



Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School

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

APC Board Meeting

Location: Joe D's Portable
February 12th, 2013 - 6:00 P.M.



Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 6:06 call to order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call/Determine Quorum Number required for a quorum: 5

Gwen, Jackie, Nicole, Reanne, Jill, Marcus, Jennifer, Erik, Andrew, Michelle;
Anna Hartmann;

Community members in attendance: Amber Rinella; Tammy H.; ??

III. Approval of the agenda for today's meeting

Nicole moved. NO objection. Agenda adopted.

IV. Review meeting protocol

- Wait for recognition from the chair to speak
- 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 two (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.

Amber Rinella; Kindergarten and 3rd grade parent. What are the objectives for individual grade levels at the school? Does this exist? If not, is there a process underway to help put these together? Amber has done this at other schools and is offering her services to help.

VI. Standing Agenda

A. Approval of meeting minutes from January, 2013

Motion: Gwen moves to approve meeting minutes. Jackie seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

B. Chair Report 5-10 minutes

Volunteer hours. Please log into the book.

Lease update – Michelle and Jennifer involved in lease negotiations. Working on no increase in rent. Landlords are wanting to pass down some of the maintenance fees to us, which are capped at \$2,400. Water testing, for example, is one such item. Landlords are

working well with DEC on this aspect. Talked about portables and possible bathroom needs.

Motion: Michelle moves to renew the lease for one year. Nicole seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Chris Whittington-Evans is working to get an update from Borough re: USDA loan progress.

District lawyer is looking over lease, and we are grateful for this.

C. Principal's Report 15 – 30 minutes

- Budget for 2012-2013 school year
- Student performance & curriculum- review of student test scores; Mr. Shawn Arnold, Mat-Su School District, presenting
- Enrollment
- Parent communications/concerns
- Hiring
- Other

Jennifer – thanks to Michelle for all her time on lease.

Introduce Shawn Arnold – Office of Instruction at District. “District Data Guy.”

Shawn Arnold – power point presentation regarding Fronteras Testing Data;

AYP – all schools measured by this (No Child Left Behind)

Standard’s Based Assessments (SBA’s) used in Alaska to determine whether or not we meet AYP.

Language Arts scores – reading and writing scores averaged out.

Fronteras is so small that a small number of children can throw off data (5 students, for example); Looked at 3rd grade data, which is consistently outperforming the District.

This year we have the most stable population of students so far.

Stability at school will go a long way to improving our testing performance. We have strong language arts skills, and seemingly lower math skills.

Enrollment – no change. 220 students.

Will be hiring 2 2/3 teachers for next year. Will have to hire for Totten and Brenda Almena’s classes. Mr. Totten is leaving for family reasons. Fronteras can post positions any time now. There may be some Anchorage candidates due to Anchorage School Districts cut backs.

Budget proposal based on 220 students circulated. Another aid will be in K-1 hallway for next year.

Custodian position – by Friday should have all applicants that we’re interested in and are available to interview. We are moving forward.

D. Treasurer's Report - 5 minutes

- Catering \$750 Check written for auction;
- \$1,033 reimbursed to Torres for fundraising;
- \$787 – went out for PE archery equipment;
- Total account amount: \$14,724.00

E. Committee/Team Requests- *Written reports should be submitted to the Secretary 1 week prior to Board meeting for all Committees so that they be reviewed by APC prior to meeting*
Please keep oral reports as brief as possible

- Facilities Committee Report

Chris W-E: Searching for a funder to build the school. We've been working with USDA since last June to grant us a loan. The process is now in hands of the Borough. The Borough would own the facility through this route. We will pay for the facility in rent and taxes through our budget, but it will be the Borough's property. We've provided them with our financial data. It's before the Manager and Director of Finance, Tammy Clayton. It's a tricky thing for them as they've never done this before. It is in their code to help organizations like ours with proven viability to help us find homes. We may need to lobby them on this soon. Watch for announcement about this. We are looking for some Design money. We may need letters of support to go to Juneau to bolster our ask.

Lease negotiations – any considerations that we have with our facility should be brought to bare before we sign our new 12-month lease.

Number of kids in school determines the limit of our debt service. We have to prove what we can afford our loan amount and subsequent payments. The more students we can have going in to this process the better. We need to build numbers from the bottom and try to retain at the top.

Next Tuesday, we will start a regular Facilities Committee meeting again. 3rd Tuesday of every month. 6 pm here in Joe's portable.

- Elections Committee Update – Meeting on February 4th. Those up for election Marcus, Joe, Michelle, Andrew, and Nicole. Marcus is not interested in re-running. Andrew likely leaving the board. Nicole is termed-out. There is only one applicant so far.
- Date for application deadline? Typically we have applications due at our March meeting. April meeting is our Open House and election. Election committee has decided to have an election even if we don't have candidates competing for seats. Families will have 2 Ballots per family. Not a week long endeavor. Ballots will go out to families. Return ballots by the Lottery date. Lottery set up for last Thursday of the month of April. Elections committee is planning to develop more support for board members and set up a review for board members. Missing meetings can make us ineligible or get us removed from the board. Next meeting is in March. Applications are due in early March.
- Board Development Committee discussion – tabled to next meeting.

VII. Unfinished Business- Action Items

- Curriculum development – Since January, 2013, Jackie has been working with teachers to develop curriculum alignment. Most of the teachers work together really well. Jackie needed to review Fronteras Charter with some new staff. She is trying to meet every Tuesday with teachers. Three teachers showed up today. They have one hour. By the time they got everything out, they had to put it away again. Teachers have a plan for science, but still tweaking 4th and 5th grade. Once they look at standards, they have to plug in units that teachers will teach. They need time to collaborate. This is huge and it will not be done by the end of the year. We need more people and more time. How is curriculum typically aligned as a school? Teachers use standards as a guide for their grade level.

- Fronteras needs to look at National Standards, then plug them in with Common Core goals. K-1 teams; 2/3 teams; 4/5 teams; 6/7/8 team. Teams are trying to look at national standards and teaching same materials. Data helps determine gaps and direction for teaching. Math program is changing next year and will be “Envision Math” (no more Every day math for 2 – 5th grade). We need to make a plan to get this done. We will talk about this again at our next board meeting.
- Language Immersion conference – Global language programs. Looking at different schools models to look at.
 - School security – table for next month’s meeting;
 - Administrator evaluation update – February 26th, 6 pm; Evaluation; Raeanne and Nicole to e-mail others of the board who can attend.
 - Board fundraising
 1. Raffle update – Fronteras parent volunteer, Domonic Harper, presenting
 2. Raffle will run for 5 weeks. \$1K – first prize; \$500.00 second prize; Class prizes. Important for raising money for Fronteras. \$100.00 expectation per parent. Dominic would like to set up a Competition: Award for classes and faculty as well; Intends to use descriptive paragraph about Spanish Immersion focus, to help get buy-in for selling tickets.

VIII. New Business

A. Changing March meeting date –

Motion: Michelle Moves to move March meeting to March 5th at 6 pm. Nicole seconds;

Discussion: Members of the APC are concerned about our changing dates of meetings.

Motion passes unanimously. New meeting date is March 5th.

B. Middle school student retention – Need to figure out what we need to do to create greater Middle School retention. Need to have board members develop committees with ideas of how to increase Middle School retention. More 5th Graders at this time appear to be planning to stay for next year’s 6th year. Four items we’ve talked about in the past:

- 1) Starting a Pre-K program
- 2) A Summer camp
- 3) Informing parents re: what it takes to be in a Spanish Immersion school; Discuss standardized test scores;
- 4) Athletics;

C. Time permitting, non-agenda items

Anna – How much Spanish are our kids retaining? In 2011 and 2012, Anna has done fall and spring testing at the school. This year Anna did fall and spring testing. She does not have a complete set of data. Reading, Language, comprehension;

K – this testing focuses on getting them comfortable with testing;

1st grade – more comfortable and can take cues with words;

2nd grade – range is huge – low 1st grade to high 3rd grade abilities;

3rd grade – child first starts using nouns and verbs in second language; Reading Chapter books;

4th grade – right on grade level reading for 4th grade;

5th grade – at 4th grade level;

Anna has another aid helping her this year. Will be working with Kathy Moffat to help bring the information together.

6th Grade – tests suggests they are reading at the 4th grade level in Spanish at beginning of year. By end of year, they are at the 5th grade level;

7th grade – a little dip in reading level;

8th grade – reading at a 6th grade level in Spanish;

Anna indicated that this was a “humble” summary of the information so far. Thank you so much Anna for collecting this information!

IX. Executive Session

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

X. Future Items/Future Business

Next regular board meeting: TBA March 5 2013, 6pm

XI. Final Actions and Adjournment – Michelle moves to adjourn meeting, 8:40 pm. No objection.

APC Governing Board Members

Jill Bang
Jackie Cochran
Joseph Dinwiddie, Vice Chair
Erik Hierschmann
Michelle Niland, Chair
Marcus T. Reum
Andrew Reynolds
Gwen Schneider
Raeanne Stephens, Treasurer
Nicole Whittington-Evans, Secretary
Jennifer Schmidt, Principal

La Promesa de Lealtad a la Bandera

Juro lealtad
A la bandera
de los Estados Unidos de America
y a la republica
que representa una nacion
bajo Dios
indivisible
con libertad
y justicia
para todos.