



Natomas Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
**Minutes**  
May 6, 2010

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.) Bruce Roberts – NUSD Board of Trustees Representative
  - 7.) Denisa Marquez – Community Representative
  - 8.) Edward Aguilar – Community Representative
  - 9.) Rick Stewart – PACT Parent Representative
  - 10.) Joan Finch-Allen -- PFAA Parent Representative
  - 11.) Georgia Schaaf – LE Parent Representative
  - 12.) **JuliAnn Machscefes – PFAA Student Representative**
  - 13.) **Yash Farooqui – LE Student Representative**
- I. Ed Aguilar called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Roll call was taken. Bruce Roberts arrived during the closed session. Laura Bariel departed at 6:00 p.m.
- III. Announcement of Items to Be Discussed in Closed Session
- A. Public Employee/Employment
  - B. Leading Edge Lottery Appeal
- IV. Public Comments Regarding Closed Session Items
- A. None.

Board moved to item X-D

- X. D. Lottery Appeal for Leading Edge. Sandhya Patel, aunt of the applicant and mother of two Leading Edge alumni, explained to the Board that her sister-in-law, the applicant's mother, is treated as her natural sister and has lived in the Patel household together with her family, her husband's parents, and her husband's brothers family. It was required that Nikhita and Mrs. Patel move home with her husband's family after her divorce. The children of all the Patels have always done everything together and have been treated like brothers and sisters since Nikhita was three. The applicant has looked forward to attending the Leading Edge like her six older cousins. The mother did not check the preference box on the application because the applicant is not legally a sibling.

Kit Rich stated that the Patel "family" has been in the Leading Edge for many years. Kit stated that culturally the applicant is considered a sibling and asked the board to recognize the Patel's communal family in the same way we recognize stepsiblings of extended families.

- V. Closed Session: The Board entered closed session at 5:45p.m. NCS employees Board members exited at 6:00p.m. The open session reconvened at 6:15p.m. The following action was taken during the closed session:  
Announcement of Action Taken at Closed Session:
- A. Parent Lottery Appeal approved (Leo/Allen)
  - B. Approved Modification of Leo's full time contract from 220 days to 210 days for 2009/10, 200 days for 2010/11 and 240 days for 2012/13. (Finch-Allen/Stewart).
- VI. Public Comments: None.
- VII. Consent Items. All consent items were passed (Schaaf/Lee) with Stewart abstaining.
- VIII. Reports
- A. PACT. Lynda Malka reported that PACT has confirmed that 207 students will be returning next year, plus have 32 new applications. PACT has met their enrollment goal of having an enrollment of 270 this year. Lynda invited Board members to attend PACT's Extravaganza on May 21<sup>st</sup>, from 5:30-8:30p.m. End of the year surveys and 2010-2011 curriculum orders have been distributed to PACT families. April's field trips were: Beauty and the Beast at the B Street Theater and the California State Capitol Museum and the California Museum. Field trips in May are: The Hamburger Farm and the Discovery Science and Space Museum. Lynda handed out a list of PACT's end-of-the-year activities to each Board member.
  - B. PFAA. Tammy Lee reported that "One Voice" was fantastic. The Turkish students arrived home safely. Strong friendships were formed between the Turkish students and the NCS students. It was a great experience for students and staff. Ed Aguilar commented on how impressive "One Voice" was and the positive effect it had on his students. The PFAA lottery was held and went smoothly. The Spring Dance Celebration containing 270 students occurs on May 11th, 12th, 13th. The Music Celebration is May 19th and 21st. The Vocal Celebration is May 28th. Senior projects will occur on May 13th from 12:15 to 4:00 p.m. Tammy invited all Board members to attend as many of these events as possible. Ed Aguilar highly recommended the senior projects.
  - C. ILP. ILP has been busy over the last two months, we held an Open House on April 20th and it was a huge success with current families and families interested in ILP for fall in attendance. We completed third quarter on March 12th and had 14 students earn All Star awards and 7 earn perfect attendance. We are currently completing STAR testing and have had excellent attendance and attention from the students. We are about to embark on our Senior Project Presentations and I hope that you all will be able to serve as a panel member. I will send around the sign-up sheet and can email it out as well, so that you may consult your schedules. It is a great opportunity to see the result of all of our hard work with the students. Look over the topics and see if you have an interest or expertise that you could share as a panel member. The NCS English Cadre has been working all year on assessing our benchmark writing tests from last year and preparing for this year's exam. The cadre will meet next week to grade and discuss the results of the exams. This information is used to look at how NCS as a whole prepares students and helps to guide instruction for next year.
  - D. Leading Edge. Leading Edge held its second trimester awards ceremony. 58.2% of students were on either honor roll or principal's list. Of the five students on academic probation, all but one has raised their grades above the 3.1 minimum. LE received 170 applications for 6th grade for the 2010-11 school year. LE will increase the size of the three 6th grade classes by 1 or 2 students per class. A play written by Brianna Singer, a LE 8th grade student, won the Playwright Festival and was performed by professional actors for all LE students. LE students had two information assemblies in April: "Drug and Alcohol Prevention" and "Bike Safety." LE 6th grade held its Greek Olympics, 7th grade had its Medieval Knight and Castle Faire. A dress-up dance

that was organized by the students was a huge success. The “New Parent Fiesta” put on by the LEAP group on May 5th had a packed house of very enthusiastic new families.

- E. Enrollment Report. Charlie Leo reported an enrollment increase of 23 students.
- F. Duck Pluck Festival Update. Charlie Leo reported that the Duck Pluck Festival is coming along. There are a lot of very enthusiastic volunteers. The NCS coordinators are doing a lot of work. There have been 8,000 post cards distributed, including one to every student in each elementary and middle school in the NUSD. Wells Fargo is a platinum sponsor and will be plucking the ducks at the raffle. There have been approximately 210 raffle tickets sold to date with an anticipation of selling 50 more tickets before the raffle. NCS will guarantee an \$8,000 winning if all tickets are not sold. Press releases are going out Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Rick Stewart stated he will be filming the event and will create a presentation of the event.

IX. Discussion/Informational Items

- A. K-1 Site Based “Transition” Program. Charlie Leo reported that the 3,000 square feet of warehouse space in the PACT building could be used to create classrooms to house kindergarten classes. Currently, there is a huge demand for kindergarten classes in the NUSD. Charlie stated that all of the programs at NCS were created because of demand. Georgia Schaaf commented that a student to teacher ratio above 1 to 20 is too high and that people want K programs with small class size. NCS sent letters home to parents on the Westlake Charter wait list for kindergarten for the 2010-11 school year. Charlie is meeting with some PACT parents to answer questions and concerns about the program. The program would be a separate program, not a PACT program. Charlie has spoken with an architect regarding the building modifications and they would be very affordable. The Board will be presented with an information packet at the June 3, 2010 Board meeting and asked to take action to approve moving forward with developing a K or K-1 program.
- B. 2009, 990 IRS Filing. Charlie Leo stated that the form 990 was prepared by an accounting firm. Some errors were noted, and the accounting firm will amend the form if needed. If the form is amended, it will be given back to the Board for review.
- C. Third Interim Budget. Charlie Leo introduced Laura Barragan, Payroll Specialist in the NCS Business Office. Charlie reported that the budget shows \$90,000 more in the third interim budget than the second interim budget, and that NCS is in good financial shape for next year. Bruce Roberts stated NCS’s job of reducing expenditures is very commendable.

X. Action Items

- A. Lottery Preference Modification for Alumni. The item was tabled for next meeting.
- B. 990 IRS Filing: Modification of Policy. Charlie Leo presented that the Board is being asked to modify the NCS policy for filing the form 990. Several months ago, the Board approved policies pertaining to the IRS 990 documents. Since that time, it was discovered that the Board does not have to approve the 990 form but, instead, only review it. The policy was approved as presented and was passed unanimously (Roberts/Stewart).
- C. Business Office Partnership with Gateway Charter Communities “GCC”. Charlie Leo explained that the first year is a partnership where GCC will provide some services to NCS and NCS will provided some services to GCC. GCC will also rent office space from NCS. A motion to approve the partnership was passed unanimously (Marquez/Schaaf).
- D. (Discussed earlier in the meeting in open and closed session)
- E. Charlie Leo Attending National Charter Schools Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Charlie Leo stated that Board approval is not required, but requested approval anyhow due to the current state of education funding. Unanimously approved (Schaaf/Allen).

- XI. Board Reports and Comments. Eg Aguilar invited Board members to a community event he is facilitating May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m at the It's A Grind coffee house. Information was emailed to all Board members.
  
- XII. Future Board Agenda Items
  - A. Lottery Preference Modification
  - B. K-1 Site Based "Transition" Program
  - C. 990 Form Review
  
- XII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.