

Natomas Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
**Minutes**  
October 16, 2007

- I. Meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Holly Dallas. Introductions were made and new members welcomed.
- II. Roll call was taken: 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 – Community Representative**
  - 10.) Joan Finch-Allen – PFAA Parent Representative
  - 11.) Edward Aguilar – LE Parent Representative
  - 12.) Rick Stewart – PACT Parent Representative
  - 13.) Nicolas Murphy – PFAA Student Representative
  - 14.) Sunil Singh – LE Student Representative
- III. Announcement of Items to Be Discussed in Closed Session: None
- IV. Public Comments Regarding Closed Session Items: None.
- V. Closed Session: None
- VI. Public Comments: None.
- VII. Consent Items
- A. Review and approve Board of Directors minutes from September 18, 2007. Tina Chiginsky mentioned misspellings of names in item V.
  - B. Approve personnel changes.  
Consent items were unanimously approved.
- VIII. Program Reports
- A. Leading Edge: Kit Rich reported that the Late Start Wednesdays for Leading Edge have been focusing on two items -- Restructuring and Proctoring of STAR Exams, and Student-Led Conferences. 8th graders had Colonial Day October 16<sup>th</sup>, and made their own costumes with a lot of enthusiasm. Girls Volleyball took third place in the league tournament. There will be a Sports Banquet for the volleyball and soccer teams. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are excited about their D.C. trip, and all but 13 students are going.  
- Sunil Singh reported on the Leadership Club's activities: Held a Jungle Dance; currently having a See's Candy fundraiser; members have formed committees and attended a conference on balloon decorations.
  - B. PACT: Lynda Malka reported PACT Educational Advisors are in the process of setting up Academic Support plans for PACT students who scored below or far below basic on the STAR test. Our STAR data from last year shows that this has helped PACT students move to higher levels on the STAR test. PACT will be hosting Parent Workshop week next week

- with a variety of topics to support Parent teachers. PACT kicked off this year's St. Jude's Math-a-Thon fundraiser which will run until November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The goal is to raise more than the \$1,000 raised last year. PACT student Colin Andrews is collecting tech waste on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> to raise money for babies born with cleft palates. Upcoming Events: Kirtland's Pumpkin Patch, Junie B Jones Play, Whole Foods Market Nutrition tour, Maidu Field Day.
- C. ILP: Laura Bariel reported that ILP is creating STAR Strips that will show a student's past scores back to 2005. These will be used to help students set goals for this year. Back to School Night was a success, with 50% of the students represented. The last enrollment and orientations will be held next week for this semester. ILP currently has two fundraisers for the Washington, D.C. trip: Dinners My Way and Candy Grams. With the new 90% work completion requirement, 42 out of 80 students have earned 100% attendance. Fewer students have decided not to attend the program this year. Mrs. DeWolfe is leading the start of a literary and art journal. The Learning Center monitor, Linde Freeman, is leaving to accept a position as a librarian. Her replacement, Michelle Middleton, will be on board October 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - D. PFAA: Tammy Lee reported the hiring of new music teacher, Cornelius Cata. Mr. Cata is a brass specialist from Tokay High School, and rounds out the music program. We are hoping to hire new math teacher, Monica Justice, who is currently teaching in the Bay Area. Ms. Justice specializes in working with students who struggle with math, and is also a dancer. The Little Shop of Horrors play begins November 8<sup>th</sup>. Last Friday was a minimum day, so the Arts teachers met as a Production Company and the Middle School teachers met as a team to articulate between grade levels. The arts and education teachers are excited with the plans. Miss Munster and Mr. Landry have volunteered to be advisors for the yearbook.
    - Nicolas Murphy reported on ASB activities: Halloween Dance is scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup>; may have to be rescheduled if it interferes with the Philharmonic Symphony performance. The Environmental Club will be working with the recycling bins. Seniors are starting their graduation plans.
  - E. Enrollment Report: Kit Rich reported a mistake in the Enrollment Report in the 9/12/07 PFAA section, 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - F. Facilities Update: Charlie Leo reported that the gym's construction is ahead of schedule and will be completed before March 1, 2008. The process of determining if the warehouse will be big enough to house PACT is continuing. An architect will draw schematics to help with the final determination. Benvenuti Center's upcoming events: Sacramento Philharmonic Symphony and World Beat in November; Nat King Cole, the Musical is in December; Fiddler on the Roof is scheduled in the spring and will be an adults only dinner presentation. For more information, check out the Benvenuti website: [benarts.org](http://benarts.org).

#### IX. Discussion/Informational Items

- A. Election of Chairperson and Officers: Ed Aguilar has been re-elected as the Leading Edge Parent Representative. Joan Finch-Allen is the newly elected PFAA Parent Representative. Nicolas Murphy is the new PFAA Student Representative and Sunil Singh is the new Leading Edge Student Representative. There are currently three Community Representatives: Holly Dallas, Tina Chiginsky and Anne Peggins, and there can only be two members. The Board will vote to select the two Community Representatives at the next meeting. Holly Dallas has been the chairperson for three years, and a Board member for 11 years. Appreciation was expressed by Charlie Leo and Ed Aguilar for Holly's dedication and service. Edward Aguilar was voted unanimously as the new Chairperson (Leo/Dallas), and immediately began facilitating the meeting.
- B. Consulting for Smart Foundation: Charlie Leo reported on developing a working relationship with the Smart Foundation, a group of philanthropists who have created inner-city charter schools for socioeconomically disadvantaged students (primarily in Connecticut and New York). They want to create a similar charter school in San Diego,

Sacramento or Bay Area (California). The Smart Foundation has made a request that Charlie Leo assist them for one to two days per week as a consultant. One of the two days would most often be a regular weekday; the other day could be over the weekend and/or another weekday. There would be no set schedule, and the days would depend on the needs of the current project. The consulting period should not go beyond June, 2008, but could possibly go beyond this date.

Advantages to NCS:

+NCS would develop new contacts and relationships.

+NCS can use any ideas, curriculum and information from the Smart Foundation.

+NCS' Business Service Department will provide fiscal services to the Smart Foundation, for a fee, as we do for other schools. With the development of additional schools developed by the Smart Foundation, more business could be generated for NCS' Business Office.

+The Foundation has also requested that NCS hire a new employee for the Smart Foundation, with a service fee attached to each employee hired. A hold harmless agreement would be part of the agreement.

+NCS would not cover Charlie Leo's salary the two days per week regardless of whether or not he works two weekdays; therefore, 40% of his position is being paid for by the Foundation despite it being charter school-related work and experience. This will result in a substantial savings to NCS.

+The Foundation will be paying service fees to have NCS' Business Office handle the accounting, payroll and other business services at least through the 07/08 school year.

+Charlie Leo would gain new knowledge and insights into charter school operations, which would benefit NCS.

Charlie Leo reminded the Board that other employees had duties and provided consulting for other organizations and that NCS had benefited as a result. Charlie emphasized that NCS is, and will continue to be, his number one priority. Charlie stated that any additional fees or compensation beyond his regular daily rate would be paid by the Foundation despite being added to his regular pay.

- C. NUSD Board Report and Charter Renewal: Charlie Leo reported that he and the NCS Coordinators presented NCS' performance to the NUSD, and requested the renewal of NCS' Charter. Tammy Lee reported that a student NUSD Board Member shared how impressed he was with NCS' test scores.
- D. Bus Fees: Charlie Leo stated the issue of whether or not NCS will provide free or reduced bus fees were a topic of discussion at the last meeting. To obtain more information, two surveys were conducted to families receiving free or reduced lunches, asking if they would use bus service if the fees were reduced. Results from the first survey: 22.9% of respondents said bus fees are too high. Results from the second survey: 18% of respondents said fees are too high. Does the Board want to offer free and/or reduced bus fees? If yes, when should the fees take effect? If this year, next semester would be a good time to start. NCS would have to refund any fees already paid by affected families. Charlie Leo reported the money would come from the general revenue fund and would total \$10,000-12,000 per year if the bus fees are free. Charlie Leo recommended that families receiving free lunches should receive free reduction in bus fees. Tammy Lee supports the NCS philosophy of supporting all students, and providing assistance so a student can attend NCS. Nicolas Murphy and Rick Stewart agreed and supported free bussing for free and reduced-lunch students. Closing comments by Ed Aguilar is to take action next meeting on free or reduced bus fees.

- X: Action Items:
- A. Amendment of Lottery Preference: Tammy Lee explained how a loophole has been found in the current lottery policy. The amendment would remove the loophole. The amendment was approved unanimously. (Stewart/Finch-Allen).
  - B. Resolution Authorizing Application for a Certificate of Consent...: Charlie Leo explained that because charters schools are non-profit 501C3, the Joint Power Authority is requiring them to submit the application as a formality in order to be covered under the liability insurance umbrella. Charlie Leo has not been told that this application would have any increase in costs to NCS. Motion passed unanimously to submit the application. (Lee/Dallas)
- XI. Board Reports and Comments:
- A. Charlie Leo will be meeting with all new board members in the near future.
  - B. Ed Aguilar requested a half-day retreat for the Board, during the evening or weekend, before or after the holidays, but the sooner the better. Charlie Leo will look into options and email Board members.
  - C. All Board members wrote down their contact information, so a list can be created and distributed to all.
  - D. New chairperson, Ed Aguilar, welcomed the new student representatives.
- XII. Future Board Agenda Items: Charlie Leo requested that Benvenuti Update be a new agenda item.
- XIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned. At 7:09 p.m. (Stewart/Murphy).