

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts Board Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2010 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
LFCSA Office at 1553 Cassil Pl. Hollywood, CA
APPROVED

BOARD MEMBERS:

Present: Karin Newlin, Marta Alcumbrac, Gabrielle Samuels, Robert Greenberg, Linda Johannesen, Marissa Chibas-Preston (via phone until 6:45), Sharon Sutton

Absent: Michael Bishop, George Abrams

Quorum? Yes.

Also Present: Joe Mezza, Audrey Fann, Heather Newlin, Darcy Mellinger, Megan Howe, Rebecca Heneise, Andreas Wenger, Cyrice Griffith, Candace Cain, Mary Ann Gallo

PROCEEDINGS:

- Marta Alcumbrac called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.
- Alcumbrac moves to approve the minutes from the June 10 Board meeting. Gabrielle Samuels seconds. Sharon Sutton makes two small corrections. Ayes via roll call: Sharon Sutton, Linda Johannesen, Marta Alcumbrac, Marissa Chibas-Preston, Gabrielle Samuels, Bob Greenberg. Motion carries.
- Alcumbrac invites LFCSA teacher, Darcy Mellinger to address the Board on behalf of the teachers.
- After giving a brief description of her background and 15 years of experience, Mellinger she expresses what the teachers' foremost concerns are. She notes that in terms of leadership, they would like to have Carolyn Gee remain as teaching coach and would like to have Nancy Martorelli and Karin Newlin on campus and in their offices on a daily basis. She highlights their desire to stay "cutting edge" in terms of technology. She notes concern about the budget for classroom materials and about addressing what is meant by "arts integrated." She adds that the teachers hope to "take things to the next level" so that the standard matches what is being "advertised."
- Samuels asks for more specific information on these points. Mellinger mentions laptops in terms of technology and leveled libraries for the classrooms. She also notes what a value aides are in the classroom.
- Alcumbrac extends gratitude to the teachers for all that they do.
- Chibas-Preston physically joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.
- Newlin gives a fundraising report specific to the Movin' In campaign. \$428,105.00 had been deposited toward the goal of \$500,000.
- Newlin shares a letter from Councilman Ed Reyes' office that announces LFCSA's having been granted a 6 month postponement in installing a traffic light which has been budgeted at \$85,000. This was thanks to negotiations between Veronica Becerra, Reyes and the Planning Commission. She also notes that LAUSD is donating boxes for the move and may even handle the move which would save \$10 -12,000.
- Alcumbrac asks Joe Mezza to present on the 2010/2011 budget. Mezza is projecting a net loss of \$80,000 at the end of the year. He adds that this is an operational budget and doesn't include funding for furnishings.
- There is a brief discussion of how to furnish the school. Newlin mentions an upcoming donation of cabinetry which can double as work stations.

- Johannesen makes note that this budget has nothing budgeted for fundraising expenses and also lacks any large projections for fundraising.
- Mezza talks about ExED's desire that LFCSA not be dependent on Charter School Capital for years and years to come. He says that at present, LFCSA is expected to be in business with CSC for 2 – 3 years. He would not want to see that extended to 5 or 10 years. He adds that the goal is to end the year with a cash balance, not break even.
- After Johannesen expresses her wish that a number be put in the budget for fundraising, a discussion follows.
- Sutton asks about budgeting for aides.
- In response to a question from Chibas-Preston about adding a class from the waitlist, Mezza says that since the school receives \$7000 per child, A class of 25 students would mean an increase in revenue of \$175,000.
- Sutton moves to enter closed session. Samuels seconds. Motion carries by general consent. Open session closes at 7:25 p.m.
- Gabrielle Samuels moves to open closed session. Sutton seconds. Motion carries by general consent. Closed session opens at 7:30 p.m.
- Johannesen moves to reopen open session. Alcumbrac seconds. Motion carries by general consent. Open session reopens at 9:20 p.m.
- Action taken during closed session to approve budget as amended.
- Sutton moves to revisit the budget in October in order to return to the budget the following items: a salary for an executive director, laptops for teachers, an increase in arts teachers salaries by \$5000 per person and office computers. Johannesen seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Alcumbrac moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Johannesen seconds. Motion carries by general consent.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo.