

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes -- APPROVED
June 12, 2009 1 :00 pm to 2:40 pm
2709 Media Center Drive L.A. 90029

BOARD MEMBERS:

Present: Karin Newlin, Sharon Sutton, Bob Greenberg, Michael Bishop, George Abrams (via video conferencing), Marta Alcumbrac, Gabrielle Samuels, Marissa Chibas-Preston, Verna Dauterive, Elise Buik

Absent: Linda Johannesen

Quorum? Yes.

Also Present: Mary Ann Gallo, Kevin Mulcahy, Jack Sutton, John Vargas, (via phone), Nancy Martorelli, David Ossman Amy Mayne Robinson, Candace Cain, Sallie Higgins, Nicole Shandrew, Howard Gindoff, Naomi Slodki, Chuck Panzarella, Sophie Panzarella, Rebecca Bitton Jennifer Johnson, Mariana Weldy

PROCEEDINGS:

- George Abrams called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.
- Abrams moves to approve the meeting's agenda. Marta Alcumbrac seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Abrams, Alcumbrac, Elise Buik, Sharon Sutton, Verna Dauterive, Gabrielle Samuels, Michael Bishop, Marissa Chibas-Preston, Robert Greenberg. Motion carries.
- Abrams opens discussion of procedure for public speaking at Board meetings.
- Dauterive emphasizes the need for parents to give advance notice if they want to speak at a meeting.
- Alcumbrac distributes a form that they are considering using for this purpose.
- Bishop describes how things are handled in the Paramount school district noting that every agenda includes a public hearing section & that parents submit their request.
- Abrams suggests following the Paramount model & wonders if the Board has discretion to cut the time short if necessary. Dauterive adds that parents should be aware that they might not have the chance to speak due to time constraints.
- Alcumbrac reads the proposed policy regarding public hearing. Abrams suggests adding a sentence about submitting a card in advance of the public hearing section. Dauterive notes that parents should be advised to restrict speech to three minutes.
- Alcumbrac reads the newly constructed policy statement.
- Abrams moves to adopt the policy as read to the Board by Alcumbrac. Dauterive seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Dauterive, Abrams, Alcumbrac, Sutton, Greenberg, Bishop, Samuels, Buik, Chibas-Preston. Motion carries.
- Abrams opens discussion of 2009/2010 budget, asking John Vargas to walk the Board through the important points.
- Vargas gives a review of the financials from 2008/2009. Samuels asks for clarification on fundraising expenses.
- Vargas notes that the general purpose budget got a boost due to ADA (average daily attendance) being higher than anticipated.

- Vargas begins to go over the 09/10 budget by pointing out the major changes. Discussion of loans follows.
- Alcumbrac asks about the line item for fundraising. Vargas says it is budgeted at \$300,000.
- Vargas says that the budget is based on present day revenue assumptions and that if & when the rates change, the budget may need to be revised.
- Referring to a 3% reserve Vargas mentioned, Alcumbrac asks Bishop for his thoughts. Bishop says that in the long term the big issue is fund balance and in the short term it is cash balance. He emphasizes the importance of raising cash through parents or foundations.
- Abrams moves to approve the 2009/2010 budget. Chibas-Preston seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Dauterive, Abrams, Greenberg, Bishop, Samuels, Buik, Chibas-Preston, Alcumbrac, Sutton. Motion carries.
- Abrams moves to approve the May '09 Board meeting minutes pending typo corrections. Buik seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Alcumbrac, Sutton, Abrams, Greenberg, Bishop, Chibas-Preston, Dauterive, Buik, Samuels. Motion carries.
- Abrams opens discussion of the growth loan application.
- Buik wonders if they should borrow full \$500,000 offered rather than \$300,000, given the 10% interest rate. Greenberg asks if there would be any pre-pay penalties should they be able to pay back early.
- Vargas gives an overview of how the loan is structured.
- Newlin adds that even if the Board approves it, we don't have to go with this loan.
- Buik suggests approving the resolution pending Bishop's review.
- Abrams moves that the Board authorize Karin Newlin too sign the Growth Loan Application for up to \$507,000 pending Michael Bishop's review. Alcumbrac seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Dauterive, Abrams, Greenberg, Bishop, Samuels, Buik, Chibas-Preston, Alcumbrac, Sutton. Motion carries.
- Vargas raises topic of the Consolidated Application which deals with the "Titles" such as Title 1. Vargas emphasizes the necessity of using Title 1 funding exclusively for improvements to education of those students.
- Newlin discusses the bookkeeping challenges involved and wonders if the \$19,000 we'd receive would be worth the additional work required.
- Vargas notes that we do not have to apply.
- Various Board members concur that at this time it may not be worth it and that that may change if the free & reduced lunch population increases.
- Abrams moves to approve the Consolidated Application excluding the Title 1 funding. Dauterive seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Alcumbrac, Sutton, Dauterive, Bishop, Samuels, Abrams, Greenberg, Buik, Chibas-Preston. Motion carries.
- Abrams moves to topic of the 990. Newlin explains it is a conflict of interest policy.
- Bishop moves to approve the 990. Abrams seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Bishop, Samuels, Abrams, Greenberg, Buik, Chibas-Preston, Dauterive, Alcumbrac, Sutton. Motion carries.
- Sharon Sutton leaves the meeting at 2:10pm.
- Abrams moves to approve the ExED contract. Dauterive seconds. Short discussion follows. Ayes (via roll call): Abrams, Alcumbrac, Greenberg, Bishop, Dauterive, Samuels, Chibas-Preston, Buik. Motion carries.

- Abrams raises subject of the E3 contract. Alcumbrac says that E3 only signs yearlong contracts & that given the upcoming move, they could probably benefit from the continuity E3 provides.
- Alcumbrac moves to approve the E3 contract for 2009/2010. Buik seconds. A short discussion follows. Ayes (via roll call): Abrams, Bishop, Samuels, Alcumbrac, Buik, Chibas-Preston, Dauterive, Greenberg. Motion carries.
- Abrams announces that he will be stepping down as Board President but will be continuing as Parent Representative for the remainder of the year. He asks that Marta Alcumbrac serve in his place as President.
- Noting the time, Abrams asks to move the closed session item to the next meeting.
- Abrams says that there are three parents and one student who have asked to speak before the Board. Then Abrams leaves the meeting at 2:25pm.
- Alcumbrac invites student, Sophie Panzarella to address the Board. Sophie reads a letter she had written to her teacher, expressing the fondness and admiration she feels toward her.
- Amy Mayne Robinson, parent and 08/09 PTA President, addresses the Board next, followed by Sallie Higgins, a parent and Secretary of the PTA who cites her concern about parents not feeling welcome at Board meetings. Finally, Jennifer Johnson, a parent, discusses her sadness over the personnel issue and her concern about how it impacts students.
- Dauterive moves to adjourn. Alcumbrac seconds. Ayes (via roll call): Buik, Dauterive, Alcumbrac, Bishop, Samuels, Greenberg, Chibas-Preston. Motion carries.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo.