

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts Board Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2010 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
2709 Media Center Drive L.A. 90065
****APPROVED****

BOARD MEMBERS:

Present: Karin Newlin, Gabrielle Samuels, Marissa Chibas-Preston (via phone until 7:50pm), Sharon Sutton, Robert Greenberg, Michael Bishop, George Abrams, Matthew Shenoda, Tony Butka, Darcy Mellinger

Absent: Verna Dauterive, John Michael Garces

Quorum? Yes.

Also Present: Mary Ann Gallo, Ray Franco, Tracy Prinz, Phil Ross, Carolynne Gee, Candace Cain, Cyrice Griffith, Susan Lee, Melissa Hanson-O'Hare, Ross Hirsch

PROCEEDINGS:

- Gabrielle Samuels called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
- Samuels moves to approve the minutes from the July 31st and August 10th Board Meetings. George Abrams seconds. Ayes via roll call: Samuels, Marissa Chibas-Preston, Sharon Sutton, Robert Greenberg, Abrams, Michael Bishop. Motion carries.
- Samuels opens the floor to public comment. Samuels distributes a flyer about a possible bus service for parents to hire & says that the bus company will be speaking at Back to School Night. Parents Tracy Prinz, Cyrice Griffith, Candace Cain & Melissa Hanson O'Hare each address the Board to voice concerns or questions.
- Samuels moves that Matthew Shenoda and Tony Butka be voted in as LFCSA Board Members. Abrams seconds. Ayes via roll call: Samuels, Chibas-Preston, Sutton, Greenberg, Abrams, Bishop. Motion carries.
- It is noted that Chibas-Preston and Verna Dauterive's terms will expire in 2012.
- Samuels moves to nominate Michael Bishop as Board President. Abrams seconds. Samuels opens floor to discussion.
- After brief discussion regarding the Board's desire to adhere to a regular schedule of Board officer elections, it is determined that officers elected at this time will serve until the Annual Board meeting in April when officers will be elected each year.
- Abrams moves to create a slate of officers that will be interim until the April 2011 meeting. Butka seconds. Ayes via roll call: Abrams, Sutton, Chibas-Preston, Butka, Bishop, Samuels, Greenberg, Shenoda. Motion carries.
- Samuels moves to approve Michael Bishop as Board President, Gabrielle Samuels as Board Secretary and Tony Butka as Board Treasurer. Ayes via roll call: Samuels, Greenberg, Shenoda, Butka, Sutton, Abrams, Bishop. Motion carries.
- There is a short discussion regarding the election of Parent Representative to the Board. Cyrice Griffith, President of Site Council, adds that Site Council will hold the election.
- Samuels moves to discussion of the Strategic Plan. There is a discussion of the plan and what it means to be a "champion" of specific "domains." Sutton suggests that being a champion can be thought of as being a "liason."
- Chibas-Preston joins in person at 7:50pm.
- Newlin talks about Site Council's development of its Single School Plan. Newlin sees them as being essentially the same concept. Short discussion follows.

- Champions and domains are discussed, and per Board discussion, Mellinger makes changes to the Strategic Plan document on her laptop.
- Samuels moves to adopt the Strategic Plan. Abrams seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- 2010/2011 Board Meetings are scheduled for November 12, January 13, March 10 and June 9. All meetings are at 7pm at LFCSA campus.
- Samuels moves to accept dates for Board Meetings as discussed. Bishop seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Abrams discusses formation of a leadership planning committee that would have 2 objectives: What positions need to be hired? And what is the timeline?
- There is a discussion of who will form this committee. There will be a committee, as well as advisors such as Tracy Prinz and Dr. David Guthrie. The committee will make its recommendations to the Board at the November 12 meeting. Newlin underscores need to define roles with an eye to future sustainability.
- Abrams moves to form an ad-hoc leadership planning committee to be comprised of George Abrams, Gabrielle Samuels, Karin Newlin, Tony Butka, and Audrey Fann. Sutton seconds. There is a short discussion. Motion carries by general consent.
- Newlin gives an update on the opening of school and Media Center operations. She emphasizes the need for a night custodian. Discussion follows about various options such as a service versus an individual and the number of hours per week would be required. Newlin also discusses the increased need for one-on-one aides in the classroom because of several new students with IEPs. This will have financial impact.
- Chibas-Preston suggests that the Board reexamine the budget at the November meeting.
- Butka moves to approve the hiring of a night custodian contingent on a \$12,000 budget adjustment. Abrams seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Bishop moves to ratify the employment of three aides assigned to the new students who enrolled with existing IEPs. Greenberg seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Newlin suggests that Joe Meza from ExED be present at the November meeting.
- Samuels asks that an ad-hoc committee be formed to look at the budget.
- Butka moves to form an ad-hoc budget committee to monitor the ongoing budget issues from now through June 30, 2011, and that such committee would be comprised of Tony Butka, Michael Bishop, Karin Newlin and a member of Site Council TBD. Abrams seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Newlin mentions the need for continuing building modifications. Abrams asks that that issue be moved to the November meeting at which time an ad-hoc building committee can be developed.
- Newlin gives an enrollment update, noting that they were 17 students short of the goal based on a 27-1 class size, but that Michelle Jones was still calling families on the wait list. She also gives an update on the free-and-reduced lunch percentage.
- Due to a large agenda and several Board members' time constraints, Agenda items XIII through XVI are moved to the November meeting.
- It is decided that the Board will move into closed session and Ray Franco will address the Board afterward.
- Abrams begins to make a motion regarding the By-Laws as they have been revised since the last Board Meeting. Due to time pressures, the Board immediately goes into closed session before action is taken.

- Butka moves to close open session and open closed session for personnel contract discussion/action at 9:20pm. Abrams seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Samuels moves to close closed session and return to open session at 9:40pm. Butka seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- There is a brief recess. Sutton and Abrams leave the meeting.
- Butka announces action taken during closed session: the Board designated the President to sign the 2009/2010 contract per discussion.
- Architect Ray Franco is invited to give his update on the Media Center development. Franco gives a brief history of his involvement with the school, and describes his experiences up to this point. He shares his perspective on current issues as well as problems he foresees in the future. Bishop asks Franco to provide a summary of what the school's obligations are at this time.
- Butka suggests that the ad-hoc budget committee meet and examine all figures and hear perspectives of all material parties. He advises getting all concerned parties together for discussion.
- Newlin gives a brief update on the LFCSA Charter renewal process. Most notably, LAUSD postponed the September 15 deadline and had yet to provide the new "boilerplate" language that would be required for all charter renewals.
- Newlin and Carolynne Gee give a brief report on the opening of the school with the help of temporary employee, retired principal, Phil Ross.
- Samuels asks about ratifying a contract for Ross.
- Samuels welcomes new Board members Shenoda and Butka. She then talks about happy surprise of Jonas Bros./Office Max visit, noting that they as well as the news media were very impressed by our school.
- Samuels moves to adjourn at 10:25pm.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo.