



# Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School

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## APC Board Meeting

Location: (Building A – Multi Purpose Room)  
**November 8th, 2011 6:00-8:00p.m.**

### Draft Meeting Minutes

#### I. Call to Order

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

**Roll Call/Determine Quorum** Board Members: Jill Bang, Jackie Cochran, Joe Dinwiddie, Heather Bluth, Chris Hamilton, Michelle Niland, Marcus Reum, Gwen Schneider, Nicole Whittington-Evans, Jennifer Schmnidt in attendance. We have a quorum.

#### III. Approval of the agenda for November 8th, 2011

Deferred to later in the agenda due to Secretary being late to meeting and not having agendas printed for the board..

#### IV. 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

#### V. 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.
- Wendy Taylor - At the APC board meeting on October 11, there was some discussion about existing items within the budget and questions from the board as to what they represented and their purpose. One of these items was entitled music fund and was stated as having a balance of \$ 8,000. My understanding is that our current music teacher, Ms. Easton, is certified and being paid by the school district and more specifically our building and staff budget overseen by Ms. Schmidt. Therefore, these funds have no distinct purpose at this time.

I would like to see that this money continued to be designated for our music program and to expand its purpose to promoting music, art, and culture at Fronteras. I base this position on our school's mission statement:

Fronteras Charter School is a Spanish Immersion K-8 academic center that promotes high academic success in a nurturing, creative, multiage environment; and fosters increased cultural understanding, communication and citizenship in our community, nation and world.

Our parents include women like Sra. Hernandez teaching students authentic dances; Sra. Wolf sharing cultural cooking classes; Sra. Davidson teaching cultural crafts. These folks are a rich resource and we could expand these opportunities with the \$8,000. A bigger purpose to this fund could mean guest speakers at our assemblies, dancers from Anchorage or beyond, and even Artists in Residence, even bringing our kids to and being involved in the October Hispanic Heritage Fair hosted by the Mexican Consulate and the Anchorage museum. Imagine creating our own cultural fair open to the public!!

The possibilities are endless in bringing cultural awareness and communication through the arts to our student body. Please consider renaming this line item to our Art and Culture fund and secondly, I want a board member to sponsor this idea, place it in new business for our December board meeting.

## **VII. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of meeting minutes from October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting (did not act to approve at this meeting due to not having hard copies of meeting minutes).
- B. Chair Report *5-15 minutes*
- C. Principal's Report *15 – 30 minutes*
  - Budget for 2010-2011 school year
  - Student performance & curriculum
  - Enrollment
  - Parent communications/concerns
  - Hiring
  - Other
    - Our student count is 211. We have not received official budget numbers from the district yet. 3-day suspension of a middle-school student led to two students leaving Fronteras to be homeschooled. The families were very appreciative of Fronteras.
    - Teachers reported that Parent Conferences on Oct. 24 & 25 were successful – there was good turn out
    - UAA brought 15 Spanish 101 students to read to the K/1 classes.
    - Joe Dinwiddie spoke about: 12 yr. old Augustine from Guadalajara who spent 6 school days in the 6-8 grade class and had an excellent time at Fronteras. Senior Services Center – new one in Palmer – 6 – 8 students visited the Center and went through 20 hours of projects in three hours on October 26 & 28.. Fronteras is getting out into the Community and this is a very positive experience. Students are great ambassadors After Heaven's Hayfield our classes went back to the Farm and did additional projects. Our relationship there is excellent and we can come back anytime. J. Schmidt – thanks to Joe D. and Brittany, and we really want to make community Service a priority at Fronteras. Every grade level will be doing this eventually.
  - Four of our students made a presentation to the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce today. Students did an excellent job overall.

- Monday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, MEA is presenting a Safety Presentation at 10:30 to our 2/3 classes.
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, Entire staff is spending their Professional Development day at either Chugiak Elementary Spanish Immersion or Mirror Lake Middle School Spanish Immersion. Each teacher will go with at least one personal learning goal. Goal outcomes will be discussed at the following staff mtg.
- Neal Lacy, retired teacher, is our School Board Charter School Liaison. He is a big supporter of charter schools.

Michelle bumped meeting back to approval of meeting minutes. Do not have them printed out.

**Motion:** Michelle moved that we move board meeting to Brittany's room. Joe seconded. **Motion passed unanimously** (6:37 pm)

**D. Treasurer's Report 5 minutes**

Total in budget: \$26,060.78. Money spent since last month was on S-hook tool (\$140.00), Board University books, Signs for Parking Lot (came in approximately \$50.00 under projection).

**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. Election Committee** – 3 minutes

Jennifer Ward has stepped down from the board. She no longer has time to be a part of the elections committee. We have 60 days to fill her board position. Gwenn volunteered to take over Jennifer's position on the Elections Committee. Michelle is appointing Gwenn to the Elections committee with no objections from the board. Tammy H. recommends that we advertise vacant position in the newsletter.

**2. Board Development-** Scheduling a Full-Day Foraker Training; 5 minutes

We are looking to do a full day Board Development training with Foraker. What days work best for board members? Weekends. The last Saturday in January is available for Foraker. January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Can members call in? Yes. 9 am to noon? Yes. (We now have a new phone system that allows for multiple people to call in for board meetings.)

**3. Charter Renewal Committee** – 10 minutes; update

Chris Hamilton is leading this section as Andrew is not here. Board make-up: Suggestion is to reduce board size to 9 members total, not variable from 7 – 11. As for teacher make-up, suggestion is for two dedicated teacher positions, that would be voting members, rather than a variable number of teacher and staff members. Suggestion is to do away with an APC Community-member board seat. Suggestion for how an individual might become an APC member – Chris handed out a draft proposal. Principal would remain Ex-Officio.

Discussion ensued. Concern raised over teachers being on the board because there is a conflict of interest when someone with a direct line of responsibility regarding their jobs are making decisions to run/govern the school.

Michelle suggests a process for how to recommend changes to our bylaws. The recommendation is to have a recommendation proposed and announced to the APC. A 2/3 majority of the board is a requirement for bylaw changes.

A lot of bylaw changes should not be holding up our Charter renewal. We have an election coming up in April. We need to have something in place regarding board make-up by April.

**Motion:** Chris H. Moves that we solicit APC members to help with revising/re-writing and editing our Charter for the renewal. Marcus seconds.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

Discussion. Michelle mentions that Foraker is available for a fee to put Charter Renewal document together. Lori Koutsky indicated that she was willing to help us work on this back in May. Chris has Friday available to do some of the review to determine what all the needs are. Need to answer their 15 points/questions. It's a 150+ page document. Can we pull information from the old Charter to respond to the questions? Andrew assigned sections to some board members:

Sections:

12, 5 – Jill;

3, 4, 13 – Joe D.;

Jennifer S. has sections 7,8, 9,11;

Michelle did Facility Plans already;

Collective Bargaining – section 14; letter re: request for waiver from the Union; This section is done. This is a one-time effort.

Alternative 6 – NA. This is not applicable to Fronteras.

Sections 1 and 2. Half of the Charter are these two sections.

Academic Policy – copies of meeting minutes where bylaws were adopted and copies of the meeting minutes where the bylaw was changed regarding teacher make-up.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business- Action Items**

- A. Presentation of Immersion Learning and Discussion- 10 to 20 minutes – postponed due to technical difficulties.
- B. Charter Renewal Working Session – 30 minutes

Process for amending bylaws is our first responsibility; Charter discussion ensued regarding teachers on the board. Board make-up - proposal to revise our board make-up regarding the number on board and designated seats.

## **IX. New Business-**

### **A. Coffee Urns – 3 minutes**

Espresso bar would be really nice to have for our school functions. This would be very spendy. For \$132.00 one can get a 100 cup percolator. We could sell coffee for .50/cup. Bazaar is coming too soon to have coffee (next weekend). Go For the Gravy would be another event. Middle and High School students at other schools - Joe has worked on and/or had clubs where coffee is sold. This could be a great fundraiser for Fronteras. Jennifer will check on District policy regarding selling coffee at schools in District.

*B. Time permitting- Board education segment (no action on this item)*

## **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**

Spooktacular folks paid out of pocket. Mrs. Schmidt is seeing to it that they are getting it reimbursed.

## **XII. Final Actions and Adjournment**

Joe moved that we end the meeting. 8 pm. Gwen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: **December 13th, 2011 6-8pm**

## **APC Governing Board Members**

Jill Bang  
Jackie Cochran  
Joseph Dinwiddie, Vice Chair  
Heather Gluth, Treasurer  
Chris Hamilton  
Michelle Niland, Chair  
Marcus T. Reum  
Andrew Reynolds  
Gwen Schneider  
Nicole Whittington-Evans, Secretary  
One Open Seat

Jennifer Schmidt, Ex-officio