

Natomas Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
**Minutes**  
September 18, 2007

Board Members (Bold Type=Absent)

- 1.) Charlie Leo – NCS Executive Director
- 2.) Tammy Lee – PFAA Coordinator
- 3.) Kit Rich – LE Coordinator
- 4.) Lynda Malka – PACT Coordinator
- 5.) Laura Bariel – ILP Coordinator
- 6.) Ron Dwyer-Voss – NUSD Board of Trustees Representative
- 7.) Holly Dallas – Community Representative
- 8.) Tina Chiginsky – Community Representative
- 9.) Anne Peggins – PFAA Parent Representative
- 10.) Edward Aguilar – LE Parent Representative
- 11.) Rick Stewart – PACT Parent Representative**
- 12.) Kaylah Cowan – PFAA Student Representative
- 13.) Harpreet Kooner – LE Student Representative

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Roll call was taken.

- III. Announcement of Items to Be Discussed in Closed Session  
Charlie Leo: Approval of released resignation of Brian Rivers and Carrie-Anna McCoy.
- IV. Public Comments Regarding Closed Session Items: None.
- V. Closed Session
  - A. Approved release resignation of Brian Rivers.
  - B. Approved release resignation of Carrie-Anna McCoy.
- VI. Public Comments: None.
- VII. Consent Items
  - A. Review and approve Board of Directors minutes from May 15, 29 and August 7, 2007.
  - B. Approve personnel changes.  
(Peggins/Aguilar). Motion passed to approve all consent items.
- VIII. Program Reports
  - A. PACT: Lynda Malka reported that PACT is up and running smoothly, with three spaces left.  
Advisors will take a few extra students.  
-Cathy Langer resigned, but doing BTSA.  
-Stacy Gould left us to stay home with her baby.  
- New teacher, Rory Wright, is acclimating well and fits right in.  
-Added a Seventh grade Science class and a 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade Science lab class called “Real Science for Kids,” taught by a PACT parent, Steve Ruder.  
-We are also offering an Algebra class, and have added a Math tutoring class for more support for our students in math.  
-Moved dance classes back on campus. Our instructors are from Studio T Urban Dance Academy. A PFAA alumnus is one of the teachers.  
-CHES will be a non-diploma, certificate of completion track due to A-G matching up difficulties with the unique classical curriculum choices the High School students have to use.

-Two PFAA students doing SP with PACT

- Drama, 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade

-Audition process

-Skate Night Tonight

9/19: Parent Focus Group on WASC.

9/20: Setting Limits with a Strong-Willed Child.

Charlie Leo: The issue with PACT is space. The VIP Center was added five years ago. We are in the process of investigating the possibility of moving across the street to the old SVTHS building. Then we might also be able to Increase PFAA slightly and move PACT, to make more space for PFAA.

B. ILP: Laura Bariel reported that ILP had a good start to the year, with excited new students.

- New classroom, D-1.

- Open House will be held October 10<sup>th</sup>. (6-7's)

- Washington, D.C. trip scheduled for March.

- Schools Now calendar.

- SP: Photo, zoo, animal care, Indy cars, teacher, filmmaking, dance, music.

C. PFAA: Tammy Lee reported that PFAA had a great start to the new year.

- Summer School S2 Algebra 1 and Pre-Algebra classes -- students got to move on and not repeat this fall.

- The new teachers are wonderful.

- Added a French 3 class with 12 students.

- New Arts and Outreach Coordinator, Candice LaMarche, 30% BEN, 70% PFAA.

- Counselor Jilian Tinkle, college/career preparation, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade formal four-year plan. Ms. Tinkle is doing a great job with the kids.

- Parents and students are invited to attend workshops on college application process: Sept 25<sup>th</sup> CSU workshop; Oct 2nd and Nov. 1st UC workshop and Financial Aid workshop.

- P.E teacher 6<sup>th</sup>, Rich Farwig from SVTHS – kids and teachers love it!

- Little Shop of Horrors will run two weeks, beginning Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., opens Student Art Show.

- PFAA Expansion for 2008/2009 – Pro's and Cons

Pros:

+Journalism – academic electives.

+More tech advanced classes.

+More arts teachers – bigger casts and shows.

+Foreign language program.

+Creative writing pathway.

+More ballet and choreography classes.

+Sub calling service.

+Musical theater/piano classes.

Cons:

-More facilities – computer labs – science labs/locker room.

-Master schedule issues.

-School culture – small learning community – when lost?

-Fresh perspective with new students.

Charlie Leo: Favorable discussion with the staff regarding the PFAA program's improvements; the improvements would have very little impact on district enrollment – mostly out of district.

-Tina Chiginsky: Changes to the audition process making interest in the arts a priority has been favorable.

- D. Leading Edge: Kit Rich reported that summer school was a great success.
  - Teachers identified students who needed remediation and have assigned them to after school classes.
  - The Math Cadre has met twice already. They discussed subgroups, and on WASC day went more in depth.
  - LE will have late start every Wednesday this year. The extra time will be used to focus on program improvement.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders just got back from Ashland, students held their first dance, and Leadership students attended the annual middle school conference.
- E. Enrollment Report: Charlie Leo reported: In district in PFAA, 63%; In district in LE, 100%; In district in PACT, 30% (before 4%); and ILP percentage is up too.
- F. Facilities Update: Charlie Leo reported that the gym's completion date is March 1, 2008, with a \$1.4 million cost more than planned three years ago. NCS will share the cost with the district on a payment plan, with no interest charged. (Aguilar/Chiginsky) Motion passed to approve the gym repayment plan.

IX. Discussion/Informational Items

- A. Bus Fees and Increases: Charlie Leo stated NCS started charging fees in 2002/2003 to cover one-third of the cost. Costs have increased over the years. The State pays 40-cents per \$7.00 of the cost.
  - Corrections to spreadsheet – new spreadsheet: District gives free passes to free/reduce lunch. NCS only gives 50% discount to free lunch students and no discount to reduced lunch students.
  - District is not supposed to charge NCS for free and reduced lunch students' transportation.
  - Ron Dwyer-Voss voiced concern about the process of raising fees without discussion for families/public communication with families. Place to mark free or reduced lunch on form.
  - Are the same number of students taking the bus this year? What impact did it have?
  - Kit Rich: Can we get RT services with the district to help with busing like Sacramento City USD?
  - Ron Dwyer-Voss: Free and reduced lunch students might sign up to get bus services.
  - Charlie Leo: Next steps:
    1. Call F/R to see if they would take the bus if free. Do a random sample survey, i.e., "Survey defines situation to families and gets information on how we can help get students to school."
    2. Need to clarify calculation with John Crist at NUSD to determine financial impact.
- B. Business Office – 2006-2007 Unaudited Actuals: Not finalized. Final report will be issued when the District completes.
  - Charlie Leo reported:
  - Healthy budget.
  - Mini grants for the programs.
  - Toward salaries and benefits for the future.
  - Facilities for PACT.
- C. Board of Director Terms and Assignments: Tabled for next month.

X: Action Items:

- A. Approval of ILP Handbook and Policy Changes. (Lee/Aguilar) Approved.
- B. Approval of Resignation of Brian Rivers. Approved
- C. Approval of Resignation of Carrie-Anna McCoy. Approved
- D. Approval of SCOE Signatures. (Dwyer-Voss/Peggins) Approved.

- E. Approval of updated required signature list for the Sacramento County Office of Education. (Dwyer-Voss/Peggins) Approved.
- F. Approval of Gym Repayment Plan

XI. Board Reports and Comments:

- A. Ron Dwyer-Voss: CSBA magazine article on charter schools was balanced, csba.org.
- B. Charlie Leo: Benarts.org. Theater shows coming up. Board gets complimentary tickets.

XII. Future Board Agenda Items: None.

XIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned. (Aguilar/Lee).

Overview of API by Ting Sun:

- A. After two years of significant growth, NCS did not make 0 growth on its 2007 API.
  - expected some slow down after two years of tremendous growth
  - students took the STAR test right after spring break, which likely contributed to little/no increase.
  - School did not meet growth target overall (expected to grow by 1 pt once a school is above 800 API).
  - Actual growth by subgroups: AA: +6; Hisp: -3; Soci/Econ: -1; White: -5. Our subgroups are small, so a few students impact it quite a bit.
  - 2007 Scores: NCS=0; LEA=4; CA=6.
  - New Asian subgroup (highest scores).
- B. 2007 API Base Scores will come out in February or March of 2008.
- C. CAHSEE (10<sup>th</sup> graders in 2007):
  - ELA: 98% passing rate; MA: 95% passing rate
  - In 2006, 60% of African Americans passed; in 2007, 100% of African Americans passed.
- D. AYP
  - NCS made AYP meeting 24 or 24 criteria.
  - School is making good progress overall on the percentage of students at proficiency for both ELA and MA under NCLB Annual Measurable Outcomes.