

Natomas Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
May 20, 2008

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.) Jennifer Baker – NUSD Board of Trustees Representative (Present by telephone).
 - 7.) Holly Dallas – Community Representative
 - 8.) Tina Chiginsky – Community Representative
 - 9.) Edward Aguilar – LE Parent Representative
 - 10.) Rick Stewart – PACT Parent Representative**
 - 11.) Joan Finch-Allen -- PFAA Parent Representative
 - 12.) Nicolas Murphy – PFAA Student Representative**
 - 13.) Sunil Singh – LE Student Representative**
- I. Ed Aguilar called meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
- II. Roll call was taken. Members of the public introduced themselves as Ted and Juliane Link-Oberstar the parents of a PFAA applicant, and Tammie Bissa, parent of a PACT student.
- 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: Ted and Juliane Link-Oberstar requested copy of agenda item IXA.
- VII. **Consent Items**
- A. Review and approve Board of Directors minutes from March 18, 2008 and April 2, 2008. Jennifer Baker requested a revision to item VIIIA in the March 18, 2008 minutes.
 - B. Approve Personnel Changes:
New Hires: None
Resignations: Susana Guzman, Secretary
(Leo/Dallas) Motion passed by unanimous vote to approve all consent items.
- VIII. **Reports**
- A. LE: Kit Rich reported that the LE track team took second place in the league track meet. Over 30% of LE students came out for track. All 5th graders, except 2 students, showed up for the entrance exams. Scores

were up 10%. 8th graders field trip to San Jose was last week and 8th grade portfolios are happening this week. 8th grade field trip to San Jose last week

- B. PFAA: Tammy Lee reported “Fiddler on the Roof” was very successful. The orchestra was made up of professional musicians and students. PFAA held workshops for 3 days prior to STAR testing. Each student received a copy of their STAR scores from last year. Students were excited to see their results and to come up with ideas to improve this year’s score. 6th grade just had their variety show. Over 300 people attended. Spring Dance Celebration is this week. 6th grade won the Sacramento Video Award out of 45 entries.
- C. PACT: Lynda Malka reported that PACT had a 94% turnout for STAR testing. 182 out of 245 students are returning next year, with 36 undecided. This is a larger percentage of students coming back than last year. The Open House Extravaganza on May 8th was a huge success. The event raised \$3,100. PACT recognized its 8th graders at the Extravaganza by presenting each student with a promotion certificate. Small Business Day occurred May 20th. Upcoming events: June 2: Family Skate Night, June 3: Laser tag with 8th graders, June 5: Fine Arts Festival, June 10: Dance Recital in the Benvenuti, June 11: Piano Recital in the Benvenuti.
- D. ILP: Laura Bariel reported that ILP students took the STAR test. Students did one on one goal setting with their teachers. The results of the high school exit exams show that 24 out of 27 students passed. All high school students did well on CAHSEE. Junior and senior students went on a field trip to the American River College Art and Technology Festival. On May 19th, Earth Science students visited the Black Chasm Caverns. Senior Project panels are happening this week and the students are doing well thus far. Finals are June 6-11; graduation June 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Amphitheater. Next year will offer a Public Leaders Apprenticeship Network Sacramento (PLANS) pathway that will provide students with public service and skills needed to go out in the workforce.
- E. Enrollment Report: No change in student total.
- F. Facilities: Charlie Leo will provide a tour of the new gym. PACT relocation going well, the zoning was approved by the County. Construction should be completed in approximately 120 days. Will move 50% of PACT into space next door to their new location until new location is ready; ILP will move into vacated PACT space. Purchasing two new portables for PFAA expansion. Music room will be expanded to accommodate larger orchestras and bands. Business Office will be assisting the new Twin Rivers District that has nine charter schools. Business Office will be utilizing part of the VIP center to house their expansion.
- G. Benvenuti: Next community performance is Sippy Cups for kids ages 3 to 8.

IX. **Discussion/Informational Items**

- A. Amendment to Lottery Policy. Ted and Juliane Link-Oberstar requested a copy of agenda item IXA. Up to 35% of applicants could receive audition preference. 49 students accepted by audition preference. Put a

cap of 1/3 of number of students enrolled rather than 1/3 of applicants. Audition Preference given to students who score within the top 85% in the audition. The audition preference allows out-of-district students interested in the arts a chance to get accepted. Jenifer Baker questions the percentage given to audition preference. Tammy Lee stated that PFAA was getting a lot of students not interested in the arts and that's what started the audition preference. The teachers and students have noticed a difference in the level of student interest in the arts. 19 out of the 49 students accepted this year are out of district. Charlie Leo stated that in December 2006 and January 2007, NCS performed extensive research prior to requesting the Board approve the audition preference. Jennifer Baker voiced concern about the number of students being accepted by a preference rather than the lottery, and that the NUSD is spending resources on out-of-district students rather than in district. Tammy Lee stated that for incoming 6th graders, out of 141 applicants 68 accepted students are in district, and 19 are out of district.

Ted and Juliane Link-Oberstar stated that their daughter applied to PFAA and was put on the wait list. They are concerned about the application process. The purpose and process and the importance of the audition preference was not explained to them. The criteria used to grade the audition were not provided to the student beforehand. They would like to know what the students were evaluated on and how the scores were arrived at. Charlie Leo explained that the audition is used to determine if the student has an interest in the arts. If the Link-Oberstar's want an appeal, it will be a closed item meeting appeals case held in the next two weeks.

- B. Lottery/Admissions Appeals moving to a closed session to be scheduled in the next two weeks.
- C. Graduation/Promotion Ceremonies. Board members are encouraged to attend. Let program coordinator know that you will be attending, so a chair can be set up for you.
- D. WASC & API. Charlie Leo reported that WASC accredited all programs. NCS was given the highest WASC recommendation, with no review required for six years. API: 2007 scores not public information yet. NCS improved over last year's great score. API scores will be discussed at next meeting.
- E. NCS Bus Transportation for 2008/09. Charlie Leo reported that only 90 out of 1,100 students ride the bus, at a cost of \$151,000. Looking for ways to eliminate bus transportation and finding alternatives for the 90 students who ride the bus. Bus transportation is not a required service. Talking to the district about options and investigating different avenues. Will discuss more at the next general board meeting. Would like feedback (ideas, options, etc.) from Board members. Tina Chiginsky suggested contacting North Natomas Transportation inquiring whether their services could be utilized. Jennifer Baker wanted to know the number of bus riders who received free or reduced lunch. Out of the 90 bus riders, 14 students receive free/reduced lunch. Of the 14 students, 4 are regular round-trip riders, 6 are one-way riders, and the rest buy tickets occasionally. Would like to get information out to parents by June that the Board is considering reducing or eliminating bus transportation.

X. **Action Items**

- A. Amendment to Lottery Policy. Action item to Amend the Lottery Policy was passed (Lee/Chiginsky) with one opposing vote by Jennifer Baker who questions the percentage number of students being accepted.
- B. Changes to PFAA Graduation Requirements. Students have been taking art classes in 6th grade to build a foundation. Some students do not have the background required to do a senior project. Some students are dabbling rather than pursuing a specific discipline. Change it to that 6th grade students take 4 arts classes, 7th grade students take 3 arts classes, and 8th grade students take 2 arts classes. By 9th grade, the students should know what they want to pursue. Students will take Health in 9th grade instead of 8th grade. The University of California recommends that students take World Geography. The arts requirement affects next years juniors and above 2010. Counselors will help. (Chiginsky/Finch-Allen) Unanimous vote.
- C. Resolution to Finance Tech Equipment. Item tabled by Charlie Leo. Might need to increase the amount of the loan to get a better interest rate. May add the portable classrooms to the loan. The sound board came with the theater needs to be replaced. Will receive a refund eventually. Also need to purchase additional sound board equipment and the business office needs additional equipment. Tabling the item won't affect anything.

XI. **Board Reports and Comments.**

XII. **Future Board Agenda Items.**

- A. Discuss alternatives to providing school bus transportation to students.
- B. Next Board Meeting scheduled for June 17, 2008.

XIII. **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.