



El Camino Real Charter High School

Minutes

Special Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 10, 2016 at 5:00 PM

Location

ECRCHS Library, 5440 Valley Circle Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Directors Present

Jackie Keene, Jonathan Wasser, Obie Slamon, Odus Caldwell, Peter Vastenhold

Directors Absent

Dennis Thompson, Larry Rubin

Guests Present

Barbara Stanoff, Beth Corbett, Brian Geremia, Carlos Monroy, Change Patel, David Fehte, David Valenzuela, Fernando Delgado, Gail Turner-Graham, Howard Spike, Janelle Ruley, Jason Kinsella, Karen LeGrande, Lisa DeRubertis, Marilyn Brooks, Marlene Widawer, Marshall Mayotte, Melanie Horton, Melissa Charters, Oren Legrande, Richard Scheinberg, Roxanna Jabar-Ansari, Shelly Marshall, Susan Niven, Tim Garrow

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Jonathan Wasser called a meeting to order on Wednesday Feb 10, 2016 at 5:08 PM.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Teacher / Student Presentations

ECRCHS's Drama students performed a musical number from the upcoming musical, Urinetown, directed by ECRCHS Drama teacher Sue Freitag and Musical Director Joel Maki.

E. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items and Agenda Items

Parent Marlene Widawer questioned the Board's practice of hiring consultants and suggested that the Board ascertain if consultants are necessary, how much is ECRHS paying consultants, what is the cost benefit of hiring consultants and how does the work these consultants do help the students in the classroom?

F. Committee and Board Updates

Jackie Keene reported that the Ad Hoc committee is working on a draft document with guidelines for electing different representatives including community, teacher, parent and classified positions for the Board, to be presented at a future meeting.

II. Consent

A. Review and Vote January Regular Board Minutes

Peter Vastenhold made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2016 Board meeting and approve Agenda items B and C. Board Meeting on 01-20-16.

Jackie Keene seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Review and Vote on December Check Register

Peter Vastenhold made a motion to approve Agenda items A, B and C.

Jackie Keene seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Review and Vote for Form J13A

Peter Vastenhold made a motion to approve Agenda items A, B and C.

Jackie Keene seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Governance

A. Discuss and Vote Feddersen and Company for the 2015/16 Independent Financial Audit

Obie Slamon made a motion to retain Feddersen and Co. for the 2015-16 Independent Financial Audit.

Odus Caldwell seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. School and Policies

A. Review and Vote School-Parent Compact

Peter Vastenhold made a motion to accept the School-Parent compact.

Odus Caldwell seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Highlander K-8 STEM School Update

Melanie Horton updated the Board on the Highlander site. ECRCHS's K-8 Charter petition for the Highlander site was on the Agenda for a vote at LAUSD's Board meeting on the previous day. Hale Middle School teachers presented a proposal for a 6th - 14th grade Performing Arts program for the Highlander site. There was a lot of enthusiasm for the project but a concern is why the project is tied to the Highlander site when ECRCHS was selected by the LAUSD Board as a first proposer for the Highlander site and there were other sites around the valley, the Platt Ranch site or on Hale Middle School's existing campus that were suggested in the original document for a performing arts program. The LAUSD Board voted to authorize up to \$500,000. for Board member Scott Schmerelson to proceed with due diligence on the Highlander site (doing what ECR has been doing for the past 1 1/2 years) including engaging in community outreach, assessing the condition of the Highlander property and reporting back to the LAUSD Board with his findings. A big concern of several of the Board members is that LAUSD doesn't have the money to fund the project since the buildings at Highlander will have to be torn down and rebuilt and Monica Ratliff voiced her concern on the lack of transparency by Mr. Schmerelson on the new proposal for Highlander. Three Board members voted in favor of ECRCHS's proposal, Monica Ratliff, Monica Garcia and Ref Rodriguez, and four Board members voted against ECRCHS and for Hale's proposal, George McKenna, Scott Schmerelson, Steve Zimmer and Richard Vladovic.

C. Executive Director Update

Dave Fehte recognized ECR 9th grade student, Vanessa Sanchez, who has started her own business designing and selling bathing suits. She was featured in a swimming magazine.

V. Financial

A. Review and Vote for Naerok Contract for Maintenance and Construction

Peter Vastenhold made a motion to hire Naerok as a consulting firm to assist ECRCHS with obtaining licenses, certifications, construction bids, providing additional support staff, disaster assistance and more, at a cost of up to \$100,000 per academic year.

Jackie Keene seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Review and Vote FCMAT Contract.

Peter Vastenhold made a motion to contract with FCMAT at an annual cost of \$28,000 to review ECRCHS's internal controls and processes with quarterly check-ins and to add an additional layer of audit and protection of finances.

Odus Caldwell seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Review and Vote MOU for Early Retirement from ECRA (UTLA Staff)

Obie Slamon made a motion to approve the MOU early resignation/retirement agreement with Certificated (UTLA) staff.

Odus Caldwell seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Review and Vote for Early Retirement Incentive for Non-Collective Bargaining Staff

Peter Vastenhold made a motion to approve the early resignation/retirement agreement with the non-collective bargaining staff.

Odus Caldwell seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** to approve the motion.

E. Review and Vote for 990 Tax Returns

Jackie Keene made a motion to approve the tax audit prepared by Feddersen and Company.

Peter Vastenhold seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Energy Efficiency Update

G. EdTec Financial Update

Chang Patel reviewed the December financial update prepared by EdTec.

H. CBO Update

Marshall reported that LAUSD is requiring fiscal changes that will require additional staffing. He and Susan Kim have absorbed many of Duc Quach's duties. Two new employees have been hired to help input information in the ERP system and will eventually assist teachers with requisitions and purchase orders. The ERP is being updated and will hopefully be fully implemented by Spring Break.

He explained how ECRCHS works to operate efficiently and keep costs down by hiring consultants for specialty work, and maintain a good working culture.

VI. Other Business

A. Future Agenda Item

An update on the Shoup site will be added on next month's agenda. Marshall informed the Board that if for any reason ECRCHS decides not to proceed with the Shoup site, there is a buyer.

The Executive Director now needs to assign an administrator for the committee on the elections to fill the upcoming vacant Board positions.

B. Closed Session (See Below) in Conference Room

C. Brown Act Training in Conference Room

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Obie Slamon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jackie Keene seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Keas