

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:00pm
2709 Media Center Drive Los Angeles, CA
Approved

Board members present: Matthew Shenoda, Karin Newlin, Michael Garces, Tracy Prinz, Michael Bishop, Sharon Sutton, Bob Greenberg, Tony Butka, Darcy Mellinger, Gabrielle Samuels

Absent: None.

Quorum: Yes.

Also present: Mary Ann Gallo, Karen Barranco, Melissa Samuels, Christine Triano, Marisa Johnston, Marta Alcumbrac, Elizabeth Williams, Iris Regn, Michael Cuneo, Ella Bandouveris, Geoffrey Sharp

Proceedings:

- Michael Bishop calls meeting to order at 7:10 pm
- Sharon Sutton moves to approve minutes from 3/3, 2/15/, 1/13. Matthew Shenoda seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Bishop asks if there are any public comments. All guests are addressing Agenda Item 13. MB moves Item 13 up to accommodate guests present to comment.
- Using a visual presentation, Karen Barranco describes results of Branding/Renaming listening tour. Committee member Darcy Mellinger assists in presentation. Board members ask for some clarification along the way. Committee recommends the name Arts Centered Education for official use. The School for Arts Centered Education is supported as an alternate. Possible visual representations are explored. Mellinger wraps up by emphasizing the desire to receive more input from stakeholders and educate about the process.
- Barranco asks if Karin Newlin can address impact on fundraising efforts. Short discussion follows.
- Bishop says that the Board would like to hear from the public present and then hear from the Board.
- Various parents and one student share their primarily negative, opinions about the proposed name change and process.
- Bishop asks for response from Board. Sutton is concerned about the reactions from parents. She recommends taking a step back. She would like to survey the entire population. Garces says that he has had questions of his own about the name. He says that it is worth exploring from the fundraising standpoint. Butka suggests adding the tag "At Glassell Park" to the existing name. Prinz shares the responses she has received as parent rep. She says that the issue has become very divisive. Greenberg says that he prefers "the school for" attached to the name. He adds that at one time he thought to change his business' name, but they were found there was too much brand equity attached & opted not to change. Shenoda says he's not a fan of the name, but his greater concern is that there is such a negative response. Bishop sees positives and negatives in either scenario.

- Butka moves to table the naming decision until the Board is ready to give the committee direction. Sutton seconds. Discussion follows. Bishop says that the Board tasked the committee with exploring rebranding and renaming. He adds that the Board has said “no” to name change and that they now need to give the committee direction. Garces wonders what the Board wants to achieve. Butka responds that the Board needs to figure that out and the committee should do nothing until it hears from the Board. Motion carries by general consent.
- Samuels asks to move Item XIV up in the schedule. Samuels describes a meeting with a fundraising consultant, the determination of which was to develop the Board of Directors to include some members who have give/get capabilities. Sutton asks about plan to develop a separate fundraising Board. Discussion follows. Prinz adds that the idea would be to have these Board members comprise a fundraising committee. Founding parent, Juan Devis, speaks of his history with the school and his attempts to enlist foundational and philanthropic support. Garces says everyone agrees that this fundraising issue needs to be addressed, that the question is how. The "Advisory Board" model is discussed. It is proposed that a committee cultivate this non-voting, advisory Board rather than recruiting for the Board of Directors. Devis talks about need for a grant writer. Garces expresses his surprise that LFCSA does not have a fundraiser or grant writer. Prinz notes that there are two different issues on the table: Board Development and a grant writer on staff.
- Butka moves to authorize the ad-hoc board development committee to explore the scope and structure of a fundraising Advisory Board. Garces seconds. Discussion follows. Garces is interested in being Board liaison as long as there is no conflict of interest. Motion carries by general
- Butka says that ExED has finished and filed the 2nd Interim report without sharing it with the Board. LAUSD accepted it with positive report.
- Bishop moves to allow Butka to sign any document ExED puts forth to sign without further Board approval. BG seconds. Motion carries via general consent.
- Mellinger asks to address Item XVI, establishing school calendar.
- Butka moves to have monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month for the balance of the school year: April 14, May 12, and June 9. Prinz seconds. Motion carries via general consent.
- Middle School Exploratory Committee begins its report. Prinz gives overview and invites Christine Triano and Marisa Johnston to give presentation. The committee is asking for the Board to approve its recommendation that LFCSA submit a charter amendment enabling expanded services to Grades 7-8 students and families. Sutton asks about the potential financial impact. Prinz says that at this point they are trying to keep costs minimal to none. Newlin says that she favors a K-8 model.
- Butka moves that the Board authorize prpe expanded services to Grades 7 & 8. Sutton seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Greenberg moves to approve authorization of Mid School ad hoc committee. Prinz seconds. Motion
- Butka moves to close open session at 9:45 pm.
- Closed session opens at 9:45 pm.

- Open session reopens @ 10:10 pm.
- Sutton leaves meeting at 10:10 pm.
- Action taken during closed session: The Board voted 8 - 0 to exercise its right to terminate without cause an employment agreement with an administrative assistant.
- Stephanie Ragle begins presentation on behalf of Building Committee. She distributes their goals for Fall 2011. She is asking the Board for approval of the plans. Prinz wonders about funding for the projects. Board members ask committee to prioritize requests. Priorities are listed as shade structure, fencing and sound remediations for 6th grade build out. Butka asks for clarification of how the committee is planning to address budget issues.
- Shenoda moves to prioritize the Building Committee's requests and to designate them as an official ad-hoc committee. Bishop seconds. Motion carries via general consent.
- KN opens discussion of setting the school calendar for 2011/2012 (Item XVI). Butka moves to hold over to April pending further exploration.
- Gabrielle begins discussion of summer income possibilities (Item XVI). It will be held over til April.
- KN begins discussion of the Independent Study Program (Item IX) Board feels 5 day's absence is the minimum to apply for program. Bishop urges caution regarding the contractual document & recommends talking to the auditors for help with wording. Based on concerns expressed by Mellinger, the Board clarifies that 5 days would be the minimum, but requests would be evaluated on a case by case basis. Butka moves to approve ISP with a minimum of five days absence. Greenberg seconds. Motion carries by general consent.
- Newlin starts the Principal's report (Item V). She distributes Form 700, related to conflict of interest, to each Board member and asks for their signatures to return to LAUSD. She says artists in residence program is starting.
- Prinz asks to move her report (Item IV) to April as it impacts budget.
- Newlin reflects on her experience at the Charter School Conference earlier this week. Bishop speaks about issues related to deferrals.
- Newlin touches on an issue related to a special ed student. LAUSD had been paying for this student's aide but they have now turned this responsibility over to LFCSA. She also refers to former teacher, Patricia Galli, who is returning from Canada and would be interested in becoming the permanent substitute. Newlin would like LFCSA to sponsor her, noting that it wouldn't cost the school anything.
- Mary Ann Gallo gives a brief fundraising update (Item VI), noting that the renewed Annual Give campaign had collected about \$30,000 in its first month.
- Item (VIII) Michael Bishop's renewal is moved to April meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo