



Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School

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APC Board Meeting

Location: (Building A – Multi Purpose Room)

October 11, 2011 6:00-8:00p.m.

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance – in Spanish

III. Roll Call/Determine Quorum – In attendance: Jill Bang, Chris Hamilton, Jennifer Ward, Gwenn Schneider, Heather Gluth, Michelle Niland, Jennifer Schmidt, Nicole W-Evans, Marcus Reum, Andrew Reynolds, Joe Dinwiddie

IV. Approval of the agenda for October 11, 2011

Motion - Nicole moved that the October 11th agenda be approved by the board. Michelle seconded.

Motion passed - unanimous approval.

V. Review meeting protocol

- Wait for recognition from the chair to begin speaking
- Let people give their reports and ask questions after each report
- Keep non-productive comments to a minimum

VI. Persons to be Heard – 30 minutes maximum

- Must sign up before meeting begins, each person will have up to 2 minutes
- Minutes may not be shared with others
- Comments shall be civil
- No public comment past this time
- This is not a question and answer time. Comments will not be addressed by the board at this time.
 - Tammy Backus – Thanks for advertising open board position and improved communications, such as the announcement in the newsletter;
 - Another parent voiced concern over what seems to be a diminishing amount of Spanish being spoken in school;
 - Veronica Wolf – what can we do to keep our PE teacher here;

VII. Consent Agenda

A. **Approval of meeting minutes from September 13th meeting;** Nicole moves to approve September 13th meeting minutes; Michelle seconds; Unanimous approval;

B. **Chair Report 5-15 minutes**

- Michelle and Nicole had meeting with Katie Gardner re: our PE position. Fronteras wanted a Spanish speaking PE teacher. There were lay-offs with PE teachers. In

August and September we could not advertise this as a different position than had previously been advertised, however we could change the advertisement to include Spanish-speaking as of January, 2012;

- Michelle is making changes to board meetings so that they can be more efficient.
- Board committee reports will now need to get to the Secretary one week in advance if possible.
- There are two Foraker board trainings – 1) effective board development 10/20 5 – 7 pm; 2) evaluating executive performance; 10/21; 11 – 1 pm. Michelle is requesting that she be able to go to both trainings paid for by the APC Board budget.

Motion - Nicole moves that board allow Michelle to use a second \$25.00 (\$25.00 per board member already approved) amount to attend a second Foraker training. Motion seconded.

Motion approved unanimously

- Board governance vs. management – Is board moving to governance over management, and if so, we need to clarify this somehow. If not clarify, then where will we be involved in management over governance? Academic and Curriculum committee is one example of how board may or may not be involved in management.

Is this or should this be part of the Charter renewal? The Charter has set up some checks and balances- Heather. Our job as a board is to support our Principal and our school - Gwenn. Marcus is certain that the Principal is capable of making management decisions. Michelle - Continuing to hire, approve curriculum?

Michelle moves that we table this discussion until another meeting. Suggests that we read Caterpillars to Butterflies.

C. **Principal's Report** 15 – 30 minutes

- Budget for 2010-2011 school year – nothing has changed. Same student count (214) and \$106,000 was taken away from our budget. Overall district is down budget as well. Official count of students is going in now. Average daily attendance is important. Extremely high absences – up to 18 in a day. A lot of sickness – strep, etc.. But this is more than that.
- Great Field trip to Heaven's Hayfield; Community service – 6,7,8th to help Mrs. Hayfield work her farm (on her own). Students asked for additional jobs again. Also, an interest expressed in going back to the farm to help again. Students really enjoyed this. Community Service is now important on College resumes. A lot of opportunity in the Valley to do Community Service.
- We are being sought out by UAA for Students working at Fronteras to get their student teaching practicum. We have two UAA students here now. Fronteras older students may be able to go and use the UAA lab.
- Contacted by Jackie Murry, a teaching at Mat-Su College, about her Spanish 101 students coming to our K-1 classes on October 27th.
- The elections were very favorable for Charter Schools regarding: 1) the School Board – Eric Cordero (Fronteras Parent) was reelected; the education bond passed; Steve Culligan was elected to the Borough Assembly and is a huge Charter School

supporter. We now have \$67,000 to spend on technology, playground, etc., over the next 5 years due to the bond passing.

- 11 Superintendents from across the state came to visit Mat-Su. Fronteras was the Charter School of choice. They visited a 2-3 class when they were here. They were treated to Inupiaq and German – native languages of 2 of the Superintendents. Fronteras shined that day.
- Instructional tours – Carl Schleich has been hired by the District to lead Principal Professional Development. He will be leading tours to other schools, and then Principals can exchange ideas and feedback. They go to 5 – 6 classrooms in 45 minutes. Goal is to have educational leaders learn about what is working in classrooms. We will be hosting about 12 Principals here at Fronteras on 10/20. 2-3 classes will be on a field trip that day.
- We held our first awards assembly at Fronteras. All grade levels were present. It was very successful.

D. Treasurer's Report 5 minutes

- No major fundraisers or expenses. The APC IRS income tax has to be turned in by November 15th. That has cost us \$120+ in the past. Discussion over budget ensued.

Motion - Michelle moved that we allow Ernie to speak to questions regarding the budget. Heather seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ernie: the "Teacher needs" budget item dealt with items such as construction paper, etc. When the school first started the APC established a fund to meet teacher needs. As for the "Slush fund" budget item – all of our funds were encumbered in the budget initially, and so this money was set up for unanticipated expenses.

Jennifer Ward commented that the teachers don't have P-cards this year. It would be wonderful if teachers could get some items funded through the APC.

E. Committee/Team Requests –*Written reports should be submitted to the Secretary 1 week prior to Board meetings via email in order that they may be included in meeting minutes.*

1. **Charter and Bylaw Review Committee**- 10 minutes

Our charter renewal is underway led by Andrew. This is not a re-write committee. Gwenn is interested in establishing a Charter renewal committee that would review Charter to work on discrepancies. Renewal can take place in a timely way, but we also can have a revision process going on at the same time.

Andrew clarified that the Charter application has to be a re-write or revision of the Charter. There is no renewal on the state web site. The application has specific questions. Bylaws are part of the revision process. Chris Hamilton will be working on bylaw revisions. 4 Sections are going to Principal Schmidt – budget related, etc..

Charter Renewal Timeline is as follows: **December 21st** is the School Board meeting. Our new Charter application should be approved at our December 13th meeting, so that the School Board can approve it on December 21st. June is the

deadline for complete approval. This application process includes a lot of evidence, and has a 200 page limit. We already have 245 pages.

2. **Elections Committee** – Chair 2.5 minutes – Barry Blackman Greene – parent member; has applied for elections committee membership. Michelle appointed Barry to the committee. Chris Hamilton was nominated for Chair. Michelle appointed Chris Hamilton as Chair of Elections committee. Vacant teacher seat application – Jackie Cochran applied; Chris Hamilton moves to approve Jackie Cochran as a board member. Jennifer Ward seconds. Unanimously approved.
3. **Facilities Committee** – 10 minutes
 - a) **Site Selection Committee** – Michelle wrote letter to Superintendent Paramo. District is ready to move forward with the site selection committee.

Motion - Michelle moved we allow Chris W-Evans to speak to this issue. Seconded.
Motion Passed with Unanimous approval.

Chris W-Evans stated that the Open House was a huge success. Requested that Fronteras community members please fill out forms if you haven't done so already. All types of sites are being reviewed. Could go for a design-build on private land. Also looking at design build on public school property already selected. This would be considered "Co-facilitation" and the benefits of this include that we would not have to pay taxes. The site selection committee will be made up of members including: 2 assembly, 2 school board, 2 planning commission, 1 member of the public in addition to 2 Fronteras representatives. Site selection is a 3- 4 month process. Assemblyman, Jim Colver, indicates that the committee would meet once per month; they will be informed by staff and informed by consultants, traffic experts; etc.. They may look at public school sites, other types of sites or different types of gifts. For example, Academy Charter is receiving funds from site selection committee to purchase additional acreage adjacent to Academy (25 acres).

Board discussion - Gwenn asked question about site selection and public input? Are there any other opportunities for public input? The site selection committee choice will go to the Borough Assembly for approval, so there will be other opportunities to speak publicly. There appears to be greater political will right now than before to bring greater equity to Charter School facilities. Funding schools is expensive and difficult. Charter Schools can be a benefit to the District financially and this arrangement can benefit Charter Schools as well. Chris recommends Michelle Niland and Ernie Hetrick be on the committee.

Marcus indicated he is interested in being on the committee.

Motion - Andrew moved to nominate Ernie Hetrick and Marcus Reum to be members of the site selection committee. Joe Dinwiddie seconded. **Motion approved** by majority vote – Andrew, Joe, Marcus, Chris H., Jill Bang voted in favor. Other board members in attendance abstained

Marcus Reum and Ernie Hetrick will represent Fronteras on the Site Selection committee.

- b) **S-hook tool for playground** – 4 – 5 times per year this breaks. Former parent that fixed this is no longer a parent at the school. Is board interested in purchasing a commercial S-hook tool? The cost is \$230.00 with shipping. The District has an S-hook tool and will charge us to come to the site and repair it.

Motion - Gwenn moves to purchase S-hook; Nicole seconds.

Motion Approved Unanimously.

4. **Charter Renewal** – Status Update 2.5 minutes - already addressed above.
5. **Board Development**- 10 minutes; Michelle suggests we purchase 2 copies of the Charter School University - Carpenter book, \$40.00/book. If we buy 8, then shipping is free. This would cost us \$230.00. This is a guide toward governance vs. management of Charter School.

Motion - Gwenn moves that we purchase 4 copies of the Charter School University book by Brian Carpenter and pay for shipping; Jennifer Ward seconds.

Motion Approved by majority vote. Andrew and Chris opposed.

VIII. Unfinished Business- Action Items –

Motion - Michelle moves to table remaining items in Unfinished business that are not part of the Spanish presentations. Nicole Seconds.

Motion Approved unanimously.

A. **Review of Indirect Actions**- 10 minutes - Tabled

B. **Presentation of Immersion Learning**- 10 minutes

Jackie requested we allow the presentation of the Puerto Rico trip to go before hers because they already had their presentation loaded and ready to start on the Computer. The board agreed to have Jackie's presentation after the Puerto Rico presentation.

C. **Presentation of Puerto Rico Trip**- 20 minutes

Students gave a power point presentation highlighting the days, events, food and cultural experiences of their Puerto Rico trip last May.

One of best days of trip was spending the day with a local school. We are involved in a "Pay It Forward" program and plan to support the Puerto Rican school by providing them some sports equipment.

Joe Dinwiddie read a letter from our sponsor at the school in Puerto Rico. The Sponsor was very complimentary of our student's Spanish abilities. Joe commended the students

for their presentation. Jennifer heard this presentation in Spanish only and now in English.
They have done an amazing job.

IX. New Business-

A. *Time permitting- Board education segment - Tabled*

X. Executive Session

Matters generally include those affecting finances and personnel, the public knowledge of which might prove adverse or prejudicial.

XI. Future Items/Future Business

Next meeting: **November 8th, 2011 6-8pm**

XII. Final Actions and Adjournment

APC Governing Board Members

Jill Bang
Joseph Dinwiddie, Vice Chair
Heather Gluth, Treasurer
Chris Hamilton
Michelle Niland, Chair
Marcus T. Reum
Andrew Reynolds
Gwen Schneider
Jennifer Ward
Nicole Whittington-Evans, Secretary
One open teacher seat

Jennifer Schmidt, Ex-officio