

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 2, 2011 6:00pm – 9:00 pm
2709 Media Center Drive Los Angeles, CA
Approved

Board Members present: Karin Newlin, Tony Butka, Michael Bishop, Matthew Shenoda, Gabrielle Samuels, Juan Devis, Darcy Mellinger, Tracy Prinz, Sharon Sutton, Michael Garces

Absent: Bob Greenberg

Quorum? Yes.

Also present: Mary Ann Gallo, Graham Dye (via phone), David Poznanter, Evelyn Serrano, Karolynne Gee, Andreas Wenger, Nick Kello, Judy Duzinski, Parkhurst, Edwards, Nick Zanoria, Michael Dmytriw, Candace Cain, Heather Newlin

Gabrielle Samuels called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

The Board moved immediately into closed session for a personnel meeting. Closed session closes at 7:50 pm. Open session opens at 8pm.

Samuels asks for public comment. There are no public comments.

Samuels opens discussion of Budget development.

Tony Butka begins. He is making a recommendation per his conversations with the staff and Michael Bishop, as well as his understanding of the current School Services information. Butka says we can preserve the funding for the Arts if we move to a 26 or 27:1 class size. Butka says the teachers emphasized LFCSA's status as the only Arts integrated Charter school in Los Angeles. He adds that this is a similar perspective expressed by the Board.

Butka says that School Services is suggesting that it will be a no change budget and recommending that schools not extend beyond the 2010/2011 budget. Bishop says that his policy is to budget within the Governor's proposed budget. Bishop doubts that the Governor & the legislature would derail public elementary schools in mid-June.

Butka recommends that the Board maintain the Arts integrated core curriculum. He also recommends setting up a sub-committee to meet with ExED. That committee will come back to the Board with two proposed budgets -- one to reflect no change and a second plan if the state were to make major cuts.

Sutton asks for clarification on the budget they are looking at this meeting. She notes that it includes two Director positions, Special Ed person, No Arts Specialists, No Instructional Coach, No Assistant Principal. Discussion follows.

Bishop cautions against attempting to look at the budget at a deeper level with the entire Board. Like Butka, he recommends a sub-committee digging in deep, gauging impact of various scenarios, and coming back to Board with two proposed budgets.

Prinz asks why this budget does not reflect any Title1 funding. Dye says that there is no LEA plan in place. Newlin says that she will deliver an LEA plan. Dye says that ExED doesn't advise putting revenue assumptions into budget until the State has approved our LEA plan. Sutton asks what our Title 1 funding would be based on the current free and reduced lunch population. General discussion of Title funding follows.

Dye says it may be \$70,000 in Title 1 funding. It is approximately \$400 per child. Bishop notes that the money doesn't come immediately and wonders when that funding might show up. Dye will look into when other schools received that funding this year. Historically, payments came in Dec - March.

Prinz asks if it is possible to consider keeping the lower grades at 25 to 1 and increasing class size for the upper grades.

Prinz asks about how far out we have sold receivables and why we don't qualify for the deferrals. Dye says that it is b/c we have a line of credit with CSC to whom we have already paid a program fee.

Butka asks who would like to be on the Committee that will meet at ExED. Devis clarifies that the committee is folding cuts back into budget and increasing class size. Butka says that the priorities are the inclusions and you see where you go from there. Bishop suggests the committee meet within 2 weeks, giving the Board time to meet before the budget is due June 30.

Prinz raises the issue of the street improvement project. It looks like it is scheduled to start July 1st. Newlin says that she has been speaking with Veronica Bercerra, who believes that we could get it postponed. Devis will be meeting with Ed Reyes and he hopes that Reyes would consider getting this obligation removed. Bishop notes that there are other obligations that LFCSA has toward the architect and the building owner and the contractor. Dye says that the remaining obligations are built into the budget.

Butka moves to create and authorize an adhoc committee comprised of Mellinger, Prinz, Devis, Sutton, Bishop in addition to the Treasurer (Butka) with the task of meeting w/ ExED and constructing 2 budgets: one budget based on no change income & the second based on a decrease in ADA of \$330 per child. Shenoda seconds. Discussion follows. Motion carries by general consent.

Butka notes that the budgets should reflect an increase in class size, add Instructional coaching, professional development, and include Arts Specialists. Discussion follows.

Regarding the draft budget that had been turned in, Samuels clarifies that the Board believed that fundraising for the Arts Specialists could be most effective.

Mellinger notes that this budget includes the 2% salary increase for classroom teachers.

Discussion follows about when the next Board Meeting can be scheduled. June 27 6pm is set as the last Board Meeting for the 2010/2011 school year.

Garces moves to mandate that when the subcommittee convenes, the Arts Specialists' salaries must be included in the budget. Butka seconds. Motion carries by general consent.

Newlin adds that the Consolidated Application needs to be approved. Dye confirms that it can be approved at the same time as the budget is approved. Newlin says she will add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

Samuels moves to adjourn at 9:20. Garces 2nds. Motion carries by general consent.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo.