

**Rocklin Academy Board Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Held at 6532 Turnstone Way, Library  
6:30 p.m. Monday September 20, 2010**

**RA Board Members and Staff Present**

**Voting Members:** Chairwoman Wendy Boyd, Executive Director David Patterson, Jeff Nicolaysen, Stephen Siler, Doug Johnson, Jarrett Black and Melissa Garrido

**Voting Members Absent:** None

**Non-Voting Members:** Melissa Whitney, Heather Donovan and Scott Crosson

**Staff:** Steven Carney and Donja Garvey, Robin Stout and Mary Decker

**Visitors:** Diana Higashi, Sylvia Mirsch, Lisa Dye, Wendy Lang, Kim Dvorak and Jacille Wilson

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:38.

**II. Introduction of New Hires**

The names of the newly hired faculty were presented to the Board. They include Emilie Barton Cavolt, Levi Fletcher, Gilberto Pena, Juliana Carlson, Jamie Hampton Olson, Dr. Jennica Jenkins and Kristel Kamrar.

**III. Proclamation of Success for API Scores**

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Steven Carney read the proclamation regarding the outstanding API Scores for Rocklin Academy Turnstone, Rocklin Academy Meyers Street and Western Sierra.

**IV. Hearing of Visitors**

Scott Peters reported that the first meeting for the Western Sierra Rifle Team was very successful with 29 students showing up, the majority of them being girls.

**V. Board Member Comments**

Heather Donovan commented that the new school year was off to a great start and the CELDT testing is done.

Scott Crosson reported that it is now Western Sierra's second year and they are up and running. It is currently Spirit Week and the students will be excited to see their teachers in pajamas!

Melissa Whitney was able to attend Hot Chili/Cool Cars.

Stephen Siler publicly thanked Carol Hogan for her many donations over the years to Rocklin Academy and Western Sierra.

Melissa Garrido reported that the Western Sierra Cross Country Team has been doing well and has a particularly supportive group who cheer each other on to the finish line.

Chairwoman Boyd feels everyone is off to a good start with a lot of positive momentum.

Executive Director Patterson introduced Larry Pastore, who now assists CFO Melissa Reese as a contractor, offering his expertise in financial/charter school experience.

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

- a. Enrollment Update – Turnstone, Meyers, Western Sierra**
- b. Minutes of August 10, 2010**
- c. Ratification of New Hires**
- d. Unaudited Actuals 2009-2010**
- e. Education Job Funds Application**
- f. Field Trip Calendar and Costs/ Turnstone, Meyers, Western Sierra**
- g. Sunset Christian/Western Sierra Lease**
- h. Letter of Appreciation to Carol Hogan for Furniture Donation**

Consent items VI(b) and VI(f) were removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved Patterson/Nicolaysen 7-0

Item VI(b) was approved Garrido/Black 6-0 (Siler abstained due to absence.)

Item VI(f) – The Field Trip Calendar and Costs was discussed among board members. Stephen Siler questioned the expense of a fourth grade field trip and felt the money could be better spent. Before that, administration brought to the board a request from WSCA to allow an exemption to the bus rule for travel to San Jose for a field trip. The issues of safety, cost, size of classes and age of students were discussed and it was noted that WSCA probably needs its own travel policy. Boyd consulted the principals who reported that no siblings are allowed on the field trips and no stopping is permitted. Melissa Garrido wanted further input from parents regarding the bus vs. parent vehicle transportation issue. Boyd directed administration to examine the idea and bring back to the board an item regarding a Western Sierra field trip/travel policy. This item was passed, including the exception given to Western Sierra to allow the single proposed field trip to use personal transportation to a destination outside the 50 miles normally allowed by the current field trip policy. Patterson/Johnson 6-1 (Siler opposed.)

## **VII. Administration Report**

- a. Executive Director – Dr. Patterson**
- b. Director of Education/Western Sierra Principal – Steven Carney**
- c. Director of Development – Donja Garvey**
- d. Committee Updates**
  - ii. Strategic Planning Committee – Roy Beckhorn**
  - iii. Western Sierra Facility Planning Committee – Jeff Nicolaysen**

### Verbal Updates:

Executive Director Patterson let the Board know the administration office has moved to 6960 Destiny Drive, Suite 107. He thanked the PSP for their support with Hot Chili/Cool Cars and requested that the principals gather art and other schoolwork from the students to put on display in the administration office.

## **VI. PSP Report**

### Turnstone Verbal Update to Written Report:

The PSP will be supplementing 13% of the field trip fees which is around \$6,000.

### Meyers:

The Jog-A-Thon will be held September 24. They are anticipating that over 115 students will participate.

### Western Sierra Verbal Update to Written Report:

The lunch program is up and running with participation from local vendors, Original Petes and the Subway on Five Star Blvd. These vendors are covering the fees for free and reduced meals. Melissa Garrido and Scott Peters suggested we thank these businesses by patronizing them. The Fanfare is the 24<sup>th</sup>. The PSP is arranging transportation for the Woodcreek College Fair and planning for school dances in October. All committees are up and running. Garrido suggested that all PSP's follow a master calendar.

## **VII. Information/Action**

### **(a) Budget Update**

The California budget crisis continues with no discernable progress. This year may set a new record for the most overdue budget. Rocklin Academy will continue to monitor expenditures.

**(b) Annual Giving Campaign Update**

Director of Development Donja Garvey reported that to date there has been \$36,675 in cash and executed pledges, \$29,000 in unexecuted pledges and \$25,000 in unsigned, small business pledges.

**(c) MOU/FUA Update**

The MOU/FUA with RUSD has yet to be finalized. It will come back as a consent item at the next board meeting.

**(d) WSCA Handbook Update**

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Steven Carney reviewed the new changes that have been made to the handbook. These changes, and the issue of absences, will go back to the Operations Committee for review and come back to the Board.

**(e) Board Retreat – Planning**

The Board will be holding a retreat on October 16 from 8:30 or 9:00 until 2:00 or 3:00. At this time the Board will review governance issues, strategic planning, discuss facilities and possibly arrange for a facility tour. They are still looking for a facilitator. It was suggested that a good location for this meeting would be the Raley's Conference Room. Diana Higashi will be the Chair of the Board Development Committee.

**(f) Chinese School – Request for Funding**

Executive Director Patterson and Teacher/Board Member Melissa Whitney are currently working on the application to the Confucius Institute. They have met with the Director at the University of San Francisco. The administration was granted board approval to go forward with the development of the application. Acceptance of any funding will still be subject to approval by the Board. Garrido/Black 7-0

**(g) API Scores**

Rocklin Academy Schools continue to test high. Rocklin Academy Turnstone earned an API score of 957 – the highest API of all schools in Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, Yuba and Sutter Counties. Rocklin Academy Meyers Street also scored high with an API of 925, becoming the third highest scorer in Rocklin after two years of state testing. Western Sierra achieved an impressive 872 in its first year of operation. The faculties of all three campuses were congratulated for their outstanding commitment and for their continual use of data to keep the schools from reaching a plateau.

**(h) Facilities Update – Western Sierra**

Work is continuing with the search for either a new facility or an additional facility for Western Facility and/if possible, a facility that can accommodate grades K-12. One approach is to remain at Sunset Christian Center and lease additional space on Five Star Blvd. The second option is to move to a facility in the Atherton Area. Decisions on this issue will need to be made in October/November.

**(i) Review of Springboard Academic Enrichment Services**

Rocklin Academy continues to work with the Springboard Foundation for academic enrichment services. Springboard is a non-profit organization that offers high quality after school academic enrichment programs. A new clause has been added to allow RA to withdraw from the MOU in a short time if circumstances require such. The MOU was approved. Siler/Johnson 7-0

**(j) Professional Service Agreement – JoAnn Koplín**

A Professional Service Agreement with JoAnn Koplín, a Charter School Facilities Expert who has advised Rocklin Academy for several years, was approved. The fee is not to exceed \$12,000. Nicolaysen/Boyd 7-0

**(k) Adoption of Organization and School Wide SMART Goals for 2010-2011**

Steven Carney led the discussion regarding SMART Goals for the English Language Arts program. Perception Goals will be discussed at the October Board Meeting. Chairwoman Boyd requested that special attention be given to inviting parents to be a part of the next goal setting meeting. The next board meeting will continue the organizational wide goals for the academic areas of math, science, history and language arts.

**VIII. Closed Session**

**Closed Session was called to order at 9:17**

**The Board returned to Open Session at 11:50**

**Action taken in Closed Session:** The Board completed the Executive Director's review and annual development plan.

**Open Session was adjourned at 11:51**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Nicole Alldredge**