

**Forest Charter School
Charter Council Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2006
224 Church Street, Nevada City, CA 95959**

Tuesday, August 22, 2006
Forest Charter School Resource Room

1. **Call to Order** 5:33pm
 2. **Roll Call/Present:** John Ferguson, Vienna Saccomanno, Larry Homan, Camille Taylor, Peter Sagebiel, Linda Hill, Nancy Markson, Jane McCardle, Sandy McDivitt, and Debbie Ayala **Absent:** Susie Morris, Sandy Saccomanno, BJ Hatcher **Guests:** Scott Ferguson
 3. **Flag Salute**
 4. **Closed Session** 5:34pm
 - Employee Resignation
 - District Update
 - Legal Update
- Open Session:** 5:50pm
5. **Other:** John announced that he will be resigning from the charter council effective tonight and withdrawing his son from the school based on a different philosophy than that currently at Forest Charter.
 6. **Review and Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2006.** Nancy made the motion to approve June 20th minutes as written. Camille Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None
 7. **Charter Council Resignation:** No Action
 8. **Charter Council Elections:** For the 06/07 school year the following positions are up for election:
 - 2 education specialist representatives
 - 1 student representative
 - 4 parent representatives
 - Charter Council Chair

Information will be disseminated through email and the September staff meeting. Interested persons are requested to submit a letter of interest to Debbie Ayala, Charter Council Secretary. All elections are scheduled to take place in September with new members attending the October meeting.

9. **Revised Salary Schedule:** Debbie submitted a revised salary schedule which reflects the following:

- Director of Planning & Evaluation: Salary increase and position defined as one day per week
- Creekside Oversight: position added

Larry made the motion to approve the revised schedule. Linda H. Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

10. **Approval of School Policies:** Peter presented the school policies which will, if approved, be part of the course catalog. In regards to the Minimum/Maximum Credit Policy, Scott asked why there was a limit on 40 units. Peter explained that it is a guideline to protect students from overloading their semester in addition to providing a creditable transcript to colleges and universities. Sandy pointed out that all of our policies can be challenged by an individual family or student at the High School Review Board (HSRB). Sandy and Peter explained the purpose and benefits of the high school review board. Scott felt it was too limited and the student should not have to go before a board. Typically a traditional school will offer 30 credits. The HSRB is intended as a ‘brainstorming’ session to help support the student, plus the formality of the board encourages the student to take the process seriously. In regards to 8th grade students not receiving high school credit – (i.e. math, language, health), Peter pointed out that an 8th grade student is at a different age level and will interpret material differently than a high school student. Again, school credibility is important. Larry pointed out that all colleges have different admission requirements. Scott did not agree that cutting the middle school students from receiving the high school credits. Linda pointed out that as a personalized learning program, ES’s are comfortable to challenge the policy on behalf of the student. Vienna felt that the HSRB would do everything in their power to support the student and it would be a win-win situation. Larry made the motion to approve the policies. Linda seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

11. **Fieldtrips:** Camille made the motion to approve the Red Rock Canyon, Pacific Crest Trail and Wolf Mountain Camp fieldtrips. Nancy Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

12. **Archery Class:** Debbie provided information about the archery class, which is held at the Grass Valley Vets Hall and taught by Steve Ross. Parents would like to pay for this class out of instructional budgets. Vienna made the motion to approve. Linda seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

13. **California Interscholastic Federation (CIF):** Debbie provided information on CIF. By becoming a member, our students would be able to develop teams and

compete against other CIF schools. Larry recommended we stay away from 'big' sports.

14. **Charter Revision:** *Tabled*

15. **Facilities follow up:** copies of the input from the facilities sub-group were handed out for review by charter council members to be discussed at the next meeting.

16. **Fundraising Options:** Debbie brought up the idea of selling t-shirts and sweatshirts with our new logo. One of our parents can provide this service at a fair cost to the school. Debbie also talked about offering to put business card size ads in the newsletters and an annual fee of \$50 to \$75. These could become our 'charter council scholarship fund'. Nancy brought up the 'equal exchange fundraising' which would be selling organic coffee's, teas, etc. Nancy would like to use this fundraiser to support science projects, equipment and field studies. As with any fundraiser, the first step is finding a parent, teacher or student to organize it.

17. **Strategic Planning:** *next steps* - Sandy discussed that, as part of our strategic plan, one of the goals was to develop an interactive website for providing a resource to our parents, students and teachers.

18. **Director's Update:**

- New Website: Sandy gave a presentation of the new website, highlighting the many areas of resources, information and communication.
- Inservice Days – Monday, 8/14, was our new teacher training. Wednesday, 8/15, was our team building day in Truckee. Thursday and Friday was at our administration offices and included all 46 members of our 2006/07 staff!
- Back to School picnic was held on the 21st for the Nevada City/Grass Valley area and on the 22nd for the Truckee site. Both were well attended. This is where the students can sign up for block classes and have their photo taken for student ID's.

19. **One Earth, One People:** Put on by Woodleaf Outdoor Schools is for High School students only and takes place once every 3 years. It is a week long residence camp which takes place in **September**. The cost is \$209/student, which includes room and board. For the coordinating teacher to attend, the cost is \$120. Nancy would like to be the coordinating teacher and take 10 FCS students. Nancy is requesting the board consider paying her cost of \$120 and that the students can pay for the \$209 out of student budgets. It is primarily targeted toward Juniors and Seniors. Camille suggested students were chosen by ES recommendation.. Nancy will talk at the staff meeting to get ES interest.

19. **Consent Agenda:** AYES: All NOES: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2006 at 5:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Ayala, Charter Council Secretary

Charter Council Approved:

Larry Homan – Interim Chair

Date