

FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL
CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, September 17, 2007, at 6:00 pm
Location: 10655 Pioneer Trail, Truckee, CA
Charter: 872

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:10 pm
2. **ROLL CALL/PRESENT:** Larry Homan, Chair, Community Member
Susan Morris, Vice-Chair, Parent Rep.
Camille Taylor, Parent Rep. (Secretary)
Nancy Markson, ES Rep.
Linda Hill, ES Rep.
Sandy Saccomanno, Parent Rep.
Vienna Saccomanno, Student Rep.
Sandy McDivitt, Executive Director
Debbie Carter, Business Director
Peter Sagebiel, Academic Dean
BJ Hatcher, Vice President
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
Vienna moves to adopt Agenda
Susie Morris seconds the motion
Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Sandy Saccomanno moves to approve the Minutes of the 8/28/2007 Meeting
Nancy Markson seconds the motion
Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: None
6. **OTHER:** Janice Comstock addressed the Council to thank the members for coming to Truckee for the meeting this month and for the work that is being done. Sandy initiated introductions of all members and their capacity on the Council.
7. **WEEKEND/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS:** While weekend and summer field trips relative to a course currently being studied by a student are covered by insurance, there will be no school credit for activities occurring outside designated school days as set forth on the school's calendar. However, educational preparation and follow-up occurring during designated school days may earn education credit.

DISCUSSION: Interest in year-round option in order to allow students who take courses in the summer to receive summer credits for those courses. Skeleton ES team to cover the summer session and an administrator. Larry indicates that summer school can be a can of worms and must be defined as to whether it is for remediation, enrichment or otherwise. Table the issue of summer or year-round school to another date.

Field trip policy is being tabled for review by Peter Sagebiel.

Susie Morris *moves to table the above policy for the field trip*

Linda Hill *seconds the motion*

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

8. **CASH IN LIEU DISCUSSION:** \$6,000 cap for insurance or cash in lieu. In 2003 that was changed to 50% benefit. Now, two perspectives, is it a contract benefit like salary or does it stand alone as a benefit program. With a focus on the purpose of providing benefits, the funds are not available to maintain the cash-in-lieu and still raising the benefits cap. At present, we cannot raise the cap. Grandfathering in all who currently have cash-in-lieu but not making this available to new employees. If we move to another insurance carrier, we might not have the option of cash-in-lieu. Raises do not cover benefit increases under current program. What is the best business decision versus the best personnel decision? This matter needs to be addressed for next school year. The decision will be made for all 5 charter schools under NCSoS.

Sandy Saccomanno *moves to table the issue of cash-in-lieu until more information is available*

Vienna Saccomanno *seconds the motion*

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

9. **FINGERPRINTING POLICY:** trying to keep our students safe. All parent and non-parent volunteers shall be fingerprinted for criminal record clearance if they will have contact with FCS students during any FCS school activity.

Sandy Saccomanno *moves to approve the fingerprinting policy*

Nancy Markson *seconds the motion*

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

10. **FIELD TRIPS:** Underground Gold Miners Museum field trip. Hard hats to be worn inside the mine. Linda Smith has attending this field trip, along with other schools and feels that the risk is not onerous. Parents sign a special liability waiver with the mine.

Sandy Saccomanno *moves to approve the field trip to the Mine.*

Nancy Markson *seconds the motion*

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. New contracts (Attachments posted at all FCS sites with agenda)
- B. Warrants (Attachments posted at all FCS sites with agenda)

Camille Taylor moves to approve consent agenda items

Vienna Saccomanno seconds the motion

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None

12. **DIRECTOR UPDATE:** updates regarding various FCS sites given by Camille Taylor (Creekside), Janice Eggers (Truckee), and Sandy Saccomanno (River Co-Op), Peter Sagebiel (IDEA Academy & K-8 Block Classes at St. Canice-a great new site), BJ Hatcher (High School block classes). All sites have experienced a very smooth start to the year, classes are engaging, sites are great, students are well-behaved, respectful and active participants in their classes.

- Update to Facilities Issues: In this year of transition and establishing a relationship with NCSoS. The constant challenge is to accommodate our blended program and provide adequate facilities for all classes. FCS has been actively looking to expand, but the cost of expansion is large and no “perfect” facility solution was found. FCS administration has decided to “hold tight” and do the best we can in order to find our perfect location and not jump into a less than ideal situation. Enrollment is strong and Sandy advises to proceed consciously and judiciously. Because we’re designated an Independent Study charter, we are ineligible for site grants. Jeff Rice is trying to establish a new designation of “Personalized Learning” which would allow such a grant.

- Global Studies at Forest:

Marion MacGillivray presentation Wed, 9/19 10:00-12:00 Marion's main topic to the IDEA Academy is on Rwanda. She was raised in South Africa and was greatly influenced by the Zulu and storytelling as a strong part of the culture.

India Pen Pal Project: Mother Miracle School and IDEA Academy pen pal project. Lower caste children in India will interact with FCS students to bridge the global gap.

Art Miles: several murals completed. The Union publication will be covering the project in the next couple of weeks. The project is really taking off and will be in Egypt in 2010.

- CCSA Certification: press release that FCS has been awarded CCSA Certification. This is a huge acknowledgment of our program.
- APLUS Conference and pre-conference Oct. 17th to 19th. Sandy is looking for a Charter Council Member to attend the October 17 workshop. 1-5 pm in Sacramento. Linda Hill volunteered to go.

13. **API (ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX) AND AYP (ANNUAL YEARLY PROGRESS) POWER POINT PRESENTATION** regarding STAR exam performance analysis (presented by Peter Sagebiel on behalf of Steve Canavero):

14. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** fundraising, cash-in-lieu, field trip credits in summer/weekends

15. **FUTURE 2007 MEETINGS:**

October 9, 2007 at 5:30 pm – Nevada City

November 13, 2007 at 5:30 pm – Nevada City

December *[no meeting scheduled]*

16. **ADJOURN:**

Sandy Saccomanno *moves to adjourn*

Vienna *seconds the motion*

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstain: None