



Natomas Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
**Minutes**  
December 14, 2011

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

- 1.) ***Edward Aguilar – Community Representative***
- 2.) Joan Finch-Allen - PFAA Parent Representative
- 3.) Ismael Javed – LE Student Representative
- 4.) Charlie Leo – NCS Executive Director
- 5.) ***Heather McDonald – PFAA Student Representative***
- 6.) Phillip Nanni – Community Representative and Chairperson
- 7.) Cliff Blakely – LE Parent Representative
- 8.) Rick Stewart – PACT Parent Representative

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Advisor:

**Jonathan Corr**

- I. Phil Nanni called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
- II. Roll call was taken. All present, except Edward Aguilar and Heather McDonald.  
NCS Administration Attendees: Kit Rich, Anita Tong, Ting Sun, Jared Austin, Laura Bariel, Pat Broughton and Ana Barillas-Mendez. Additional attendees were Joe Ascherman and Laura Barragan from the NCS Business Office and Rachel Perry.
- 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 (regarding items not on current agenda): None
- VII. Consent Items
  - A. Approve Board Minutes from November 3, 2011. The minutes were unanimously approved with an amendment suggested by Patrick Broughton (Blakely/Stewart).
- VIII. Reports
  - A. Leading Edge. Kit Rich reported that the first trimester ended on November 4, 2011. 71% of students were on either the Honor Roll or Principal's List. Five students are on academic probation. Kit is meeting with these students weekly and calling home to keep the parents apprised of their student's progress. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade students recently held their student-led conferences. Teachers commented on what a positive experience they had; that they learned a

lot of extra-curricular information about their students which in turn helps serve them academically. Comments from parents on the first trimester DEP's were very positive. 38% of comments thanked teachers and the school. 62% of comments spoke directly to the students. There was not one negative comment. NCS recently hosted the Boys' Basketball and Girls' Soccer Tournaments; hosting ten teams from five different schools on campus was very exciting for our student body. The annual Spelling Bee took place this week, going thirteen rounds. LE students took second and third place in the middle school section of this year's NCS Poetry Jam. Ismael Javed reported that the Pirates of Penzance Play last month was very fun and that there are DVD's of the play for sale for anyone that is interested.

- C. PFAA. Tammy Lee reported that the PFAA Drama Department was accepted to the 2013 American High School Festival held in Edinburgh, Scotland. PFAA was one of 35 schools accepted in the nation. It will be a two week trip and the PFAA students will perform One Voice. Tammy also announced that Heather McDonald was recognized by the National Association for the Advancement of Arts as one of the country's top 2% students in the area of Musical Theater. The winter production, A Christmas Carol, just closed. It was a special PFAA rendition and was well received. The Vocal Workshop and Jazz Festivals were also recently held. A PFAA student took first place in the Middle School category of the Poetry Jam. The first semester senior projects were held recently. Cliff Blakely and Phil Nanni attended several of the senior projects and commented on how impressive the students were. Class meetings were recently held. Digital citizenship curriculum was utilized to educate students on becoming good digital citizens.

Jared Austin reported that a breakfast was recently held for 40 middle school students who were recognized at least five times by teachers for going above and beyond. NWEA math diagnostic testing will be utilized to pinpoint students who need extra help in math.

- D. ILP: Laura Bariel reported that the first semester ends this week and students have been busy taking finals. ILP will hire a new math teacher in January to replace a teacher who is resigning. Next semester, there will be three online classes accessed through Edmodo. Teachers are excited about learning the new online curriculum. Many students participated in Poetry Out Loud and did a great job.

PACT: Laura Bariel reported that the Winter Boutique was very successful. Students devise marketing strategies and sell their wares. The drama teacher recently held a car wash and raised \$1,000 to pay for a new portable stage. Students will take the NWEA testing in January to determine growth for the first half of the year. Class registration documents were posted in Google Docs which made the process much easier. A lot of students participated in Poetry Out Loud and two won in the school-wide competition.

- E. Star Academy: Anita Tong reported that the Star Academy's webpage is now up. The Academy is receiving a lot of phone inquiries for next year. Anita is giving tours of the facility now to prospective parents. The first grade will be presenting its first singing performance this week. The Winter Festival was recently held and was a huge success. PFAA and Leading Edge parents earned parent hours by helping with the event. The Festival raised \$4,100. The money will be used to pay for field trips for the Star Academy students.
- F. Enrollment Report. Charlie Leo reported that NCS will likely be enrolling another five or six students in January 2012.

- G. Facilities Update. Charlie Leo reported that NCS is considering two sites for expansion: The Natomas Meadows site and the eight acres located across Del Paso from the current NCS main campus. The additional space across the street could be used to expand PFAA and house the Star Academy and PACT (when the current lease expires). Charlie is working on all options.

IX. Discussion/Informational Items

- A. Food Services Update. Charlie Leo reported that the consultant chef hired by NCS and NUSD worked with the cafeteria staff for four days to create new menus and modify the manner by which the food is prepared. The new food options are healthier but may take some time for students to adapt and appreciate these changes. NCS will distribute a survey in January 2012 to obtain student input on the new options. Joan Finch-Allen stated there is a huge increase in the rise of diabetes in children and is glad to see that NCS is serving healthier food options.
- B. Additional Community Board Representative. Charlie Leo introduced Rachel Perry to the Board. Ting Sun stated that she and Charlie solicited Rachel as a Board Director because of her extensive involvement in the Natomas community. Ting has worked with Rachel on several occasions and feels Rachel would be a great addition as she has experience at the state level and because she is a Natomas resident, but not an NCS parent. Phil Nanni, Ting Sun and Charlie Leo met with Rachel in mid-November and they all believe that Rachel will be a great asset to the NCS Board. The board then took action to add Rachel Perry as a Community Representative to the NCS Board and the motion was unanimously approved. (Nanni/Finch-Allen).
- C. School Visits by NCS Board Directors. Charlie Leo encouraged all Board Directors to attend NCS school events. Charlie requested that future Board packets contain a list of upcoming main events for all programs to allow Board Directors to schedule accordingly should they choose to attend. Charlie emphasized that Board Directors are not compelled to attend events, but that it would be important for the board to see the variety of educational activities that occur at NCS daily.
- D. Direction/Future of NCS Providing Business Services. Charlie Leo stated that NCS has been providing business services for other schools for the past several years. Currently, NCS is providing business services to Gateway Community Charter and Westlake Charter schools. Gateway Community Charter was a trial run and has created a number of challenges to the NCS Business Office. NCS is meeting with Gateway Community Charter in January, 2012 to decide whether-or-not NCS will continue to provide business services to them. Westlake Charter has indicated they may want to provide their own business services for the next school year. NCS has requested that Westlake Charter inform NCS of their decision by January 11, 2012. If Westlake Charter decides to retain NCS services, NCS will require a change in the contract allowing NCS to report to both the Westlake Charter Board of Directors, if and when necessary, as well as to the Executive Director. NCS feels that reporting solely to the Executive Director poses a liability situation for NCS. The NCS Business Office will create an analysis of the services provided to the other schools so that the board can assess whether we should continue providing business services to other charter schools. The analysis will be presented to the NCS Board at the January 2012 meeting. NCS will decide if it is cost effective to continue providing services to the outside schools while weighing the potential liability associated with providing these services..
- E. January 20-21 Board Retreat. Ting Sun reminded the board of the retreat dates and distributed "homework assignments" to all Board Directors for completion prior to the Board Retreat. She

plans to present the board with an outline on the strategic direction NCS will take over the next 3 to 4 years. This discussion is timely, given that the school is 20 years old.

- F. NCS Program Name Change. Charlie Leo stated that the NCS Administration team is recommending that the NCS change the names of Leading Edge and PACT from “program” to “academy.” He also asked the board to approve the name from the Individualized Learning Program (ILP) to “Virtual Learning Academy” (VLA). The change would provide consistency and minimize confusion if all current programs will be referred to as “academies.”
- X. Action Items.
- A. Approve First Interim Budget Update 2011-12. Charlie Leo reported that the decrease in revenue will be \$10-\$20 per student instead of \$250 per student that the State originally projected. Ana Barillas-Mendez stated that the budget included in this packet shows a comparison to the budget adopted in August 2011. Ana stated that the biggest challenge for NCS and all schools and school districts is cash flow due to the State of California allocation schedule. A substantial amount of revenue is not received until July, after the fiscal year has already ended.
- B. Approve Purchase of Lease/Finance for Tech and Equipment. Charlie Leo stated that the equipment to be leased is to replace the list of antiquated, damaged or needed equipment presented in the Board packet. The amount of the equipment should be approximately \$190,000. The equipment would be leased through the same leasing agent NCS uses to lease copy machines or through Apple Finance. A motion was unanimously passed for NCS to lease the requested equipment. (Finch-Allen/Nanni).
- C. Approve NCS Board Director (Community Representative). A motion was unanimously passed to add Rachel Perry as a Community Representative to the NCS Board Directors. (Nanni/Finch-Allen).
- D. Approve Revised Teacher Duties and Salary Schedule. Charlie Leo stated that for the past year he, Ting Sun and Laura Bariel have been meeting to discuss ways to improve PACT. It is clear that there is a need to increase the level of responsibility and accountability on the part of the educational advisors to raise the student achievement. Charlie and Ting will be working with Laura to implement these changes in PACT. The PACT teachers and advisors will have additional duties, similar to teachers in other NCS programs (academies). All current PACT teachers are willing to perform the extra duties, particularly with the understanding that they will receive additional compensation for doing so. The new salary schedule for PACT teachers is very similar to the salary schedule for PFAA teachers, and will be effective for the 2012-13 school year. A motion was unanimously passed to approve the revised teacher duties and salary schedule for PACT teachers. (Blakely/Finch-Allen).
- E. Approve Changes to Program Names. A motion was unanimously passed to change the names of all programs at NCS to academies. (Nanni/Perry).
- XI. Board Reports and Comments
- A. Charlie Leo reported that the State will present a Budget Initiative next year asking voters to increase taxes to produce additional revenue for schools.
- B. Ting Sun presented the option of holding a 30-minute Board of Director meeting prior to the Board Retreat.

XII. Future Board Agenda Items

XIII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.