

Santa Rosa French-American Charter School – School Advisory Board (SAB)



SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 9, 2013

Meeting Location: SRFACS Library

Recorded By: Brian Benefield

1 ATTENDANCE

Brian Benefield
Emmanuelle Benefield
Pascal Stricher
Gwenaelle Peyret
Cindy Beurtheret
Jon Custer-Topai
Kathleen Helleskov
Jennifer Jimenez

2 MEETING START

Meeting Schedule Start: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Actual Start: 6:05 p.m.
Meeting Scribe: Brian Benefield

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

J. Jimenez made a motion to approve and J. Custer-Topai seconded.
Unanimous approval.

4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

K. Heleskov made a motion to approve and C. Beurtheret seconded.
Unanimous approval.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT

E. Benefield asked if the lunch menu for the week could be posted at the front of the school. There was also a request to have the menu proofread before being published.

6 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

P. Stricher began by asking the teacher representatives their impression of the new school year. Both teachers felt that there has been a huge step forward because the students know the school routine and have a solid understanding of French. It was noted that the returning teachers do not have the pressure of finding housing, cars, furniture, etc. P. Stricher commented on the process for teacher credentialing and that it is difficult. The teachers echoed this sentiment and would very much like to have their experience and education recognized by the state of California. There was a comment about a school in southern California that employs teachers from Spain and

there appears to be a formal agreement between the governments. P. Stricher said that he would inquire about this arrangement. There was additional conversation about what is asked of the teachers in the U.S. on a J1 Visa. There are significant costs associated as well as the demand for additional exams. There was also discussion about the current terms of J1 visa holders because it restricts teachers to three years at SRFACS. There seems to be some concern among the parent community regarding the anticipated turnover rate. It was noted that teachers could leave for a full year and return. There was a suggestion to apply to the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction (BTSA) to see if a waiver is possible for the exam requirements.

P. Stricher remarked that the school district is working on a strategic plan and that it is now in its second phase. The plan welcomes participation from all parties, including staff, parents, and students. P. Stricher will soon inform parents of these meetings to allow them to participate.

P. Stricher commented that the Common Core standards are being implemented and along with that, there will be a teacher chosen as a site representative of the Common Core Network Team and will be in charge of communicating what the latest information on Common Core implementation. Teachers will elect this representative.

7 ACTION ITEMS

Proposal to have a regular report from the SRFACS Foundation Board

There was a discussion about the importance of communicating with the Foundation. It was noted how critical it is that both boards know what the other is doing in order to best utilize resources. B. Benefield made a motion to set aside five minutes at each SAB meeting for a member of the Foundation Board to present an informal report and P. Stricher seconded. Unanimous approval.

Update on Special Parent Representative Election

P. Stricher said that he would communicate news of the election in an email this Friday. Parents will be given one week to submit their self-nomination in the form of a paragraph. These paragraphs will be sent to P. Stricher. The deadline will be Wednesday, September 25. The slate of nominees will be sent to parents on Friday, September 27 and the election will take place the week of Monday, September 30 through Friday, October 4.

Update on Classified Representative Election

P. Stricher stated that this election would follow the school board meeting on Wednesday, September 25. The school board is set to vote on the proposed changes to the make-up of the SAB board at that meeting.

Update on SAB bylaw revisions to be approved by school board.

P. Stricher will be submitting to the school board the approved minutes of SAB's August meeting where there was a vote to change the make-up of the SAB board. The school board will vote to approve this change on Wednesday, September 25.

School Mascot Logo

There was discussion about the next steps in adopting a design of the SRFACS mascot, the wolves. P. Stricher suggested that the school seek input from sixth and seventh grade students via their art class. P. Stricher will approach Sharon Eisley, the art teacher, as the first step. It was suggested that input from the Foundation marketing committee be part of the selection process. There was general agreement to establish a selection process at SAB's October meeting.

8 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

J. Jimenez suggested that the standards about the new websites be communicated to parents to set expectations. P. Stricher said that he would communicate that to parents so it is clear.

There was a question about the job description of a Class Representative. P. Stricher said that their role is to facilitate communication and to serve parents, staff and parents. He remarked that the lower grades would likely utilize parent representative more than in the upper grades.

With the new SAB term commencing, it was suggested that the role of minute taker and agenda keeper change hands. J. Jimenez agreed to assume this role. B. Benefield will pass all needed information and materials in advance of the October meeting.

9 MEETING END

Meeting Schedule End: 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Actual End: 6:37 p.m.

10 NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting Location: SRFACS Library

Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 14, 2013

Next Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m.

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