



Natomas Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
**Minutes**  
October 7, 2010

Board Members (**Bold Type=Absent**)

- 1.) Charlie Leo – NCS Executive Director
- 2.) Tammy Lee – PFAA Coordinator
- 3.) Kit Rich – LE Coordinator
- 4.) Laura Bariel – ILP & PACT Coordinator
- 5.) Bruce Roberts – NUSD Board of Trustees Representative
- 6.) Phillip Nanni – Community Representative
- 7.) Edward Aguilar – Community Representative
- 8.) Rick Stewart – PACT Parent Representative
- 9.) **Joan Finch-Allen - PFAA Parent Representative**
- 10.) Georgia Schaaf – LE Parent Representative
- 11.) Christine Molina – PFAA Student Representative
- 12.) Isamel Javed – LE Student Representative

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Advisor:

Jonathan Corr

- I. Ed Aguilar called meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
- II. Roll call was taken. Jonathan Corr arrived at 5:45 p.m.; Georgia Schaaf departed at 6:30 p.m. Ed Aguilar welcomed new Board members Phil Nanni, Christine Molina and Ismael Javed.
- III. Public Comments (regarding items not on current agenda): None.
- IV. Consent Items
  - A. Review and approve Board of Directors minutes from September 2, 2010 and September 9, 2010. The minutes from both meetings were approved as written (Leo/Schaaf).
  - B. Approve Personnel Changes. There were no personnel changes to report.
- V. Reports
  - A. Leading Edge. Kit Rich reported that Leading Edge hosted the boys' soccer and girls' volleyball tournaments at the same time on October 7th. It seems like more LE 9th graders are attending PFAA than previous years and the alumni are attending the LE athletic events. Two of the alumni are coaching LE sports teams. Student Success Team meetings were held for several new students to help them adjust. Data Director is a huge help to obtain information on new students. The Math Cadre used Data Director to obtain trends of students, and to determine the best approach to help students in math. Most students attended the Back to School Dance in September. 6th graders had their Black Cavern field trip and 8th graders had their Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon field trip. Georgia Schaaf stated she attended the Ashland field trip, it was very organized, and the students were wonderful representatives for NCS. Ismael Javed reported that the September rally was great fun and generated a lot of school spirit. Eighth graders presented Colonial Day on October 7th. Sixth graders will present their "Road to Civilization" on October 8th and seventh graders will present their Wax Museum on October 11th. LE is having an E-Waste Day November 6th from 9:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Items may be dropped off early.

- B. PFAA. Tammy Lee reported that PFAA held its first Career Day on September 14th. Professional artists described to students what it is like to have a career in the arts. One of the speakers was a PFAA graduate. Students are also using “Bridges” an online program to explore career possibilities. Ed Aguilar assisted freshman with exploring college options. The next phase of the One Voice project will be to have eight PFAA students travel to Turkey. Students will have to go through an application/interview process to be selected. “Proof,” PFAA’s Fall play, opened last weekend and closes this weekend. The first quarter ends October 8th. Parent conferences will be held October 25th & 26th. The first instrumental concert is November 5th in the Benvenuti. Data Director has been very helpful obtaining information for the English Language Cadre. The admin. team and Ed Aguilar viewed “Waiting for Superman.” It is a very powerful movie. PFAA’s first rally was held last week to celebrate the opening of “Proof.” October 29th is the Halloween Dance. Christine Molina reported that Leadership attended a conference for leadership students that was very informative. Leadership is going to put an Idea Box in each class so all students can share their ideas.
- C. PACT. Laura Bariel reported that the PACT teachers are amazing. They are very responsible and dedicated and know what they are doing. There was a great interest in the site-based classes held on Mondays-Fridays. The number of classes were increased to create room for more students. The classes contain 15-20 students per teacher. Four study rooms at Transitions are being utilized as quiet study space for PACT families. Rick Stewart commented that his PACT student is using the ALEKS online math tutor program. She enjoys the program and is advancing rapidly. The parent group held their first meeting in September. They are a very active group and want to do a lot of fundraising. The first of three Family Skate Nights was held in September. Skate Night is a great opportunity for families to meet; there was a good turnout. ILP. The quarter ends October 8<sup>th</sup>. Jen Mellor is an excellent new staff member. There was great attendance at Back to School Night on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The first parent meeting was held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. ILP is trying to provide more social activities for students. Some upcoming activities are: “Lunch Bunch,” “Bunco,” and “Trivia Night.” Students are trying to raise funds to adopt a baby elephant in Africa at the trivia night. ILP recognizes students who do 100% of their work; there were 24 students recognized the first week of school. PFAA does not have room in their foreign language classes this year for ILP students, so ILP students are taking their foreign language classes using an online course. Students like the course and are doing well.
- D. Transitions. Charlie Leo reported that the parents love the program and want it to expand to K-1 next year.
- E. Enrollment Report. Charlie Leo reported that NCS has over 925 students on campus at once and that the campus runs smoothly. The total enrollment is 1,307.

#### VI. Discussion/Informational Items

- A. Unaudited Actuals. Charlie Leo reported that the budget presented is the actual balance sheet from 2009-10, but has not been audited yet. The unaudited budget is typically identical to the audited budget. The 2010-11 budget has a \$450,000 reduction from last year’s approved budget. NCS total expenses have been reduced substantially from what they were on the first interim budget presented to the Board. The budget shows NCS continues to do well financially with a balance of \$2.4 million and the budget deficit this year is only a bit more than \$400,000 rather than the \$1,000,000 before the budget cuts were implemented. Rick Stewart inquired on the amount of feedback NCS has received regarding the elimination of bus transportation. Charlie explained that he is surprised at the lack of comments and sees no reason to re-instate bus transportation in the future. LE and PFAA have staggered their start and end times so traffic flow is manageable.
- B. New Law Regarding Board Members Serving in an “Advisory Capacity.” Charlie Leo stated that soon after adding an advisor to the NCS Board, he learned of a law that was passed stating that

a non-voting member is not allowed on a non-profit Board. NCS has made the necessary changes to comply with the law by having an Advisor to the Board rather than an Advisor on the Board.

- C. Parent as Community Board Representatives Creating an Imbalance on NCS Board. Charlie Leo stated that the original intent was to make sure the NCS Board members were a balance of students, parents and community members. Charlie stated that it could easily become out of balance creating a strong parent coalition. Both Phil Nanni and Bruce Roberts stated they have experienced it is extremely difficult to obtain Board members who do not have a stake in the school. Ed Aguilar inquired at what point does Charlie feel it needs to be addressed, and Charlie responded there is no rush, and that this issue may come back up as a future Board agenda item.
- D. NUSD Communications/Actions
1. Prop 39 Letter/Request for Transitions Program. Charlie Leo stated that NCS has to submit a Prop 39 letter to the NUSD requesting the use of an available District facility. Charlie stated there is a possibility that the Transitions Program may become a separate NUSD charter school with grades K-5.
  2. Special Education: Researching Charter SELPA Possibilities for NCS. Charlie Leo reported that NCS has submitted a letter to the NUSD and the County Office of Education stating that NCS is investigating a new SELPA as an option. Charlie will report back.
  3. NUSD Communications to Public About District Charter Schools. Charlie Leo stated that the NUSD staff and faculty feel that the charter schools are to blame for the bleak financial situation. Bruce Roberts stated that charter schools reallocate funds from the NUSD. Bruce also stated that it needs to be emphasized that parents choose to enroll their children in charter schools.
  4. NUSD Board Election and NCS Student Panel. Charlie Leo reported that NCS is hosting the NUSD Board candidates on October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-7:15 p.m. NCS students are running the panel. Charlie encouraged all NCS Board members to attend.

VII. Action Items

- A. Confirm Georgia Schaaf as the Leading Edge Representative on the NCS Board. Georgia Schaaf was unanimously confirmed. (Stewart/Roberts).
- B. Approve Amendment to Lottery Policy Giving Preference to Advisors to the NCS Board. The amendment was approved as presented. (Bruce Roberts abstained. Stewart/Lee).

VIII. Board Reports and Comments

- A. Duck Pluck Update. Charlie Leo reported that the 2010 Duck Pluck Festival brought in \$51,000 in revenue and that there were expenses of \$26,000, with a net of \$25,000. The net profits were distributed: NCS Programs \$8,800, NUSD schools \$4,000, Mini grants \$3,000, new sign for the Benvenuti \$2,000, miscellaneous art and sports equipment \$1,000, undecided distribution \$6,200.
- B. NUSD Financial Situation. Bruce Roberts stated that the NUSD faces financial peril for the 2012-2013 school year, with a \$10 million gap. The budget was previously rejected by the County. The only area left for the NUSD to cut is to reduce labor costs.

IX. Future Board Agenda Items

- A. Parents as Community Board Representatives Creating an Imbalance on NCS Board.
- B. Stimulus Funds Update.

X. Announcement of Items To Be Discussed In Closed Session: None

XI. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m. (Stewart/Nanni).