

Approved June 1, 2009

**Rocklin Academy Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held at 5035 Meyers Street, Library
6:30 p.m. Monday, May 18, 2009**

RA Board Members and Staff Present:

Voting Members: Chairwoman Wendy Boyd, Executive Director, Dr. David Patterson, Jeff Nicolaysen, and Stephen Siler

Voting Members Absent: Steven Carney

Non-Voting Members: Amy Alford and Jillayne Antoon

Staff: Mary Decker and Robin Stout

Visitors: Ed Keller, Julee Accacian, Diana Higashi

I. Call to Order: Wendy Boyd, Chairwoman at 6:32 p.m.

II. Closed Session

Closed session was called to order at 6:32 p.m. and reconvened at 7:02.

III. Action Taken in Closed Session: None

IV. Teacher Presentations

(a) First Grade Teacher Presentation

First Grade Teachers, Megan Curtis, Mary McGown, Mindy Stieber, and Melissa Whitney presented to the Board their Collaborative Inquiry Goals, Pre-Assessment Results, Strategies and Post Assessment Results. In summary they were able to achieve an 18% increase in first graders in the Proficient/Advanced Area and an 18% decrease in first graders in the Intensive Area.

(b) Shared Contract Presentation

Teachers Megan Curtis and Mindy Stieber updated the Board on their experience this year in a shared contract. They distributed to the Board their Job Share Application Procedure as well as the follow-up including updates on how the plan worked throughout the year. Curtis/Steiber also included a mid-year parent survey and were proud to report that the parents were highly satisfied with how the shared-contract situation worked for their children.

V. Hearing of Visitors: None

VI. Board Member Comments

Board Member Stephen Siler indicated that he received some feedback from parents that the Thursday half days were confusing because they do not align with the half days of RUSD. Executive Director Patterson replied that the more information regarding these half days and other calendar changes will be included in next year's Wednesday Weekly.

Chairwoman Boyd commented that the First Grade Teachers did a great job of documenting their work with the students and also that the Shared Contract Presentation went very well. Having this plan of action and agreement will work well as a template when this issue comes before the Board again. Patterson echoed the same comment and appreciates that this template will allow the Board to not have to start at ground zero when working with a job share situation.

Chairwoman Boyd congratulated Melissa on her significant accomplishment of obtaining her CBO Certificate.

Patterson informed the Board that he, Steven Carney and Robin Stout will be in leadership training on May 26-29 in Truckee.

VII. Consent Agenda

- a. Enrollment Update
- b. Ratification of Hires
- c. Expenses of March 2009, April 2009
- d. Minutes of May 4, 2009
- e. Ratification of WSCA Founders List
- f. Clubs and Related Facility Use Policy (K-6)

The Consent Agenda was approved Patterson Nicolaysen (5-0)

VIII. Administration Report

- a. Learning Alliance
- b. Parent Volunteer Hours
- c. Open House
- d. Parent, Student, Staff Survey
- e. Pay for Performance
- f. CFO Tritle Receives CBO Certificate
- g. State Budget Update

Executive Director, David Patterson gave a verbal update on item f. Melissa Tritle was not feeling well and not able to make the board meeting. He would like the Board to recognize her at a future meeting.

IX. PAC Report

Meyers

Beach day is June 2nd. Books that have been donated by PAC to the classrooms have been delivered. Meyers PAC is having difficulty filling their board. Chairwoman Boyd recognized all the PAC leaders for their hard work and an integral part of the success of Rocklin Academy.

Turnstone

Turnstone PAC was most recently able to budget for another Promethean Board. They are discussing a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast for those who have donated 50 hours and above. They still have the positions of President and Vice President to fill. Teacher Appreciation Week is ongoing and going well and teachers have been excited about their planned events. Field Day will be held June 2nd.

X. Presentation by Director of Development

Director of Development Donja Garvey distributed her most recent efforts with marketing, public relations, outreach and recruitment. Ads have appeared in the Placer Herald and Parents Monthly. Letters to RA parents have been sent out as well as 2,200 letters to all families in the Rocklin Area with 7-9th grade children. Ms. Garvey also distributed to the Board examples of the new flyers, door hangers and Spanish/English posters. These items have been distributed and Chairwoman Boyd has started receiving phone calls on the new WS phone line (781 WSCA).

XI. Information/Action

(a) Budget Workshop Update

Budget Workshops were most recently held at both campuses on May 12th and 13th. Ms. Tritle provided a short budget overview and summary of charter school funding at each meeting and reviewed some of the issues related to the new budget cuts. The Meyers campus had an active discussion regarding the desirability of small class sizes including an active discussion about asking parents for contributions instead of increasing class size in the lower grades. The math program was also a priority. The Turnstone audience had several parents that had audit/budget backgrounds who were seeking more detailed information. Turnstone parents also expressed concern about an increase in class size. Patterson suggested making a “budget section” available on the website, complete with the current adopted budget and recent expenditure reports. A number of cost saving suggestions were compiled at both meetings.

(b) WSCA Update

The Board was updated that the shortened version of Western Sierra Collegiate Academy will be Western Sierra (and not WSCA). Enrollment is continuing and acceptance letters are

out. Press releases regarding Steven Carney as principal, the new site, and the science fair winner were distributed to the Board. Flyers have been distributed as well as the Spanish/English posters. Letters will be going out to 2,200 Rocklin Families and will be backed up with postcards. The Implementation Committee has been distributing information to sports complexes, doctor's offices etc. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Executive Director Patterson will be continuing to raise the visibility of RA/Western Sierra by having booths at "Concerts in the Park". The faculty is continuing to grow and WS now has four outstanding teachers. The website has been totally revamped and proven to be very effective. The Implementation Team has scheduled a road trip to Pacific Collegiate School in Santa Cruz on May 26-27.

Rocklin Academy/Western Sierra will be filing a claim against RUSD to insure our ability to proceed with additional legal action as appropriate. Closed session dealt with the District's suit against the State Board and Western Sierra/Rocklin Academy's request to be added to the suit. Patterson commented that he feels this could have been done in a direct and low cost way, saving taxpayer dollars, but that the District did not choose to allow this to occur.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Alldredge