action taken/necessary

Action

10. Approval of ES Tutoring Policy [Peter Sagebiel]

Some situations that would warrant exception was when the subject matter could only be covered by the student's ES (i.e., calculus). This policy addresses inherent conflict of interest for ES. Applies to non-school budget situations as well as ES situation. This is a state-wide conflict of interest matter that is being addressed currently.

Stan M: commends FCS for addressing this matter in a responsible manner. The intention is to help students generally, but must cover the potential for unethical application.

Linda H: appreciates paragraph 3 in particular.

Sandy Saccomanno moves to approve Education Specialist Tutoring Policy with typographical changes needed and new language at final bullet

Susie Morris seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Action

11. Exclusion of Alcohol Policy [Peter Sagebiel]

Linda Hill moves to approve the Exclusion of Alcohol Policy with change to "All Forest Charter School" line 1 of Policy

Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Action

12. Facility Use and Rental [Sandy McDivitt]

Including Item 6 to this discussion: Sandy M: issue of favoritism came up at A Plus event with examples of schools who have been audited for favoritism matters. If there are conflicting or competing requests for use/rental, we need a policy which is objective. Do we rent this facility?

Stan M: an ed code says that all public facilities need to be made available to the public on a policy basis. It does not apply to charter schools, but we might look at such policies in order to develop our own to avoid re-creating the wheel and also to make sure we do not miss an important component.

Larry H: if it is a staff member wanting to use the facilities, there might not be a charge, but outside entities would need to be charged.

Debbie C: concerns with opening facilities with confidential materials and resources to public schools.

Stan M: public schools do make similar facilities available to the public

Larry H: we would need to key offices to set up security.

Linda H: is it illegal to say no?

Stan M: I don't think so

Debbie C: in a charter school, the district doesn't provide our business services offices, so we might be exempt from making it available to public.

Stan M: require that school employee present?

Sandy M: would rather make it available to staff for special club

meetings or events with all FCS students. With Steve Ross's chess club, there are non FCS students, but it is sponsored by FCS ES and attended by administrator. Good PR.

Stan M: insurance consideration. Another school wanted to do this type of thing and the insurance company never gave clear answers but suggested that whatever the school did, it was covered. Public perception is a factor.

Sandy M: Wants guidance from Council. If there is a questionable scenario, bring it to Council for approval. If it is not controversial, then allow approval by Executive Director.

Susie M: concert singers who perform at Churches must provide their own insurance.

Nancy M: feels that only staff should be able to use facilities on the premise that there is a lot of resources that could be removed.

Debbie C: There is also a clean-up issue.

Larry H: suggests that we establish a sub-committee to research and draft a policy for Council to address at March meeting. Group agrees. Debbie C, Larry H. Nancy M will serve

Nancy Markson moves to address the issue of Steve Ross using facilities for Chess Club under Item 6

Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Information/Discussion

13. Instructional Funds Transfer [Sandy McDivitt] Analysis of instructional funds use shows that one area uses the Instructional Funds, plus donations, to the limit. In other areas, there are monies left over. Proposing a procedure whereby ES can transfer funds from one student who has surplus funds to another student who needs more funds, so long as written agreement of all parties is obtained. California says nothing on this subject. Most non-charter school fund classrooms in a cooperative manner. In independent study we separate it into individual budgets. Because we have acquired so much curriculum, the funds aren't being completely utilized. It will be an educator's recommendation to promote such transfer.

How to make fair decisions on distribution?

Stan M: this issue was with Twin Ridges and parents hadn't spent instructional funds and school needed funds to cover budget. It may be safer to direct it all into a budget to be made available to all ES and students. It becomes a centralized pot of money. The trick is that we don't know until the end of the year what is available. ES can inquire.

Debbie C: difference is that the ES is more proactive. After purchasing cut-off on March 1, we spend surplus overall. At Truckee some parents have gone over-budget and we want to use unspent money.

BJ H: what about making it site based supporting a Truckee student from another Truckee student's unused budget.

Linda H: feels this is okay because we are trying to educate students as best we can.

Debbie C: conflict of receiving donations when we have unused instructional budget funds.

Stan M: make it site specific rather than ES specific.

Sandy M: the ES are managing funds for their students and are entrusted with this responsibility. All is reviewed by the Budget Review Board for approval.

Linda H: 2 parts: student who has a need and families who want to support local students.

Debbie C: if people didn't spend instructional budget, it goes into the general fund. It is actually a lot of money to spend and is a thoughtful process. Want to establish a form that accomplishes this goal

Steve C: when does action occur in the semester?

Linda H: 1 month into the semester when needs and budget needs become more clear. Budget must cover 4 core academics \$600, but want to continue to refine this plan.

Peter S: potential conflict needs to be reviewed and brought back to the Council for future discussion.

Discussion/Action

14. Block Class Donations Policy [Peter Sagebiel]

Related to item 13. This policy is being reviewed by attorneys

Susie Morris moves to table this item

Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Action

15. Field Trips: Ashland [Debbie Carter]

River Co-Op to Shakespeare Festival with parent chaperones.

Nancy Markson moves to approve the River Co-op field trip

Camille Taylor seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: One (Sandy S)

Action

16. 2nd Interim Budget [Debbie Carter]

Additional hand-outs provided - reviewed by Debbie C

Sandy S moves to approve 2nd Interim Budget

Linda Hill seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Action

17. Revised Supplemental Salary Schedule [Debbie Carter]

Handout distributed for review

Camille Taylor moves to approve Supplemental Salary Schedules to add category

Nancy Markson seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Sandy Saccomanno moves to approve Classified Salary Schedule to add flexibility

Nancy Markson seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Discussion

18. 2008-2009 Budget [Debbie Carter]

Still in process including restructuring.

Discussion

19. Scholarships [Larry Homan]

NU connection would not discuss details with Larry, but found out through other means that everything has gone digital through

web resources. There are a lot of scholarships out there through these web resources under a variety of categories for location. Easy to google search. Dawn and Janice should certainly have access to this and they are posted at our website. All are available through google searches. Is Ghodotti available? To see the scholarship packet for NU, you can find it at the NU site (www.nuhdsd.org/scholarships) . NU always has a scholarship night, which is nice to educate families, students are honored for academic achievement, etc. Done at the end of the year after scholarship have been awarded. Any scholarship was acknowledged.

Action

20. Items A and B may be considered for Consent Agenda:

- A. New contracts
- B. Warrants
- C.

Linda Hill moves to approve the consent agenda

Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Discussion

21. Director Update:

- Brown Act Workshop Rescheduled – no date given yet - Stan will let us know the date/time
- Student Achievement - addressed by Steve Canavero
- CCSA Conference – next week! 28 FCS representatives will be attending the Sacramento event. Reports will be given in March
- CAHSEE 10th Grade and 12th Grade – great turn out from 10th graders...only missing 7 students who will be captured in May. Four 12th graders need to take the test. STAR testing writing is Tuesday and the rest of the testing will take in April
- Pathways Student Information System and Report Writer Update – A pilot groups of 12 ESs are testing this program with Steve Canavero guiding/training. The office is ready to embrace this system starting with transcripts this year. It will be adopted in stages or increments. The 12 pilot teachers will help training other teachers
- Teacher who makes a difference – Steve Ross was nominated by Administrators for his enthusiasm and energy for student programs. Students love him and his contributions to our program. Will be acknowledged in March at the Miners Foundry

- Governor has put together a Governor's Academic Recognition award. Each county was to send a student. 3 students were nominated in Nevada County...Sandy nominated Vienna Saccomanno, who did not receive the award (perhaps because she is a Junior). [letter of acknowledgment read] She will be honored at a special event with all other nominees.

Information

22. Future Agenda Items:

Block Class Donations
Instructional Funds Transfer
2008-2009 Budget

Information

23. Reminder of Future 2007-2008 Meetings:

- April 22, 2008
- May 20, 2008
- June 17, 2008

Action

24. *Linda Hill moves to adjourn*

Sandy Saccomanno seconds the motion

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 pm