



Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School

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APC Board Meeting

Location: Joe D's Portable
September 11, 2012 - 6:00 P.M.



Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

We have a quorum. Michelle, Jill, Jennifer, Marcus Reum; Eric H.; Jackie Cochran; Gwen Schneider; Nicole Whittington-Evans; Joe Dinwiddie.

III. Approval of the agenda for today's meeting

Motion: Michelle moved to approve the September Meeting agenda. Gwen seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

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.

Sandra McMillan – Came to meeting to see if we can get additional volunteers for activities and needed items at the school.

Christin Curry – Have concerns about level of volunteering. We used to receive phone calls and letters if we weren't keeping up with volunteering. This is no longer happening. Parents are no longer focused on this. Other thing I want to raise involves a group of the board getting involved with family activities at school – dances, movie nights, etc..

Heather Charton – Volunteering is on my mind here. Why is there not an Amigos representative at the board. Has there been in the past? I'll do anything you want me to do. I want to be in the school and in the presence of the school. I would like to be here and be a part of the school.

Joel Stamoolis – I'm here because I'm curious about the board and may be interested in being on the board some day. Also am here because my son is in a class that does not have a teacher yet and it's the middle of September.

Veronica Wolf – New teacher – high regard to having a Spanish speaking teacher at the 2 – 3rd grade. Can we hire an English speaking teacher to co-teach with Sr. Totten? That was the original plan. What is our back-up plan? I would love to have someone here from Amigos to be at the board meetings; they are pivotal to a lot of activities at the school. If Amigos is going to be the group that is going to serve as a buffer between parents and teachers, then they should also participate in board meetings. We should support them at that level.

VI. Standing Agenda

- A. Approval of meeting minutes from August, 2012
August meeting minutes not available yet for approval due to a computer document-sharing glitch.
- B. Chair Report *5-10 minutes*
 - Charter Renewal: seems to be going well.
 - Facilities Committee: It would benefit us to have new people involved in the facilities committee. Michelle has talked with the man that has built Birchtree Charter School and other schools. He has ideas about how to do that even if we do not hold the deed to the school. He has built one school on state lands.
- C. Principal's Report *15 – 30 minutes*
 - Budget for 2012-2013 school year
 - Student performance & curriculum
 - Enrollment
 - Parent communications/concerns
 - Hiring
 - Other
 - Enrollment: Student number up to 220 (more than last year). In October we will likely start aligning curriculum on Friday's.
 - New Teacher Hires:
 - Sandra Garrison-Paige flying here on Friday night. She will be at school on Saturday. In classroom starting Monday afternoon.
 - 4/5th Grade Teachers:
 - Teacher prospect: a teacher currently teaching Spanish at Private School in Anchorage. She has aligned Spanish curriculum in Anchorage. Jennifer is contacting APU now about a teaching certificate. She is prepared to student teach by January. She is o.k'd at the District to be a permanent teacher.
 - Teacher Nathan has risen high in his new single-teaching responsibilities. Wants to stay as a single classroom teacher.
 - New Monitors: Jill Bang is back at the school for 3 ½ hrs.at the school. Kimberly Barfield Stevens is another monitor helping with K-1. Fronteras now has 7 monitors.
 - Busing going extremely well – about 50 kids riding the bus. There is a schedule conflict and we'll need to bump schedule up to 6:58 am pick-up in Palmer.
 - Sept. 21, 22, 23rd Jennifer, and teachers will be attending Language Acquisition conference in Fairbanks. Looking forward to that.

- Charter Renewal – Department called to set up meeting this week to renew Charter.
- Parking Lot: Two volunteers came to remove the barrels. Thanks to them! Jennifer walked the parking lot with her father who has designed institutions such as youth centers and prisons, and she now has a new design for the parking lot. Jennifer appreciates everyone's patience and understanding as we finish setting up the parking lot.

D. Treasurer's Report - 5 *minutes*

\$4,540.00 – check written.

Two teachers – covering costs for moving; Checks have been written to them. Will have a third once the new teacher comes on.

\$200.00 for Foraker Training.

We have about \$25,000 in Wells Fargo account.

There is more money coming to Board from activities last year (~ \$1,400.00).

- 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

VII. Unfinished Business- Action Items

- A. Update on new teacher hires - see above.
- B. Curriculum Development – nothing on that yet. For sure will start work in November. Curriculum committee. There are parents that have expressed interest in serving on that committee. Nothing has been listed yet. As soon a curriculum committee is scheduled, Gwen will know. Two teachers and at least one more member of the APC needs to be on committee.
- C. Board Treasurer Position – We have an applicant. Applicant is a parent of a first grader at Fronteras. She works as an accountant and is a CPA. She has a business in Palmer. This is her daughter's second year at Fronteras.

Broke for 5 minutes.

6:49 pm back to meeting.

Motion: Jackie moved we vote applicant in to Treasurer's seat. Seconded by Marcus.

Discussion: Concerns expressed about voting someone on to board without meeting them or having them come to the meeting to express their interest. Concern also expressed that we not have a Treasurer for another month.

Motion: Nicole moved we table motion. Jackie seconded.

Motion passed – 7 yes's, 2 no's.

D. Advertising/Promoting Fronteras –

- Brainstorm of ideas - Radio stations; school presentations / school spirit; Spirit days – having more fun, group activities. Getting out in the community is best way to promote Fronteras. Pyrah's U-Pick Farm – bags with Fronteras name. Having kids serve their community. Business partnerships. Chamber of Commerce – talked to them about Puerto Rico trip.
- Free Advertising possibilities - Public Service Announcements on radio and The Highlander – flyer that goes to every mail box in Valley.

- Palmer High – still interested in providing Spanish Immersion program at the High School level. Getting word out to the new Parents that are coming in.
- Spanish Immersion Education - Every single person needs to help educate themselves and others. One idea – rent High School Auditorium and make a presentation.

VIII. New Business

A. APC Budget –

Need to think about how APC budget is going to be used. School Budget cannot pay for certain items – Visa costs, attorney's fees for teacher hires, for example. Need to start thinking about what we are using our budget for – carpet cleaning perhaps should come out of school budget. Raffle in the past has been the largest fundraiser. We've done airline tickets; cash prizes. \$9 – \$10,000 would come to Fronteras APC Budget from that. Misty will be a great help with volunteers. Jennifer S. will help find a parent to take something like a raffle on. Getting a gaming permit will not be a problem.

B. Time permitting, non-agenda items

- 1) Amigos – what does Amigos do? The whole thing is about organizing volunteers at the school. It's a really big job. Miss Schmidt approves Amigos volunteer activities.
- 2) Parent Volunteer Hours – for the parents that are not contributing their volunteer hours. How do we track this? This is an Amigos responsibility. What do we do with Family Activities – dances, movie night's etc..
- 3) Items that have been brought to Gwen's attention:
 - a. Health and Safety –
 - i. Black pipe – what is it? Belongs to landlord. Hold-over from when water pipes froze to Building A. Hasn't removed it yet.
 - ii. Snow – what is contract? All of the building entrances are covered by volunteers; parking lots/plow contract handled by landlord;
 - iii. Facilities – Fronteras lease ending in 2014. There is a clause for renewing the lease, if we need to. Michelle had meeting with builder and banker. It is doable to build a facility this year. Facilities committee meeting has not been scheduled since the summer. We need to dive back in. Marcus has experience with fuel-cell, renewable energy technology. Marcus has put together fuel-cell systems for rural communities..
 - iv. Technology – have a need for some technology support other than what the District can provide us right now. Gwen keeps getting asked if she can fix some items. Technology support is a huge need. We currently

have a contract through the end of the year. When a promethium board was not working, Fronteras had to hire another contractor.

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: **October 9th, 2012, 6pm**

XI. Final Actions and Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 7:47 pm.

APC Governing Board Members

Jill Bang
Jackie Cochran
Joseph Dinwiddie, Vice Chair
Erik Hierschmann
Michelle Niland, Chair
Marcus T. Reum
Andrew Reynolds
Gwen Schneider
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.