

**Forest Charter School
Charter Council Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2005**

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Forest Charter School Director's Office

AMENDED

1. Meeting was **Called to Order** at 5:36 p.m.

2. **Roll Call/Present:**

3. **Flag Salute**

4. **Closed Session:** 5:37 p.m.

Director's Evaluation

Open Session: 7:11 p.m.

5. **Other:** John read a letter from a parent which was not in support of the new FCS Instructional Budget Policy. John also read the policy to the board members. The policy states that 50% of the instructional budget may be spent on electives and 50% spent on student *core academics* electives. It further clarifies that this is a guideline and that families may be submitted to the Budget Review Board for further considerations. Sandy clarified how independent study programs are under close scrutiny by the State and that the policy was adopted by Faculty Council to embrace the following:

- Provide a clear direction on how we can shift the way parents look at the spending of "Public Funds".
- Supports the goals and objectives outlined in the Forest Charter School Single Plan. The Single Plan was approved by the Charter Council during the 2004/05 school year and supports appropriate education intervention.
- Supports the Education Specialist in communicating guidelines to their families on appropriate spending.
- Policy outlines that E.S.'s and families may submit requests to the Budget Review Board for further considerations; such as special education and unique situations.

Debra Ferguson questioned how many of our E.S.'s have been involved in traditional home schooling. She was concerned that the traditional home schooler was being lost in the State's current political environment and that students who are testing below basic should not be considered a 'red flag' for the school. Testing may not give an accurate accounting of how that student is actually performing. Debra also had concerns regarding credentialing policies and how the school should be able to hire teachers who are experts in their field but not credentialed. Sandy clarified that STAR testing was not the only assessment tool used by the school and that Ed Performance, *a criterion reference assessment*, was also being used very successfully. In addition, many schools were eliminating instructional budgets all

together and implementing school wide options. Olivia stated that the budget policy provided an excellent tool to step in and provide structure to families and students. BJ pointed out that the instructional budget and policy is explained during every new student interview. In regards to credentialing, the school is mandated to adhere to the NCLB guidelines. John and the Charter Council conceded that the school was taking the appropriate steps for school wide and student policy.

6. Review and Approval of August 16, 2005 Minutes: Olivia made the motion to approve. Sandy seconded. AYES: All NOES: None

7. Governance Council Workshop: Jane gave information on a workshop to be held on September 29th. All charter council members are invited and encouraged to attend. Sandy will invite all new charter council members. The importance of attendance was stressed. Need to RSVP by Monday.

8. Enrollment Update: 517 students currently enrolled with 6 pending.

9. School Budget: Debbie will have a revised budget for approval at the next meeting.

10. Elections: (Handout) Debbie provided the council with information regarding open positions. There are two openings for parent representatives and one community member which will be appointed by the council.

11. Pioneer Lease: Tabled until budget information is available.

12. Director's Update:

- Sandy and Debbie will be visiting the **Creekside** co-op, now home to 33 students. We will meet with the Truckee teachers and go by the proposed Pioneer site.
- **Block classes;** classes are off to a great start, however we may be closing a few classes due to low enrollment. The high school co-op is being held 3 days a week and very successful.
- **Aplus Conference** - Is being held in Sacramento on Oct 19 - 21st and is very reverent to our type of program. 20 of our teachers will be attending. No block classes will be held that week.
- **Breakthrough Coaching:** Tabled

Consent Agenda: none

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:35pm.

A Special Meeting was scheduled for October 5, 2005

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Ayala, Charter Council Secretary

Charter Council Approved:

John Ferguson, Chair

Date

Note: *Amended Text