

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 18, 2011 6:00pm
2709 Media Center Drive Los Angeles, CA
Approved

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

Absent: Gabrielle Samuels, Juan Devis, Michael John Garces

Quorum? Yes.

Also present: Mary Ann Gallo, Graham Dye, Phil Ross

- Bob Greenberg called the meeting to order at 6:25pm. Greenberg asks to move the approval of Minutes (Item I) to later in the meeting. There are no public comments.
- Greenberg asks for Newlin to address Agenda Item VIII, Charter Renewal Benchmarks. Newlin describes her conversation with the LAUSD Charter Office and distributes a handout with their proposed benchmarks for the make-up of LFCSA's student body over the next five years. Discussion follows. Newlin points out that our free and reduced lunch population has already doubled from last year to this. She notes that the LFCSA Board has to set a target that the LAUSD Board will approve. Butka proposes that Newlin goes back to the Charter oversight office and let them know that the LFCSA Board has some serious concerns and would like a representative to come to a Board meeting for further discussion. Shenoda asks why LFCSA might be opposed to these benchmarks. Discussion follows about the impacts of trying to reach them in terms of recruitment, teaching, etc. Prinz points out that this subject points to a much larger philosophical discussion. How to address the needs of English language learners is discussed. Newlin says that due to the large number of siblings who can be expected to enroll in the coming years, it would be very challenging to even hit these target numbers. Prinz notes the potential impact on the middle school development. Newlin believes that inviting the Charter office to be part of the discussion is a good course of action. Butka adds that the more complete a process, the more likely that the targets can be reached. It is suggested that they be invited to come to the Board meeting in October.
- Greenberg asks that Newlin address Agenda Item VII: STAR test results update. Newlin talks about the impact of the increase in the school population last year. She draws attention to the high number of advanced and proficient students in the 4th Grade, many of whom have been with the school for many years. Prinz says that at some point in the future, the parents should be given an explanation of these test scores. A discussion of how to interpret these numbers follows. Newlin notes that given the radical changes that the school underwent over the past year, she was pleasantly surprised that the scores didn't drop significantly. Sutton suggests putting together a Powerpoint presentation analyzing test scores for parents as early as possible in the school year. She adds that the UCLA Lab School gets much better turnout for town hall meetings when they hold them first thing in the morning. Bishop suggests holding the town hall within the first 2 weeks of school. Newlin says she will work to hit that target but may have to hire someone to help organize the data. She suggests Tuesday, September 13 at 8:15 am & 6 pm.
- Greenberg asks Graham Dye to begin the budget discussion (Agenda Item VI). Then,

referring to a motion in the 6/27/11 minutes, Greenberg asks for clarification about the Arts Specialist salaries. Discussion follows. Butka moves to approve the minutes. Shenoda seconds. Motion carries by general consent.

- Newlin distributes a handout with teacher & resource specialist salaries and offers a brief explanation. Newlin asks for clarification about what the Board agreed to for classroom size. Discussion regarding the number of teachers and the number of blended classrooms follow. The Board underscores that they had agreed to one blended classroom.
- Newlin says she will hire a new classroom teacher immediately and there will be one blended class.
- Sutton raises concerns about the salaries that have been set for the Director positions, emphasizing the challenge of attracting the most qualified candidates.
- During the budget discussion, Dye talks about the Medi-Cal reimbursement program. Dye recommends retaining the services of Accelify. He explains a bit about the process and projects that it could mean approximately \$15,000-20,000 per quarter. Bishop says we likely will see some cash within the coming year, but wouldn't advise budgeting for it. Dye advises getting the teachers trained. Bishop notes that Accelify doesn't charge up front. They get paid after the reimbursement. Dye adds that Accelify quoted 7.5 % percent at the back end.
- Butka asks for an update about the crosswalk. Newlin mentions an \$80,000 bond related to that project. The crosswalk project has been started. Bishop offers some clarification on the financial aspect. Newlin mentions the issues regarding permitting and the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy.
- Greenberg moves to move into closed session at 8:00 p.m. Prinz seconds. Motion carries via general consent. Open session reopens at 10:05 pm. There is no action to report.

Meeting adjourns at 10:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Gallo.