

Natomas Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
October 21, 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
- 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.) Georgia Schaaf – LE Parent Representative
- 13.) Carissa Meagher – PFAA Student Representative
- 14.) Pete Hernandez – LE Student Representative

I. Ed Aguilar called meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. Roll call was taken. Joan Finch-Allen arrived at 5:40 p.m. Charlie Leo introduced Lori Marshall, Student Services Coordinator; Patrick Broughton, Student Affairs Coordinator; Pete Hernandez, LE Student Representative; and Carissa Meagher, PFAA Student Representative. Charlie mentioned that discussion and action items would be presented out of agenda order to accommodate the schedules of individual's presenting. Pete Hernandez mentioned his requirement to leave the meeting at 6:30 pm to allow time for homework completion.

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 Director's Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2008 and closed session on September 16, 2008 (non-employee Board members only). (Baker/Stewart). Approved unanimously.
- B. Approve Personnel Changes. Change that Cindy Bauman is an ILP teacher. (Stewart/Finch-Allen). Approved unanimously.

- C. Approve Ting Sun attending the NACSA Conference (National Authorizers of Charter Schools Association) registration fees. (Chiginsky/Dallas). Approved unanimously.
- D. Approve Ed Aguilar attending the California Latino Boards Association 2008 Unity Conference registration, overnight accommodations and travel. (Chiginsky/Malka). Unanimous approval with Baker abstaining due to affiliation with the Association.
- E. Approve Comprehensive Safety Plan. (Dallas/Bariel). Approved unanimously.
- F. Add Patrick Broughton, new Student Affairs Coordinator, and remove Chris Perry, former Student Affairs Coordinator, as signatory for the NCS revolving and clearing accounts. Finch-Allen/Malka. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Reports

- A. Leading Edge: Tabled for next meeting due to lack of time.
- B. PACT: Lynda Malka reported that PACT moved out of their old space and into a temporary space in June. Recently experienced odors and employees not feeling well at temporary space, so they have temporarily evacuated until the results of an air quality review is completed. Hope to be in new building by Christmas and will hold an Open House.
- C. PFAA: Tabled for next meeting due to lack of time.
- D. ILP: Tabled for next meeting due to lack of time.
- E. Enrollment Report. Tabled for next meeting due to lack of time.
- F. Facilities Update. Tabled for next meeting due to lack of time.
- G. Benvenuti Update. Tabled for next meeting due to lack of time.

IX. Discussion/Informational Items

- A. NCS Board Appointments to the Natomas Arts and Education Foundation. Ting Sun stated that the initial plan was for the NAEF Board and the NCS Board to overlap. NAEF is requesting that the NCS Board appoint two or three members to the NAEF Board at the next NCS Board meeting. NAEF will change its bylaws accordingly to reflect that NCS will appoint members to NAEF. The appointed members would report back to the NCS Board on the activities of NAEF.
- B. WASC Action Plan Update. NCS has to report back to WASC in three years on what NCS is doing to obtain the goals listed in the School-Wide Action Plan. Ting Sun reviewed each goal and explained what has been implemented to date to meet the goals.
- C. NCS Academic Performance Report. Ting Sun gave an in-depth explanation of API and CAHSEE and NCS's student achievement scores in all categories. NCS has made excellent progress schoolwide and by significant student subgroups. Tammy Lee and other coordinators made a concerted effort last year to review each student's test scores with them last year and to explain the importance of doing well on these tests to students and to the school.
- D. ILP Policy Change Update. Laura Bariel discussed the improvements in student performance after the ILP change in policy last year. There has been a reduction in the number of failing grades and SARB notices issued. Students are more serious about doing well. Grades and attendance have both improved. Raising the bar has made students work harder.

- E. Parent Hours Options. Ed Aguilar was representing several parents who have indicated it is a hardship for them to meet the 30 volunteer hours per year requirement. Jennifer Baker stated the possibility that the parent volunteer requirement is a deterrent for single parents to have their student apply. It was stated that students and relatives could earn the volunteer hours. Jennifer stated that NCS needs to make parents more aware that NCS is willing to help parents earn their hours.
- F. Lottery and "Twins Preference." Charlie Leo presented that the current NCS policy does not allow a preference for twins. Last year the Board granted an appeal from a family of twins where one twin was admitted in the lottery while the other twin was on the wait list. Charlie stated the Board should clarify a twins policy to reduce the incident of other families with twins from appealing. If the Board does not consistently grant twin appeals, it could be cause for discrimination. Tammy Lee mentioned that the audition preference could be compromised with a twins preference because there is a cap on the number of students who can receive an audition preference. A twin preference could also create an enrollment overage. Charlie feels strongly that the Board needs to make a decision on whether-or-not to have a twins preference before the next open enrollment. It was requested that Charlie receive legal advice regarding the discrimination issue. An informal poll was taken to determine the Board's stand. There were 5 neutral votes; 3 neutral-yes votes; 5 neutral-no votes. Pete Hernandez had left the meeting prior to the poll.
- G. Bus Transportation Update. Charlie Leo reported that the bus survey requested of NCS parents received a large number of responses. In reviewing the responses, the most obvious reason given for not taking the bus is the cost (\$47/month). NCS pays \$1700 per student-rider for transportation. NCS already provides free bus transportation to students who receive free and reduced lunch. An option would be to reduce the cost to families, but at the risk of not increasing ridership and reducing NCS transportation revenue. The \$170,000 NCS pays for transportation could provide something that is beneficial to many more students than the number who ride the bus. One option is to provide before and after school care. Jennifer Baker emphasized that cutting transportation for the 100 students who currently utilize it would be a huge hardship for those families. Jennifer suggested that NCS needs to make more parents aware that there is bus transportation available. The following options were stated as possible solutions: 1) Eliminate bussing; 2) Work with the district to reduce the cost; 3) Obtain more bus stops; 3) Market bussing more to make parents aware; 4) Reduce fees to families. Conclusion is that if NCS is going to continue bussing, we must try to get more ridership. Tina Chiginsky will call the Transportation Management Authority.
- H. Budget Update. Charlie discussed key points of the Unaudited Actual Budget for year ending June 30, 2008. Ana Barillas-Mendez was available to answer questions. The budget showed less money spent on construction than budgeted and that transportation is the only item that had an increase. Charlie stated that the Audited Actual Budget had a \$1M difference from the Unaudited Actual Second Interim Budget giving NCS a reserve of approximately 20-25%.

- I. Changes to Benefits Allocation and Non-Administrative Salaries. Once the budget is audited, Charlie would like to utilize a portion of the surplus to cover a larger share of employee benefits and to give COLA or a bonus/stipend to teachers because of improved test scores.

- X. Action Items
 - A. Nominate and Approve New Board Members. Ed Aguilar left the room during discussion and the vote. Charlie Leo presented that the NCS Board has always contained two community representative members. Charlie is requesting that the Board approve the transfer of Ed Aguilar from Leading Edge Parent Representative to Community Representative, increasing the Board to three community representatives. Charlie recommended further discussion revolving around defining the roles and characteristics of a “community representative” on the NCS Board of Directors. (Baker/Dallas). Approved unanimously with Ed Aguilar abstaining.
 - B. Approve Authorization for Ana Barillas-Mendez to Sign for “Educator on Loan” Contracts. Charlie Leo and Ting Sun left the room during discussion and the vote. Ting Sun’s time is valuable to others, and they are willing to pay for her services. These organizations reimburse Natomas Charter School fully for the portion of Ting Sun’s time that is contracted to them. (Lee/Schaaf) Approved unanimously. Charlie Leo took no action due to being elsewhere.
 - C. Approve Scene Shop Lease. The lease for the PFAA Scene Shop was approved. (Baker/Dallas). Approved unanimously

- XI. Future Board Agenda Items
 - A. Non-traditional athletics, proposed by Rick Stewart.
 - B. Twins Preference
 - C. Bus Transportation

- XII. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. (Baker/Stewart).