

**Rocklin Academy Board Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Held at 6532 Turnstone Way, Room 32  
6:30 p.m. Monday, August 3, 2009**

**RA Board Members and Staff Present:**

**Voting Members:** Chairwoman Wendy Boyd, Executive Director, Dr. David Patterson, Jeff Nicolaysen, Leroy Beckhorn, Jarrett Black, and Melissa Garrido.

**Voting Members Absent:** Stephen Siler

**Non-Voting Members:** Jillayne Antoon, Amy Alford and Melissa Whitney.

**Staff:** Steven Carney, Melissa Tritle, Donja Garvey, Joanne Moody, Mary Decker and Robin Stout.

**Visitors:** Diana Higashi, Michael Olberding, Julee Accacian, Michael Walsh, Claudia Perez, Stephanie Loureiro, Wendy Lang, and Ed Keller.

**Call to Order:** Wendy Boyd, Chairwoman at 6:35

**II. Consent Agenda**

- a. Enrollment Update – Turnstone, Meyers, Western Sierra
- b. Western Sierra Lease
- c. Employee Handbook
- d. Ratification of Hires
- e. ISP Contract & Procedures (All Schools)
- f. Parent/Student Handbook Adoption (K-6 Schools)
- g. Annual RA Bylaws

Items II (e), II(f) and II(g) were pulled from the consent agenda. Items II (a-d) were approved. Nicolaysen/Patterson (3-0)

Item II(e), (ISP Contract, Policy & Procedures) approval includes the same language for WS as is used by RA Turnstone and Meyers. The ISP Contract was distributed. Boyd/Nicolaysen (3-0)

Item II(f), (Parent Student Handbook Adoption) was adopted with the inclusion of updated information regarding the Board of Directors and staff. Patterson/Nicolaysen (3-0)

Item II(g), (Annual RA Bylaws) was revised slightly. Page 3, section 3, third line was modified to acknowledge that each granting authority has the right to appoint a member to the Board of Directors.

### **III. Appointment Recommitment for RA Board of Directors**

- Wendy Boyd, Jeff Nicolaysen, Steven Siler and David Patterson were reappointed to the Board of Directors
- Leroy Beckhorn, Jarrett Black and Melissa Garrido were appointed to the Board of Directors. Boyd/Patterson (3-0)
- Wendy Boyd was elected Chairperson of the Board by acclamation. Boyd stated she was proud to serve in this capacity.
- Jeff Nicolaysen was voted in as Vice Chairperson by acclamation.
- Dr. David Patterson was appointed President of the Board. Melissa Tritle was appointed CFO and Secretary.
- Meeting dates were set for the 2009-10 school year with the recommendation by Chairwoman Boyd that the meeting dates stay the first and the third Mondays of the month at 6:30 pm. If Monday is a holiday, the next day will be designated. Meetings will be rotated to include the three campuses. The Board concurred.
- 700 Forms were distributed. Nicole Alldredge will be collecting these forms when they have been completed.

### **IV. Hearing of Visitors: None**

### **V. Board Member Comments:**

Jeff Nicolaysen thanked Wendy Boyd for all the time she dedicates towards her volunteer work to the Board.

LeRoy Beckhorn stated that he was glad to be present and looked forward to working with the Board.

Melissa Garrido thanked the Board Development Committee and Wendy Boyd for meeting with the new board members the day before the board meeting. She is looking forward to serving with the Board.

Chairwoman Boyd thanked the Board Development Committee and stated her belief that it is a powerful tool that the Board was happy to utilize. She also announced that August 5<sup>th</sup> would be the Gold Country Media “Best of the Best” celebration with Rocklin Academy being “Best of the Best Schools”, and Heidi Little as “Best Teacher”. She praised all of the teachers and thanked them for doing a great job. Boyd also thanked the Board for their hard work and welcomed the new members.

## **Administration Report**

### **a. Executive Director – Dr. Patterson**

Patterson stated that it is not the norm for the Board to have so many verbal updates, but due to the significant work relating to the opening of Western Sierra and the day to day efforts to resolve conflicts with RUSD regarding class sizes for in K-3, verbal updates are needed at this time. Patterson also indicated that Rocklin Academy is continuing to explore as many long term facility options for Western Sierra as possible, reiterating the Board's believe that the best case scenario is a facility that is not shared with RUSD.

### **b. Director of Education – Steven Carney, Western Sierra Principal**

Carney has received the keys to the Western Sierra facility and has had parents assisting with the moving of 120 desks and chairs, scrubbing and moving in. Carol Hogan, a former board member has assisted in providing major donations of furniture. Emails have been distributed to all WS parents, welcoming them to the school year. There is a student event August 10<sup>th</sup>, at American Powerhouse. The WS mascot is the wolf, and colors are yet to be decided. Principals Decker and Stout attend the National School Alliance meeting in Boston. A banner will be displayed on RA sites announcing the schools as members of the Nationally Recognized Learning School Alliance.

### **c. Director of Development – Donja Garvey**

Ms. Garvey had no verbal updates to her written report. Chairwoman Boyd thanked her for all her hard work and dedication.

### **d. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) – Melissa Tritle**

Ms. Tritle was absent. Board President Patterson reported for her that an auditor has been on site and that Tritle had indicated that the audit had gone according as planned. In reference to the budget situation, there will be significant cuts and changes. The state's budget situation remains very difficult, and midyear cuts may be in the offerings for December and January.

**VII. PSP Report:** No verbal updates.

## **VIII. Information/Action**

### **(a) Western Sierra Update**

Patterson just received a request from the CDE on behalf of the State Board that RA/WS sign the MOU for Western Sierra. He requested that he be given authority to sign and submit it upon review, with four days provided for board members to review and contact

him if they had any issues. The MOU will then be brought back for ratification.  
Nicolaysen/Boyd (6-0)

**(a) Budget Update**

A budget update will be emailed to the board members. Chairwoman Boyd asked that board members contact Melissa Tritle if they have any questions.

**(b) Long Term Housing Agreement/MOU and FUA**

This item will be discussed in closed session under potential litigation. There is a serious dispute with the district regarding class sizes. RA had planned to increase the size of the classes to 24/1, similar to other districts. The initial demands of the district were that RA disenroll every student above 20-1. RA has made a counter proposal. The core of the issue is that when a parent that is a resident of Rocklin exercises their right to send their child to Rocklin Academy, that it can be a loss of revenue to Rocklin Unified. RA is taking the situation seriously, and trying to find a way to mitigate the direct impact on the district. Patterson feels there are many viable ideas on the table and is hoping for a reasonable and rational resolution to this serious, contentious situation.

**(c) Creating Advisory Structure to the Board of Directors**

Patterson expressed the need and benefit from a range of other experts who may not want to, or be able to serve on the board, but can bring their expertise and advisory role to the organization. These advisors could then serve as future board members. Board member Garrido suggested there be an incentive to the advisors. Specific areas of expertise were discussed, including business management, government/compensation, legal, architecture, real estate etc. Boyd would like to explore this idea and seek other organizations that incorporate a similar arrangement. The Board concurred. Boyd suggested that these members count their work as their 30 hour volunteer requirement and that they log all hours volunteered.

**(d) Ad Hoc Committee Development**

Patterson identified a need for two committees that could serve the Board; these are the Strategic Planning Committee and Long Term Facilities Planning. Patterson recommended that the Board concur that he return with a structure and mechanism for solicitation of members for these committees and a charge for them as well. ~~The Standing Budget has been approved and will be brought back in a subsequent meeting.~~

**IX. Annual Calendar/Pending Agenda**

The following items were added to the pending agenda: SARC, Expenditure Reports, Advisory Structure, and Standing Committees.

**X. Closed Session**

Closed session was called to order at 8:10  
Closed session was adjourned at 10:20.

**XI. Action Taken in Closed Session: None**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Nicole Alldredge**