

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2010 4:00 p.m. – 7 p.m.

UCLA Lab School 330 Charles E. Young Dr.

****APPROVED****

BOARD MEMBERS:

Present: Karin Newlin, George Abrams, Marta Alcumbrac, Gabrielle Samuels, Robert Greenberg (via phone), Linda Johannesen, Michael Bishop, Marissa Chibas-Preston, Sharon Sutton

Quorum? Yes.

Also Present: Carrie Wagner, Joe Mezza, Ray Franco, Mary Ann Gallo

PROCEEDINGS:

- Marta Alcumbrac called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.
- Alcumbrac asks Linda Johannesen to introduce new the Movin' In Campaign.
- Johannesen explains that the Friends of LFCSA formed a steering committee consisting of Board members and parents and launched a 3 year \$2.5 million fundraising campaign to open and build-out the Media Center site. She notes the successful launch of Phase 1 with informative salons hosted by several parents. A short discussion follows.
- Alcumbrac also mentions other possibilities for large donations. Alcumbrac acknowledges the formation of the Friends of LFCSA as it's own non-profit to assist in fundraising.
- Johannesen points out the absence of fundraising expenses in the current budget, adding that a certain amount must be spent in order to effectively fundraise. She also notes the importance of LFCSA viewing itself as more of a non-profit.
- Joe Mezza from ExED distributes copies and explains the proposed budget for 2010/2011. Short discussion follows.
- Alcumbrac points out that because state funds are dependent on the previous year's enrollment and since LFCSA is growing for several years, there will be a budget gap until the 2012/2013 school year.
- A short discussion follows a question from Michael Bishop about implications of taking a larger loan from Charter School Capital.
- Karin Newlin emphasizes her desire to talk about what it will cost to run LFCSA's program at Media Center, adding that she has extended the lease's cancellation clause to June 30th.
- Linda Johannesen leaves the meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- Alcumbrac moves to approve the 08/09 audit pending changes to spelling of George Abram's name & the school's address. Abrams seconds. Ayes (via roll call): George Abrams, Marta Alcumbrac, Marissa Chibas-Preston, Gabrielle Samuels, Sharon Sutton, Michael Bishop. Bob Greenberg abstained because he didn't have the document in question. Motion carries.
- Carrie Wagner leaves the meeting at 5:45 p.m.
- Alcumbrac asks Marissa Chibas-Preston to speak about the CORE-GRASP experience. Chibas-Preston gives an overview of the process and next steps. Overall, she felt it was a very positive thing.

- Sharon Sutton notes that UES went through a similar process and that it took a year to build the strategic plan for action.
- Alcumbrac adds that the charter will be up for renewal and needs to be submitted by September 15. Nancy Martorelli and Audrey Fann are getting a team together to write the renewal application.
- Alcumbrac asks architect, Ray Franco to speak.
- Franco distributes copies of his Preliminary Itemized Cost Breakdown. He says that plans are in plan-check. He talks about starting with “soft demolition” and reserving as many materials as possible for repurposing. He then shares that he is pledging \$25,000 to the Movin’ In Campaign.
- Bishop opens a discussion regarding a proposed loan from parent, Tod Abrams. In order to avoid a conflict of interest, George Abrams recuses himself from the discussion. Bishop says that Tod Abrams has offered to make a loan of \$300,000 for up to 18 months at 10 – 12% interest. Alcumbrac adds that this loan would be tied to the TI reimbursement from the landlord who has agreed to pay half now.
- Gabrielle Samuels asks if taking this loan would lessen the size of the loan needed from CSC. The answer is no.
- Newlin emphasizes how challenging it is to run LFCSA’s program with such a tight budget.
- Bishop believes that Tod Abrams’ terms are probably non-negotiable. Newlin adds that ExED’s Louise Manuel has suggested that we would not be able to get any type of loan besides a personal one.
- Newlin and Alcumbrac suggest that Bishop speak to Louise Manuel to get her recommendation. Chibas-Preston suggests that the Board vote to give Bishop the authority to negotiate this deal and make a decision.
- Sutton moves that the Board appoint Bishop to talk to Louise Manuel and then negotiate with Tod Abrams. Following a short discussion, Chibas-Preston seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Sutton, Chibas-Preston, Alcumbrac, Samuels, Bishop. Abrams abstains. Motion carries.
- Abrams asks to move the agenda item regarding a Board member search committee to the next Board meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo.