

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts Board Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2010 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
2709 Media Center Drive L.A. 90065
APPROVED

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

Absent: Verna Dauterive, Elise Buik

Quorum? Yes.

Also Present: Mary Ann Gallo, Louise Manuel, Carrie Wagner, Bruce Newlin, Cyrice Griffith, Susan Lee, Candace Cain, Andreas Wenger, Damian Robledo, Kevin Mulcahy, Florie Savage, Anna Olvera, Ray Franco, Ana Dziengel

PROCEEDINGS:

- Marta Alcumbrac called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.
- Alcumbrac moves to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2010 Board Meeting. George Abrams seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Alcumbrac gives a brief overview of the CUP hearing, emphasizing the passion of parents who spoke. She says the hearing officer had a few questions all of which LFCSA is looking into and will address in advance of the April 8 meeting.
- In response to a question from Gabrielle Samuels, Karin Newlin says she will make the list of questions available to Board Members when it is ready.
- Alcumbrac introduces Anna Olvera from Pacific Charter School Development. Olvera describes their experience in the field of preparing and opening charter schools delivering on time and on budget. She adds that they have successfully handled eleven CUPs. Olvera then introduces architect, Ray Franco with whom she works. He expresses his own personal commitment to charter school development.
- Alcumbrac moves that the Board authorize Alcumbrac and Newlin to enter formal negotiations with Pacific Charter School Development and Ray Franco to modify contracts and bring back to Board for approval. Linda Johannesen seconds. Short discussion follows about financial aspects of agreement. Alcumbrac notes that this contract will cover from now through getting the CUP and that new contracts will be drawn when construction begins. Motion carries by general consent.
- Alcumbrac asks ExEDS' Carrie Wagner to address the financials.
- Wagner distributes a "financial dashboard" and answers questions from Board Members. She then moves to the financial "forecast" and reports that the financial picture is concerning. A short discussion follows.
- Louise Manuel of ExED addresses the \$2 million budgeted for getting LFCSA into Media Center. She discusses various funding opportunities as well as the terms of loan options.
- Alcumbrac asks Newlin to speak about the latest news on the Public School Option. Newlin says that she spoke at the second meeting where few community members were in attendance. She says the voting is underway and that they will hear shortly. She notes that she does not believe LFCSA will be selected, that the district will go with one of its own proposals. In response to a question, Newlin says that 38 schools were offered at this round, with ultimately 250 total being offered.

- A discussion regarding this development and the Board's involvement in the process follows. In particular, Board Members express concern about growing the organization at this time. All agree that a conversation about how and when to grow LFCSA needs to take place as soon as possible. Immediate steps are considered for implementing should LFCSA be awarded the North Hollywood campus.
- Abrams asks Newlin to talk about enrollment and staffing for the 2010/2011 school year.
- Newlin says that there will be 100 new kindergartners, 39 new first graders and 14 new second graders. All together they will have 18 teachers leading classes of 25 students each. She adds that once the Media Center site is completely "built out", it will accommodate 520 students in grades K through 6.
- A discussion follows about free and reduced lunch students. Currently they make up 20% of LFCSA's population. All agree that they would like to see that number closer to 40%. Alcumbrac speaks of the goal of having the school population be representative of the local community and adds that 40% would help in terms of receiving grants.
- Alcumbrac asks that Abrams manage the public random drawing with Marissa Chibas-Preston assisting.
- There is a short discussion about siblings entering and Founding Parents. Abrams addresses questions about how Founding Parents or Community Partners are accepted and subsequently supervised.
- Referring to the public random drawing, Abrams notes that this is the first year that LFCSA can legally grant preference to free and reduced lunch students.
- It is agreed that preferential enrollment should be granted to achieve the goal of 40% free and reduced lunch students per grade.
- Johannesen stresses the need to provide adequate staffing to support these students.
- Kevin Mulcahy adds that LFCSA's research shows that the Glassell Park population is quite similar to that of Los Feliz.
- Alcumbrac moves to close open session at 12:03 pm. Michael Bishop seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- CLOSED SESSION MEETING
- Open Session reopens at 1:25pm.
- During closed session, the Board approved the negotiated agreement with Studio TBD.
- Short conversation about dates for upcoming Board Meetings. The following dates are proposed: February 20th at 10:30am, March 11th at 6pm, April 22nd at 6pm, May 13th at 6pm, and June 17th at 6pm.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo.