

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes -- APPROVED
July 17, 2009 1 :30 pm to 3:30 pm
2709 Media Center Drive L.A. 90029

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

Absent: George Abrams, Verna Dauterive, Sharon Sutton

Quorum? Yes.

Also Present: Mary Ann Gallo, Nancy Martorelli, Carolyn Gee

PROCEEDINGS:

- Marta Alcumbrac called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.
- Alcumbrac moves to approve the agenda for the July 17, 2009 Board Meeting. Gabrielle Samuels seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Alcumbrac, Samuels, Marissa Chibas-Preston, Robert Greenberg, Linda Johannesen, Michael Bishop. Motion carries.
- Samuels moves to enter closed session to discuss adult personnel. Alcumbrac seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Samuels, Alcumbrac, Johannesen, Bishop, Chibas-Preston, Greenberg. Motion carries.
- Closed session begins at 1:45pm.
- Open session reopens at 2:35pm.
- Alcumbrac addresses agenda's action items beginning with the election of Board officers. She notes that at the last Board meeting, George Abrams stepped down as Board President.
- Alcumbrac asks if there is an Executive Vice President position. Karin Newlin says that it is not a required position, adding that those are President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Linda Johannesen moves to elect Marta Alcumbrac as Board President. Samuels seconds. Short discussion follows. Ayes (via roll call): Samuels, Greenberg, Johannesen, Bishop, Chibas-Preston, Alcumbrac. Motion carries.
- Short discussion of what the position of Secretary entails. Newlin says that primarily it involves signing documents when needed which why it is good to have that position filled by someone who is near to campus. Bishop adds that he or she might step in if President is not available.
- Alcumbrac moves to elect Gabrielle Samuels as Secretary of Board. Johannesen seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Johannesen, Greenberg, Alcumbrac, Bishop, Chibas-Preston, Samuels. Motion carries.
- Bob Greenberg moves to reelect Michael Bishop as Board Treasurer. Samuels seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Samuels, Greenberg, Chibas-Preston, Alcumbrac, Johannesen, Bishop. Motion carries.
- Alcumbrac pushes the Studio TBD item to the next Board meeting.
- Newlin asks Nancy Martorelli to present on the lunch program. Martorelli explains that it has lost money each year of school. It lost \$5000 in the 08/09 school year.

- A brief discussion of the lunch program follows. The greatest challenge has been in the small number of paying families participating. Families paying full price are supposed to offset the costs of providing the free and reduced lunches. The possibility of discontinuing the program is raised. The impact for free and reduced lunch families is discussed.
- Alcumbrac notes that that morning's strategic planning session revealed the need for an Executive Director position at LFCSA. She adds that the role needs to be defined and the funding needs to be found.
- A brief discussion follows about setting an august Board meeting. Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 21 at 9 am.
- Greenberg leaves the meeting at 3:10 pm.
- Alcumbrac turns to the remaining action items from the agenda: Cool Tools usage, Parent room and Selma library usage.
- Newlin opens discussion of Cool Tools by giving a brief description of what they are and how they are applied. She says that some parents were concerned that they were not being implemented adequately. She notes that at times a situation goes beyond the scope of Cool Tools and requires certain consequences – as required by LAUSD policy.
- Newlin describes the Cool Tools training which staff and faculty receive each year as well as the assembly students attend.
- Alcumbrac suggests clearly defining the training practices and Chibas-Preston adds the suggestion that it be included in the parent handbook.
- Linda Johannesen, Michael Bishop leave meeting at 3:20 pm.
- Samuels suggests that the PTA establish a parent education committee.
- Alcumbrac raises topic of library usage at Selma Elementary. It was not in the original usage agreement with Selma. In response to repeated requests from PTA president, Newlin went to Selma's principal to discuss. Usage would increase costs and teachers felt it was not the best use of their educational time.
- Alcumbrac then turns to subject of a parent room, an issue was raised by the PTA president.
- Newlin gives history of the parent room, noting that LAUSD is one of the only school districts with this policy. She highlights that this too would mean an increase in LFCSA costs. Chibas-Preston feels this is not a good use of funds at this time.
- Alcumbrac says that the matter will be put to a vote at the next Board meeting.
- Newlin adds that there are strict rules about usage of the parent room.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo.