

Forest Charter School

Monthly Charter Council Meeting Minutes—August 18, 2009

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

5:30 p.m.

224 Church Street

Nevada City, CA 95959

Council Members:

Larry Homan, Chair-Community Member

Nancy Markson, Co-Chair/ES Representative

Linda Hill, ES Representative

Sandy Saccomanno, Parent Representative

Sue Barnickol, Parent Representative

Pam Barram, Parent Representative

Kathy Rodrigue, Parent Representative

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Minutes

Present: Larry Homan, Sandy Saccomanno, BJ Hatcher, Paul Simoes, Nancy Markson, Linda Hill, Sue Barnickol, Kathy Rodrigue, Pam Barram, Peter Sagebiel, Debbie Ayala-Carter, Janice Eggers, Steve Ross and Nancy Nobles.

Absent: none

1. **Call to Order:** 5:33 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Action: Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2009**

Linda Hill made the motion to accept the Minutes from June 16, 2009. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

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

Larry Homan asked the Council to move the Special Agenda closed session item to the end of the meeting instead of the scheduled 5:45.

Sandy Saccomanno made the motion to adopt the Agenda and move the closed session to the end of the meeting. Pam Barram seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

5. **Discussion: Other**

- Sandy Saccomanno presented a flyer about a local adolescent support group that she thought might be of interest to FCS students.
- Peter Sagebiel introduced the new Academic Dean, Paul Simoes; Truckee site coordinator, Janice Eggers; and Director of Technology, Steve Ross.

6. **Information/Action: Tech Plan** – Steve Ross

Steve explained to the Council an E-rate program he had been working on for the past several months. The program would include on-going rebates, hardware and software giving FCS thousands of dollars in savings. Steve said that there are many steps and forms to the set-up process and that a good “paper trail” will need to be kept if FCS is accepted since audits are common. He is hoping that the e-rate will be in effect sometime in 2010.

Steve also reported that he has been going over the tech needs and how FCS serves student technology needs.

No action was needed.

7. **Information/Action: Staff Tech Policy** – Peter Sagebiel and Steve Ross

Peter gave the Council members a copy of the Staff Tech Policy. He explained that technology has become a big part of FCS with Pathways being used by all employees and that privacy issues need to be stressed to staff members. Peter also told the Council that Steve Ross covers computer care and maintenance at staff meetings.

Pam Barram made the motion to accept the Staff Tech Policy. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

8. **Information: Student Achievement** – Steve Ross

Steve presented information on the EdPerformance student testing program. He reported that there had been “significant” gain scores in math last year. While EdPerformance shows a 70% student participation that doesn’t reflect the true number since FCS is a K-12 school and the testing is only for 2nd-11th grades. Steve will work towards getting a more accurate participation number.

9. **Information: TTUSD On-going update** – Peter Sagebiel

Peter explained that there was nothing new to report on negotiations with TTUSD as the schools have been busy with the start of the new school year. Peter said that Superintendent Holly Hermansen is slowing the pressure to make sure that this issue is handled properly. Peter also said that there is a possibility of a negotiation with Union Hill District in the future.

10. Information: G.R.A.S.P. (Governance, Renewal, Assessment, Strategic Planning – Peter Sagebiel

Peter reported that GRASP is making recommendations such as having policies in place to help FCS move to the next level of organization. GRASP was impressed with the efficiency of the completion of the surveys. FCS will take the recommendations made by GRASP and decide what works for the school. BJ said that while the suggestions are good, some are better suited for traditional schools.

Upcoming meetings:

- September 28th; MYM attorneys; administrators in the AM and administrators and Council members from 1-5pm
- November 9th; strategic planning day; Dave Guthrie and Jan Jablecki will facilitate; this is an all day meeting (times TBA)

11. Information/Action: Approval Special Education Salaries and Contracts – Peter Sagebiel

Peter explained to the Council that each of the six Charter Schools in the cooperative will pay a percentage of the special education employee's salary based on how much the employee is working at each school. For example, Shana Stratton will be paid 100% by FCS. The county wants the salaries and the salary schedule approved at a public meeting.

There are many details to finalize. The directors are meeting on September 1st to begin the discussion.

Peter had the salary schedule available and explained that there had been no changes to the schedule.

A resolution for a Special Education credit card was tabled pending further information.

Linda Hill made a motion to accept the 2009-10 Special Education salary schedule. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Pam Barram made a motion to accept the Employee contracts. Nancy Markson seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

12. Information: 2009/10 Budget Update – Debbie Carter

Debbie handed out a Budget Summary with information on the status of the 2009/10 budget and explained how the recent State budget cuts have impacted FCS. The summary and budget comparison reflected the current decrease in student ADA, approximately \$259,000 to the General Purpose Revenue.

Debbie explained that she is presently working on closing the books for the 2008/09 school year, which will reflect more accurate numbers. Based on the conservative direction the school supported in spending, it is expected that our numbers will look better. Once the books are closed, Debbie will focus on our SB740 Funding Determination and a revised budget model for 1st Interim.

Debbie reminded the Council that the ESs need to continue to *buy what you need not what you want*—be conservative.

13. Information/Action: FCS Foundation Update –Debbie Carter

Debbie asked the Council to approve money transfers and payment requests for the Foundation. Debbie provided the Council with a handout on the Foundation’s account and detailing where monies are sitting and how they need to be transferred and/or payments made.

Pam Barram made a motion to approve money transfers and payment requests. Linda Hill seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

14. Information/Action: Approval of Field Trips – Debbie Carter

Debbie asked the Council to approve two field trips:

- Ashland Shakespeare Festival field trip; Global Studies Academy; September 28-October 1, 2009
- Donner Lake Park field trip; Truckee 6th-8th graders; August 31, 2009.

Pam Barram made the motion to approve the field trips to Ashland, Oregon and to Donner Lake Park. Sandy Saccomanno seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

15. Information/Action: Approval of Credit Card; Resolution #0910-0150103 –Debbie Carter

Debbie requested approval from the Council for a credit card for the new Executive Director Peter Sagebiel.

Linda Hill approved resolution #0910-0150103, a credit card for Peter Sagebiel. Nancy Markson seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

16. Action: Consent Agenda – Debbie Carter

Sandy Saccomanno made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda new contracts and warrants. Pam Barram seconded.

Ayes: Five Nays: None Abstain: Linda Hill, Nancy Markson

17. Information: Director's Update – Peter Sagebiel

- **New School Year:** It has been a very busy and exciting time with classes getting ready to start, Back to School Day in Nevada City and Truckee and new enrollments. ESs are very busy meeting with their families.
- **Staff Development:** This week there was the annual Donner Lake staff development day. Janice, BJ and Linda H. set the agenda and did a wonderful job setting the tone using the cooperative nature of FCS. New staff was introduced to the group and had a chance to interact.
- **Co-ops (PACE, Foresthill):** The PACE co-op is close to being full and ready for their first get together this week.
Foresthill co-op has doubled in size and has hired a new ES, Julie Lagorio (Julie has worked for FCS in the past.) They have a new larger site with more parking with no increase in rent.
- **Professional development funds:** Peter said we had exciting news that the State has allotted monies for professional development opportunities. FCS did not budget for this and so this is a pleasant surprise. Possible conferences are A-Plus and California Charter Schools Association. Peter will look to see where FCS can expect the best value for the dollar.
- **Charter Council elections:** Peter reminded the Council that Larry Homan will be stepping down and that we have three parent positions open with Sue Barnickol and Sandy Saccomanno leaving. He has heard that a parent from the Foresthill area is interested.
- **Enrollment:** Peter said that it's "going strong", with many enrollment interviews being held at both sites. BJ said that there are approximately 70 spots left between the Nevada City and Truckee sites.
- **CAHSEE intervention funds:** FCS has received funds from the State that are not restricted to the 11th and 12th grades which will mean earlier intervention for students that need either small group or one-on-one tutoring.
- **Other:** Peter offered congratulations to the staff that attended and passed the CTCL training: BJ Hatcher, Candi Fyfe, Linda Hill, Paul Simoes. Janet Daniels also attended and has one portion to re-take.

18. Discussion: Future Agenda Items

- Credit card approval for Jeff Kirishian
- Change Council term dates

19. Discussion: 2009-10 Charter Council Meeting Dates

- 2009—September 15, October 13, November 17
- 2010—January 19, February 23, March 23, April 20, May 18, June 15

20. Discussion: Reminder of future meetings

- September 15, 2009
Truckee site; 4:30—car pool will be leaving FCS at 3:00

21. Adjourn: 7:04 PM

Linda Hill made the motion to adjourn. Pam Barram seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Date

Charter Council Approved:

Larry Homan, Chair

Date

Nancy Markson, Co-Chair/ES Rep.

Date

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Absent: none

Special Agenda

Closed Session

1. **Call to Order:** 7:05 PM
2. **Discussion/Action: Personnel/benefit recommendation for employee #10-103**

The Council discussed and voted on approval for benefit recommendation for employee #10-103.

Linda Hill made a motion to continue benefits for employee #10-103. Sue Barnickol seconded.

A roll call was taken:

Larry Homan – Aye
Pam Barram – Aye
Sue Barnickol – Aye
Kathy Rodrigue – Aye
Sandy Saccomanno – Aye
Linda Hill – Aye
Nancy Markson – Aye

Ayes: Seven Nays: None Abstain: None

2. Adjourn closed session: 7:10 PM

Linda Hill moved to adjourn the closed session. Pam Barram seconded.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Nobles, Secretary

Date

Charter Council Approved:

Larry Homan, Chair

Date

Nancy Markson, Co-Chair/ES Rep.

Date