

Forest Charter School Governance Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2006

Forest Charter School Meeting Minutes
Resource Room

1. Meeting was **Called to Order** at 5:41pm
2. **Roll Call/Present:** Larry Homan, Jane McCardle, Nancy Markson, Sandy McDivitt, B.J. Hatcher, Susan Morris, Camille Taylor, Vienna Saccomanno, Sandy Saccomanno, Linda Hill and Debbie Ayala **Guests:** Marcey Gist and Eli Gallop
3. **Flag Salute**
4. **Other:** Larry Homan introduced himself as interim chair for the Charter Council until elections. Larry also recommended considering a 'co-chair' position, from within the existing council, in the event the Chair was absent.
5. **Review and Approval of August 22, 2006 Meeting Minutes:** Vienna made the motion to approve the August 22, 2006 Minutes as written. Camille Seconded. AYES: All
NOES: None
6. **Elections:** The following people were elected to serve on the Charter Council:
 - Marcey Gist/Parent Representative 2 Year Term
 - Susie Morris/Parent Representative 2 Year Term
 - Maris Sanford/Parent Representative 2 Year Term
 - Nancy Markson/ES Representative 1 Year Term
 - Linda Hill/ES Representative 1 Year Term
 - Larry Homan/Community Member 1 Year TermLinda made the motion to elect Larry Homan as chairperson. Susie Seconded. AYES: All
NOES: None Larry appointed Debbie as charter secretary. Thanks were given to Vienna Saccomanno for her year of service as the student representative and Sandy Saccomanno, parent representative who will be leaving the council.
7. **District/County Update:** Sandy passed out the letter written by Terrance McAteer, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, to the TRESB Board addressing his concerns. She also introduced Eli Gallup, Director of Student Services and 20% interim superintendent for TRESB. Sandy invited council members to ask questions of Eli in regards to the current situation and any concerns they may have. Larry Homan has been invited to represent our school in an advice council assembled by Larry Meeks. Some of the issues raised were:
 - *Why is Stan Miller was no longer superintendent of TRESB* Eli could not disclose information regarding details except to say that Stan and the TRESB Board had a 'parting of the ways'.
 - *How will the public accusations of Larry and Carrie (budget wise) impact FCS.* Eli did not think there would be any budgetary ramifications to the school.

- *What happened?* Eli gave a brief overview of the current situation. Larry was to work at the county office full time, however accepted a job offer to return to TRES D after Stan resigned. Larry and Carrie had anticipated the loss of our 'out of county' schools, which would reflect a loss in ADA of approximately 25%. They developed, and implemented, a private enterprise which would offer business services to other schools and would offset this financial impact on the district. Part of Larry and Carrie's salaries would be supported by this private enterprise. Dave Taylor has been brought in by the county to become a liaison between the district and the county. There will be a special board meeting on October 17th at 5:15 at the district lodge for the TRES D school board to respond to the letter written by Terry McAteer. Dr Meeks in an information gathering process and Eli encouraged people to come to the board meeting.
 - Sandy M. pointed out that none of the charter school directors were asked for an opinion of Stan Miller and all of the director's were surprised to learn he was no longer our superintendent. She also reminded everyone that this school is healthy and thriving. Now is an opportunity to start with a clean slate and have a voice, possibly more educators as the district is restructured.
8. **One Earth/One People:** Nancy talked about the One Earth/One People week long outdoor education project. ES's are being asked to recommend students, but have received no response to date. Nancy and Jennifer Homan have about 5 or 6 students who may be interested. Nancy is requesting that students be able to utilize instructional budgets to attend (\$209 per student). She is also requesting the school pay her fee of \$120 as a Coordinating Teacher on the trip. Sandy S. made the motion to approve both requests. Vienna Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None
 9. **December Charter Council Meeting.** Camille made the motion to not call a December Charter Council meeting unless needed. Linda Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None
 10. **Current Enrollment and Growth:** Debbie informed the council that the current school enrollment is 603. If all of our ES's on staff went full time we could build to 621. Based on our current facilities, we are facing a 'space issue' to accommodate additional support staff, storage, etc. Block classes are increasing in class size, outgrowing our current location at Center for the Arts. Debbie recommended capping our enrollment at 621 until facilities could be found which would support growth. Sandy S. made the motion to cap enrollment at capacity based on our current ES staff, which would be approximately 600 – 630 students and to start researching facility options. Nancy Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None
 11. **Disenrollment Policy Language:** Peter handed out the draft policy of the FCS process to de-enroll a student. This policy allows us to find out earlier if a student is unsuccessful or not a fit for the school. BJ pointed out that the county SAR B process can be a very slow process. Sandy made the motion to approve the policy. Vienna Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

12. **Fieldtrips:** Nancy made the motion to approve the Incline Environment Center fieldtrip, Sierra Watershed fieldtrip and the Tiechart Aggregates fieldtrip. Nancy made the motion to approve. Camille Seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

13. **Directors Update:**

- Creekside: Sandy discussed the very successful beginning of the school year. The Creekside co-op has moved into a beautiful facility. They offer "enrichment Fridays" which include yoga, art, nutrition/health and gardening class. The gardening class has been serving the teachers and students lunch. There is also a multimedia class and computer lab (where students built a computer that is in the lab!) music and movement for younger students and a violin/cello class for the older students.
- High School Block Classes: All of the classes are full and classes have been capped at 20 students. B.J. and Michael are in charge of this program and doing a great job. Very positive attitude from students. 7th and 8th graders are not at the Imaginarium. K-8 block classes have been built around the Virtual Field Trips with the county helping to support this effort. Younger students are there in the morning and the older students in the afternoon. All students are invited to attend the Virtual Field Trips. Each month will sponsor a "theme"; this month is "underwater". Marcey was very impressed with the Virtual Field Trips and the interaction with the students. We are still hoping to find portables that can be placed at the Imaginarium site.

14. Consent Agenda: Sandy S. made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Nancy Seconded. AYES: All

Vienna made the motion to adjourn at 7:10p.m. Linda Seconded.

Our next meeting will be held on November 21, 2006 at 5:30

Respectively Submitted,

Debbie Ayala, Secretary

Charter Council Approval:

Larry Homan, Chair

Date