

WESTERN SIERRA CHARTER SCHOOLS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2019
2:00 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Darin Soukop was absent so Mike Cox called the meeting to order
Date: January 9, 2019
Time: 2:09 pm

- II. ROLL CALL: (not on the agenda, but roll call was taken)
Present: Bruce Boe, Margaret DenHartog, Brian Fulce , Monika Moulin, Dallace Leota, Jacqueline Pucheu
Absent: Darin Soukop, Chris Jasper
Others: Jody Jeffers, Mike Cox, Michele Williams, Eric Hagen, Irina Buca, Brook Hirata, Nancy Elliott, Gannon Ganzenhuber, Stephanie Ganzenhuber

- III. HEARING OF PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:
None

- IV. Discussion of Next Steps for Venture Charter Petition

Jody Jeffers and Mike Cox provided the board and other attendees with 2 different tables. One table was titled "Context" and the other was titled "Chartering Options Table". Please see attached to view these tables.

Notes from the meeting:

Mike Cox talked about the "Context" table. Since the decision for the new charter began 3 years ago it was important to inform the board of issues and impacts of changes from then to now. See the "Context" table for all of these points.

The board reviewed the "Chartering Options Table". The reason for the meeting was to discuss these options and come to a decision on the best one to move forward. The options listed on the table are as follows:

- 1) Appeal Golden Valley Unified School District petition to the county
- 2) Bring a new petition to another county, namely Fresno Unified School District or Central Unified School District.
- 3) Keep the status quo and remain as is.

Please see the table as it covers the advantages and disadvantages of each decision. After the board reviewed the tables, the meeting was open to discussion. Here are some of the main questions from the discussion.

-Monika Moulin suggested that we begin by eliminating options to narrow down our choices.

-A question was raised by Margaret DenHartog about in the future if the charter is appealed and approved if it can be denied after 5 years when it comes up for renewal. Mike responded that it could be denied and that might be difficult if we cannot go back to being a resource center. This question seemed to be a concern for other board members as well.

-A question was asked by Brian Fulce about how the current families of the Fresno resource center feel regarding the future of the program and what they might choose to do. Brooke Hirata and Stephanie Ganzenhuber have heard mixed reviews with some saying they would like to see the new charter and some saying they are happy with the status quo. Jacqueline Pucheu has heard that some families that want to stay in Fresno. Eric Hagen believes most of the families trust the school to make the best decision for the future.

-Jody Jeffers brought into the conversation a possible 4th option of keeping the Fresno resource center open and also opening the new charter. Jody will have to look into this further to see if it is a viable option. This new option was appealing to many at the discussion.

-There was a conversation about the possibility of keeping the status quo but expanding into the building next door or possibly finding a different location for the resource center. It was noted that the building next door isn't configured for classrooms and would need work and money to make it usable as a school but would be a possibility.

-There was discussion about the option of a new petition with a different district. Mike talked about the administrative burden that would come with working with Fresno Unified. Bruce Boe asked about a possible meeting with Bob Nelson, who is the superintendent of Fresno Unified School District. Mike and Jody have already met with Debra Odum, manager of the charter office for Fresno Unified Schools, which confirmed to them that working with that school district will be difficult.

Brian Fulce asked if we have a projection on the number of students at the Fresno resource center. Mike said there is really no way to make a projection on the total waiting list throughout the year. At this point Glacier High School has no waiting list and Mountain Home School has a waiting list of approximately 30 students.

It was decided, that in order to make a decision, the board would need to know if option 4 is a viable option. It was asked that a renewal path be clarified and that attorneys be consulted on whether revisions can be made to the charter proposal if we appeal to Madera County. We will meet again on January 23rd for our regular board meeting and will add this topic/decision to the agenda.

V. ADJOURNMENT: 4:18 pm

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I certify that I am the duly elected Secretary of the Western Sierra Charter Schools, a California nonprofit public benefits corporation; that these minutes are of the meeting of the Board of Directors held on January 9, 2019.

Bruce Boe, Secretary