

**FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL  
MONTHLY CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 19, 2008  
**Time:** 5:30 pm  
**Location:** 224 Church St., Nevada City, CA

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| <p><b>COUNCIL MEMBERS:</b><br/>Larry Homan, Chair-Community Member<br/>Nancy Markson, ES Rep.<br/>Linda Hill, ES Rep.<br/>Sandy Saccomanno, Parent Rep.<br/>Janice Comstock, Parent Rep.<br/>Sue Barnickol, Parent Rep.<br/>Annabelle Ziegenhagen, Student Rep.<br/>Theresa Smittle, Secretary</p> |
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**MINUTES**

Present: Larry Homan, Linda Hill, Sandy Saccomanno, Janice Comstock, Sue Barnickol, BJ Hatcher, Peter Sagebiel, Sandy McDivitt, Nancy Markson, Annabelle Schossig, Debbie Ayala, Theresa Smittle

Absent: None

Guests: Holly Hermansen

1. Call to Order 5:46 pm
2. **ACTION:** Approval of June 17, 2008 Charter Council Minutes (**Attachment A**)

Motion to approve: Sandy Saccomanno/Sue Barnickol

*Ayes: six          Nays: None          Abstain: one*

3. **OTHER:** 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.

4. **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Adoption of Agenda

Motion to Approve: Sandy Saccomanno/Linda Hill 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Ayes: All          Nays: None          Abstain: None*

5. **INFORMATION:** Tahoe Truckee Unified School District Update (Holly Hermansen, NCSOS Superintendent)

Holly Hermansen, NCSOS Superintendent, updated the council on the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) financial obligation of \$1.4 million dollars in student apportionment owed to FCS and Twin Ridges Home Study. It is the intent of NCSOS to maintain a "good neighbor" relationship since many services come from Nevada County and communication continues with TTUSD to release this critical payment.

Several conversations have occurred with Steve Jennings, the new Superintendent of TTUSD. Holly provided a brief background on how Steve Jennings walked into the job with many existing hardships and issues facing the school district and employee relations. Through their attorney, TTUSD requested public records from NCSOS, Forest Charter School and Twin Ridges Home Study. Holly and Steve Jennings met to discuss solutions at which time Steve Jennings indicated that the funds have been set aside and he should have more information by September 6, 2008. The county has requested, and CDE is providing, a letter indicating fiscal responsibility on the part of TTUSD. This letter will be sent to NCSoS with a copy sent to TTUSD.

NCSOS is willing to be somewhat flexible, but will be pursuing some concrete dates regarding receipt of the money. Sandy McDivitt and Holly Hermansen will be going up to Truckee to meet with Steve Jennings on August 20, 2008 to discuss Forest Charter's educational program and discuss the reason kids are leaving TTUSD and enrolling in Forest. The focus of this meeting is to establish a working relationship between TTUSD and the county.

High Tech High is in a similar situation in working with a Basic Aid district. The money in a Basic Aid district comes from in lieu property taxes. Ideally the State would bill TTUSD and collect the money and then allocate it to our school, but this is not the current process. TTUSD doesn't particularly want students back; they get no additional money. Under Basic Aid they receive about \$10,000 per student and do not receive any additional funding from the state. Pursuing other tactics are being considered and we will request a letter from our attorney if needed. Can Steve Jennings make this decision unilaterally? He will likely request approval from his Board. The Creekside situation has reduced their liability by approximately \$100,000 with 21 students now enrolled with district sponsored Horizon Charter School.

6. **INFORMATION:** CREEKSIDE/EL DORADO ENROLLMENT WITH HORIZON (Sandy McDivitt, Executive Director)

As of the June Charter Council meeting, Creekside students were going to enroll with Ackerman School District. However, Ackerman could not get on the school board agenda in time to approve a material change of the independent study component to their charter in time to enroll our students for the 08/09 school year. Superintendent Marilyn Gilbert is still interested in working with Forest in the 09/10 school year we would like to arrange occasional times when Ackerman students could go up to Tahoe and Creekside kids could visit Bowman School in the spirit of educational collaboration.

Sandy contacted Horizon Charter School to explore partnering with them. It was agreed that the 21 El Dorado County students would enroll in Horizon and contract into FCS to take Creekside Learning Center Classes. FCS would become a vendor for Horizon. Details such as Special Education are still being worked out but a solution is in the works and our Student Services Director, Jeff Kirishian on board. Pat Wingett from Horizon is drafting an MOU for review. Holly emphasized that the bottom line is the kids. Other details notwithstanding, the kids get to continue with no interruption in education.

Creekside parents are very grateful for this collaborative solution. The new Kindergarten Teacher who will work for both schools is Anne Chippendale, a local credentialed teacher who has taught swimming and skiing in the Tahoe/Truckee area. Anne will be a Horizon employee (.5 FTE) and the teacher of record. She will also continue as a .3 FTE employee for FCS. Horizon uses same Student Information System (Pathways) that Forest is adopting so monthly documentation will be compatible.

7. **INFORMATION:** TRUCKEE FACILITIES – (Sandy McDivitt, Executive Director)  
: Forest lost the Truckee facility due to area development last June and had made plans with Sierra College to sublet their existing building in the mornings for block classes. However, when the current Dean resigned the Board did not want to continue this option and the interim Dean felt that housing Forest students would be too much with the impending move to the new Sierra College facility. A good relationship has been established with Sierra College and the interim Dean felt that we could utilize the old site through December, once they have completed their move. In the meantime, Linda Hill, BJ and Janice Eggers have found sites for the K-8 students and continue to look for a facility for the High School block classes.

8. **INFORMATION:** FORESTHILL CO-OP (Sandy McDivitt, Executive Director)

At the end of the school year Leanne Engel called and said she had a fabulous teacher who would love to teach a co-op in Foresthill. This prospective Teacher, Erin Hunt, came in and interviewed with Sandy in June. She is a positive addition to the Forest staff. We currently have 21 students enrolling in grades 4-7. Leanne Engel will be mentoring Erin and helping to get things started.

9. **INFORMATION:** MCLAUGHLIN LEARNING CENTER – (Sandy McDivitt, Exec. Director)  
Thirty students enrolled with Forest and formed a cooperative with The McLaughlin Learning Center. The McLaughlin Learning Center is a licensed tutoring business which offers before & after school tutoring in addition to homeschooling support. Students are enrolled with Forest and Linda Smith and Heather Buck will be the teachers of record in this K-8 program.

10. **ACTION:** INSTRUCTIONAL BUDGET POLICY (Peter Sagebiel, Academic Dean)

In the Fall of 2005 the Instructional Budget Policy was first presented at Charter Council. At that time it was not met with a great deal of acceptance. The policy was subsequently edited and accepted but we neglected to put it on the agenda as an action item – we got the go-ahead but the policy was not officially ratified. The Budget Review Committee reviews individual cases as submitted by the ES. The committee would like to see instructional budgets more equally utilized between core and enrichment classes, however exceptions are often approved based on ES recommendations. Test scores are considered as part of the process so we can continue to be diligent and responsible stewards of public funds. Peter is putting together a Policy Binder.

Motion to approve: Linda Hill/Sandy Saccomanno 2nds

Ayes: *All*

Nays: *None*

Abstain: *None*

11. **INFORMATION:** SCHOOL PATHWAYS (Peter Sagebiel, Academic Dean)

Up to our knees in pathways and the overall response great. Our first training was held last Friday and the office staff has stepped up to embraced this new system. In the long run, it will represent a overall time savings; test reports are amazingly easy to bring up.

12. **ACTION:** APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIP TO ASHLAND, OREGON (Debbie Carter, Business Director)

Global Studies Academy (40 students) – September 29, 2008- October 2, 2008

Motion to Approve: Linda Hill/Sandy Saccomanno 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain None

13. **DISCUSSION:** CHARTER COUNCIL RESIGNATIONS/OPENINGS

Susie Morris – Parent Representative

Camille Taylor – Parent Representative

Asking for letters of interest by September 1. Larry and Sandy will set up election process.

14. **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Consent Agenda

A. New Contracts

B. Warrants

C: Resignation: Motion to Approve: Linda Hill/2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy Saccomanno

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain None

15. **INFORMATIONAL:** Director's Update

- Celebrate **What's Right with the World** at 9/16/08 Charter Council Meeting!
- Theme: "Supporting Students' Success Through Early Intervention" – BJ has been analyzing STAR results and Ed Performance and will meet with E.S.' regarding how to support students for their success.
- New employees: Erin Hunt, Paul Simoes, Alex Torres, and Anne Chippendale experienced their first team building day in August where Dominique Del Chiaro, (Middle School Department Head) presented learning styles to the entire staff – very interesting regarding how your learning style can change with time .
- Opening Day – 9-10:30 K-8. Becca will be taking student photo I.D.'s. and students will have an opportunity to sign up for block classes. The high school Opening Day will be from 11:00 till 12:30 where teachers will give high school students their approved schedule. Truckee is working with parents to support their students.

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Tech Trek at Stanford University: Samantha Saccomanno had a great time and was kept busy from 7:00 till 11:00 at night meeting many professional people. She originally signed up for Marine Biology but realized she preferred DNA and Robotics instead. Altogether, this was a valuable experience and one in which she represented both Forest Charter School and Nevada County.
- NASA Internship – Vienna Saccomanno emailed and kept Sandy McDivitt posted as to activities throughout her internship with NASA. She was able to present her project to 500 scientists! A 2 hour presentation! They have invited her back and have offered to pay for it.
- Global Studies Academy – Jen and Josh and the Idea Academy think so globally they decided to change the name to “**Global Studies Academy.**” In fact, we have a new foreign student from Tanzania.
- Academic Adventure Co-Op – exciting year with Dominique Del Chiaro – there is room for more 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Other – Costa Rica (Jen Homan) Summer Trip 2008 – Students volunteered at a school in Costa Rica. FCS teachers and students observed that the Costa Rican students were much more enthusiastic than American students are about education. Our teachers, Jen and Josh, were excellent team leaders. The trip was 12 days long during which the students stayed at different hotels and turtle stations. The students helped baby Leatherbacks and Greenback turtles hatch and keep them safe.

16. **INFORMATIONAL:** Reminder of Future 2007-2008 Meetings

- **September 16, 2008: DINNER AT SUNNYSIDE AT 4:30 -MEETING AT 6PM**
- October 14, 2008
- November 18, 2008
- No December meeting
- Jan 20, 2009
- Feb., 17, 2009
- Mar 23, 2009
- April 20, 2009
- May 19, 2009
- June 16, 2009
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17. Adjourn 7:03

Move to adjourn: Linda Hilla/2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy Saccomanno

Ayes: All      Nays: None      Abstain: None