

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Held at 660 Menlo Drive**  
**6:30 p.m., Monday, December 17, 2012**

**RA Board Members and Staff Present:**

**Voting Members:** Chairman Doug Johnson, Melissa Garrido, Peggy Broussard, Nate Pomeroy, Rick Miller, Adam Schwarz and David George

**Voting Members Absent:** None

**Visitors:** Kim Dvorak, Diana Higashi, Rick Dorris, Jennifer Salib, Christina Parenti, Michelle Walsh, Sylvia Miersch, Sean Jones, Barbara Jones, Elise Segers, Julia Pooler, Susan Hughes, Bethany Boekstein, Mary Jo Barrett, Andrea Thompson, Jamie Johnson, Stephanie Kinnan, Richard Holmes, Jose Lopez, Debbie Dettner, and Mackenzie Bruckler

**Staff Present:** Phil Spears, Brigid Perakis, Miken Dayton, Amy Alford and Heidi Little

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32

**Hearing of Visitors:**

A number of parents made comments regarding the standards based grading system used by Rocklin Academy and the recent change to eliminate letter grades for grades 4-6. Half the parents who spoke expressed concerns including confusion on the meaning and use of 2s and 4s, a desire to recognize academic achievement through a principal's list or honor roll, and the extra information they felt letter grades provided. Half of the parents who spoke supported the elimination of letter grades and the full implementation of standards based grading. Board Chairman, Doug Johnson, thanked the parents for taking the time to express their comments. He indicated that the Board and administration would continue to listen and engage with parents on this issue while also supporting the expertise and recommendations of teachers.

**III. Board Member Comments**

David George appreciated all the comments from the public. He was excited by the official opening of basketball season. Both the girls and boys team won. The color guard presented the flags and the choir performed the National Anthem. Over 100 students were involved in some way.

Melissa Garrido expressed appreciation to administration, staff, teachers and board members. She is looking forward to 2013 and feels good about the direction the organization is moving in. She

requested that the Wendy Boyd Beyond the Call Award be added to the next agenda so that nomination and selection of the candidates can be discussed.

Doug Johnson appreciated the choral performance and the hard work of Miken Dayton.

Peggy Broussard thanked Superintendent Spears, the faculty and staff for an outstanding first half of the school year. She knows people are putting in hours above and beyond .

Nate Pomeroy had his parent/teacher conference and commented that it was very well done. He congratulated the staff and faculty for the difference they make.

Adam Schwarz feels fortunate to have his students attend such great schools.

Teacher Advisor Amy Alford announced the Turnstone kindergarten performance December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

Teacher Advisor Miken Dayton is expecting to have two high school choirs next year and she will be asking permission next month for the choir and band to attend some festivals and adjudicated contests. There is a new fight song that will debut in January and it will be presented at the next board meeting.

#### **IV. Consent Agenda**

- a. Enrollment: Rocklin Academy Turnstone, Rocklin Academy Meyers, and Western Sierra Collegiate Academy – *Informational item only*
- b. Minutes of November 26, 2012 – *Approval*
- c. Expenditures – *Review and approval*
- d. Authorization to Pay – *Review and approval*
- e. Check Register – *Review*
- f. New Hires – *Review and ratification*
- g. Donation Acceptance – *Acceptance of gifts made to the Rocklin Academy Family of Schools or the PSPs*

Item d was pulled and the consent agenda was approved. Miller/Broussard (7-0) Item d was then discussed and approved. Schwarz/Garrido (7-0)

#### **V. Administrative Reports**

No verbal updates were reported.

#### **VI. PSP, Committee and ASB Reports**

The Finance Committee commented on the November expenditures. The Prop 39 payment has been received. The next meeting will be February 4 at 6:00 pm and the Board is invited to attend. There is currently a vacancy on the committee which will be addressed at the next board meeting. There were no other verbal reports.

Western Sierra student Karina DeGuzman reported that students are happy to be at school and the seniors are currently submitting applications to colleges. She wished everyone happy holidays.

## **VII. Information Action**

### **(a) Audited Actuals**

Jake Rosenberg stated that the audit report was accepted and the committee has reviewed the findings and recommendations and is satisfied that management's response to those findings is satisfactory. The summary is an unqualified audit and is clean.

### **(b) Science Fair**

Rocklin Academy 4-6 graders are no longer required to complete a science fair project. After receiving informal feedback from parents, students, and teachers for years about the project, a teacher committee gathered data and concluded that the science fair isn't the learning experience they wanted to take place. An overall consensus was confirmed through a parent survey. Students will still have the option of entering the science fair, and the scientific formal investigation will occur within the classroom.

### **(c) Fundraising Committee**

Manndie Tingler, Darren Penny, Jennifer Salib, and Tim Klotz were selected to serve on the Fundraising Committee. The first meeting will occur in February.

### **(d) Volunteer Hours Committee**

David George and Kim Dvorak volunteered to work on the ad hoc committee.

### **(e) School Wide SMART Goals – Western Sierra**

The Western Sierra SMART goals were approved by the Board. This includes the English goal that was listed in the November meeting as well. Broussard/George (7-0)

### **(f) Rocklin Academy Family of Schools Expansion**

Superintendent Spears is hopeful that we will be hearing good news soon. He is continuing to work with a realtor and on marketing projects. Administration has received 526 letters of intent. Superintendent Spears has also received approval from the CDE that Western Sierra can grow enrollment to 750 students.

### **(g) Western Sierra Admissions Policy**

Peggy Broussard requested that the Board review the data with the sixth grade pilot program. Superintendent Spears reported that to eliminate the sixth grade at this point would require a material change to the charter. Broussard also suggested a mandatory meeting where Western Sierra parents review a presentation on AP and course sequence so that they have complete knowledge of what is expected of their student.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Nicole Alldredge**