



Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School

P. O. Box 871433 Wasilla, Alaska 99687-1433
(907) 745-2223 (info@fronteras-k8.us)

APC Board Meeting

Location: (Building B - 2nd floor Conf Room)

March 16th, 2010 7:00 P.M.



Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call/Determine Quorum
In Attendance: Nina Shaw, Kevin (and Jackie) Cochran, Robert Kalander, Nicole Whittington-Evans, Lori Koutsky, Casey Bowen, Chris Cadieux, Kati Sanders, Sandra McMillian.

- II. Approval of the meeting notes for February 9th, 2010 and approval of the agenda for March 16, 2010.

Review meeting protocol:

- Try to keep meetings brief
- Let people give their reports and ask questions after each report
- Keep non-productive comments to a minimum

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes
- B. Board Updates
- C. Committee/Team Reports
 - a. Facilities – Reported by Casey: Ernie is working on electrical drawings. Then we'll have to pay \$900,000/building and get them approved by the fire marshall. After that we can purchase them. Next step is to get excavation work done. Casey is trying to find someone to donate excavation work. As early as possible is best, but we would need to watch exposed wiring while children are in school. Casey got a quote that will be about \$62,000 / portable.
 - b. Treasurer's Report – No formal report but taxes are done! Money is in the account – approximately \$25,000 before we pay Paula. Nothing is going in or coming out at this point. Some receipts have been lost and Kati is willing to write

checks to reimburse folks but she needs approval by the board to do so without receipts. Need to go to online credit card receipts or go back to vendors to get another copy of receipts.

- c. Academic & Curriculum Report – Sonya and Glen are working on several different possibilities of how to arrange kids. Can't do this really until we know what our enrollment will be. Deadline for intent forms is one week from this Friday (March 26th). Nina is concerned we might lose older students if we don't have a meeting soon to let students and parents know what our game plan is. This is a Catch 22 because we can't make decisions until we know how many students are coming back. Casey and teachers are looking at perhaps three teachers covering a couple of subjects for the older students. There are other scenarios as well being considered

We need to have a policy about bringing in older children into Fronteras. We need to do some research on what the law is because we are a public school. Discrimination is a real problem, even if it is based on language. Showing proficiency seems reasonable even within a public school. Children can't just jump to calculus without doing math leading up to calculus. This needs further action and discussion by the board.

- d. Principal's Report – The tax bill came today. We'll have to pay \$29,000 in taxes this year. There is a lot of pressure building to get this money transfer – from Borough to schools back to Borough for taxes – cleaned up because a number of schools have to go through this. Casey is starting to comb through the accounts to pull any money out from different areas in the budget to help with this tax bill. Will our taxes go up with portables? Should not because they will not be owned by the Borough.

We are going through priority supplies with teachers.

Lori has requested that Casey ask Solveig to remind teachers again about their budget/supplies priorities.

- e. Fundraising – Carnival is only thing planned. It will not be a big money maker.

Lowe's is giving grants away to realtors that are giving significant contributions to communities and community projects. Someone should look into this and write something about Sandra.

- f. Teacher's Requests – Sandra did have a conversation with Adam. He is feeling financially in a bind with his budget. Also dealing with significant dust issues in the gym – lights and rug. The rug is better after being cleaned over spring break. Underneath the baseboards is also an issue. Needs a shop-vac or carpet shampooer.

- g. Monthly Family Activities (see attached notes): - Melissa will not be doing family activities next year.

Science Fair – March 18th, 6 – 8:00 pm;

La Fiesta de Fronteras – April 30th (Location tbd) Board members expressed desire to have it held here at Fronteras. We want the community to know that we are here. National Guard has huge tents that we could get in case of rain.

- h. Amigos de Fronteras Report - a few parents are coming to it. No one is present for a report. Kati went to the last one. There were a few parents there. There is a bill requesting laws be changed so that Charter schools can apply for federal funding. Michelle Niland came with sign-on materials.

- i. Miscellaneous Reports

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Portable Purchase/Installation Update (Ernie); already covered above.
- B. Parking Lot (Ernie); Traffic pattern possible around back of building A. Teachers will have to park back around the greenhouse. Staff and deliveries would be the only vehicles driving around back. Concerns over children crossing where vehicles would be driving.
- C. Business Partners/ Outreach (Chris); Only thing Chris is missing is that he would like to incorporate warm and fuzzy pictures of kids at the school.
- D. Board Development (Nina); No report.
- E. Water Safety Update (Nicole); No report.
- F. **Enrollment lottery – April 7th** - Announcements/Public Relations; Now accepting applications sign is up. Right now we have 46 K's for 40 slots. We may not have a waiting list. Creative advertising is needed – balloons; fliers at libraries and stores;
- G. **Teacher's Requests** – every teacher should have a paper shredder. Sandra has concerns about spending any money until we know how much the portables are going to cost. Lori K. has spent over a \$1,000 of her own money for her classroom. We don't support our teachers through our budget. It is wrong. Sonja came in and had nothing to start with last fall. We need to make this a priority. We should not wait until we see how much we have left over. Casey – we have to have our portables. This question was posed to the APC budget – Robert Kalander - not the school budget. This Friday is the deadline for ordering materials out of state. If we didn't have to buy portables we would have \$120,000 money this year. Starting in fall teachers should have an amount to spend and they should be trusted to spend that allotment and make it last for the school year.

Casey - we have to take into account things that we can't foresee, such as the taxes this year. After we pay portables and taxes we should have approximately \$50,000. A portion could perhaps be set aside for teachers. Casey did do this initially in budget last year – P-cards. We allocated \$1,000 last year and we have \$586.00 left. I propose we have \$1500 set aside for residual and immediate teacher needs (discretionary). \$1500 per teacher from APC goes to teachers. Casey is concerned about shredders and safety. Robert amends his motion to be \$2,000.00 instead of \$1,500.00. At mid-year, Robert suggests it be reviewed. Motion on floor. Chris C. seconded it. Passed unanimously. Lori is very gracious about this motion, but she wants to make it clear that this should not take the place of the school budget. We need to remember why we started the school (Nina).

V. New Business:

Preparation of Annual Report; Ernie is not here. We have talked about policies being kept together in a binder. Our bylaws say that we need to review the academic outputs/levels of students - a state of the school. There is a file cabinet in the IT closet that is designated for the board. Everything should be copied with one set at school and one set at board members house.

Joint Board/Staff mixer meeting; Could do it for Lori's Birthday. Discussed via e-mails between now and next meeting. Could do it at the Matanuska River park.

Board positions expiring in April; Robert K. – will not be seeking reelection. Robert's work schedule is getting more demanding with lots of travel. Lori, Wendy, Kati and Robert' positions are all terms that are expiring. Public meeting is coming up on April 7th for board elections. We need to get nominations. April 7th is three

weeks away. Lori doesn't know if any other teachers would be willing to be on the board. We need to look at who will be President. The positions on the board are decided by APC. Nicole will be presiding at the April 13th meeting. All other officers' terms are expiring.

Scholarships to Clubs. Nina moved that parents who are not volunteering their 4 hours/month will no longer get scholarships to one club per term. Chris C. seconded. Passed unanimously. APC has had a policy to provide one club per term free of charge to parents' that are in financial hardship. Lori wants to amend policy so that 1 scholarship per child per year and families need to apply for the scholarship. Nicole seconded the motion. Proposed amendment – one per child and only one per activity. The board tabled the motion after much discussion. Someone brings a thought-out policy to the next meeting for discussion.

VI. Future Items/Future Business

Need a new grant-writing committee. Nate Pokrifki is one of the researchers for the Rasmusson Foundation. Nate could head such a committee but a board member needs to be on the committee. Nate and Melissa Kemberling are on the committee. Action item: Casey Bowen to contact Nate P. to head the grant writing committee. Other committee members to be determined.

Sandra – suggested we merge with another school. Resistance from teachers present because of the situation we left at Larson. Laura Wick is trying to get a Science School. Birch Tree Waldorf Charter. There is discussion of a Charter School Campus for 3 schools being built and sharing a campus. Mentioned at a meeting Casey had with John Wheatman at District Offices.

Next meeting: **April 7, 2010**; board elections and lottery meeting;
April 13, 2010; 7:00 P.M.

VII. Executive Session:

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

VIII. Adjournment:

APC Governing Board Members

Additional Attendees

Present, Unless Noted Otherwise:

Wendy Bowen
Joyce Boyd
Chris Cadieux
Kevin Cochran
Ernie Hetrick
Robert Kalander, Chair
Lori Koutsky, Vice Chair
Sandra McMillian
Kati Sanders, Treasurer
Nina Shaw
Nicole Whittington-Evans

Casey Bowen, Principal

Family Activities Notes:

From: [O'ROURKE](#)

Date: 3/14/2010 6:29:22 PM

To: ['Fronteras SI Charter School'](#)

Subject: APC Agenda

Family Activities

Science Festival- Thursday, March 18 from 6:00-8:00

We are not lucky enough to have the Imaginarium this year, but Shannon Allan and myself have put together some hands-on activities and the students projects should be great!

Fiesta- Friday, April 30

We will have our next planning meeting on Monday, March 22. We are hoping to find a different location to hold the Fiesta this year so the date may change based on the availability of facilities.