

Forrest Bird Charter School Board

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2013

I. Call to order

Dave Stevens called to order the meeting of the **Forrest Bird Charter School Board Meeting at 6:15 pm** on December 4, 2013 in **FBCS High School**.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Board Members Jim Corcoran, Dave Stevens, Will Mihin, Alan Millar, and various FBCS staff.

III. Explanation of Reason for Special Meeting

Concerns brought to Board by group of faculty. Concerns that Board met with group illegitimately.

IV. Official Rescindment of Deliberations, Actions, and/or Decisions – Teacher Meetings

Teacher meeting was attended by D. Stevens, J. Corcoran, and R. Schwam. Several FBCS staff members aired concerns and grievances. No actions, decisions, or deliberations took place. A summary of the grievances was compiled.

V. Official Rescindment of Deliberations, Actions, and/or Decisions – A. Millar Meeting

A. Millar meeting was attended by D. Stevens and J. Corcoran (no quorum). Summary of grievances was discussed with A. Millar. A list of “philosophies” was discussed that D. Stevens had compiled – consensus of the three was reached that these formed a good basis to move forward; however, no formal actions, decisions, or deliberations took place.

VI. Presentation of Summary of “Statement of Issues”

1. Gaining a reputation that we are treating our faculty horribly; this is not aligning with our philosophy.
2. We are drifting back to becoming an alternative Alternative School which we fought for years to stop.
3. There is a problem with our administrative approach by having non-certified Administrators and no competition for positions.
4. Micro management is ramped.
5. Furniture location is beyond Administration purview.
6. Faculty dissatisfaction is high.
7. Trimester approach has been “bastardized”, original plan was to offer an option for tackling 1.5 years per year, and this plan has now become mandatory.
8. Management and Administration is getting in the way of teaching, our focus is wrong.
9. We had a philosophy that a ‘D’ was failing, so why are we carrying so many NC students.
10. Our class sizes are based 16 – 20 students; we are violating this with class sizes close to 25, Advocacies close to 40 and study labs around 50.
11. Our substitute system is completely broken, teachers having to set up their own subs when they are sick.

12. Where did ILPs go in the High School?

VII. Open Discussion re: Validity of “Statements of Issue”

Board opened the floor for open discussion of these statements to Board members, Faculty and public.

VIII. Presentation of “Statements of Philosophy”

We believe in instruction that is tailored to the individual student - providing additional support in those areas that pose a challenge, and simultaneously providing accelerated learning opportunities in those areas where the student excels.

We believe that engaged, empowered, capable teachers are the best way to provide an excellent education to a student; books, computers, etc. are provided to support the teachers efforts, not to replace them. We believe that technology can improve and augment an excellent educational environment, but it can neither create nor replace one.

We believe that we should treat our staff with dignity and respect, and allow them the freedom to connect with both the student and the administration in the most efficacious manner possible.

We believe that the teaching staff exists to support and challenge the students, and that the best way to accomplish this is to provide those students both the freedom to excel and the support to learn from their failures. We believe that the administration exists to support and empower the teachers, and that the best way to accomplish this is to provide those teachers both the freedom to excel and the support to learn from their failures. We believe that the Board exists to support and guide the administration, and that the best way to accomplish this is to provide that administration both the freedom to excel and the support to learn from their failures.

We believe in holding students to a high standard of excellence - and that in doing so, the majority will rise to the challenge. We believe in preserving an environment of academic excellence for our students - which means embracing a willingness to recognize that those who do not rise to the challenge may thrive somewhere else.

IX. Open Discussion re: Reconciliation of “Statements of Philosophy” with “Statements of Issue”

Board opened the floor for open discussion of these statements to Board members, Faculty and public.

X. General Discussion re: Required Actions/ Wrap-Up

Further discussions will need to be scheduled between Board, Administration, Faculty and Public.

XI. Adjourn

*Motion: Motion was made by Jim Corcoran to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Will Mihin.
Motion was approved.*

Meeting was Adjourned at 9:00pm