



FCMS Board Meeting  
November 19, 2015

**Present:** John Sanderson, Lorie Federman, Eric Danielson, and Frank Vincent  
Nancy Tellez, special guest

Parents: Jessica Knight, Angie Noden, Katie Spiller, Laura Dustin, Robin Hoxie, Betsy Rinehart

**Vision, Mission, and Values:** Mr. Sanderson

**Consent Agenda:**

- Adopt the agenda for the November 19, 2015 FCMS Board meeting.
- Adopt meeting minutes from September 17, 2015 Board meeting.
- Adopt meeting minutes from October 15, 2015 Board meeting.

Mr. Sanderson moved that the Board approve and adopt the recommended actions from the items on the consent agenda.

Mr. Danielson seconded.

Motion passed.

**Community Comment:**

A parent expressed gratitude to the staff and Board for their contributions to FCMS.

Mr. Sanderson: Nicole Sizemore chose to step down from the Board. Mr. Sanderson thanked her for her energy and enthusiasm over the past years, and her tireless dedication to the school from long before we opened its doors.

**Board Member Nominee:**

Mr. Sanderson: Nancy Tellez joined us tonight as a potential board member. Ms. Tellez has immense experience, as a teacher in PSD for 31 years, as well as on PSD School Board for ten years.

She expressed that FCMS is a great addition to the District and wants to see it thrive.

Ms. Tellez spoke of her experience working on a school board; believed in PSD as a strong district. Likewise, from the time FCMS came to the PSD board, she thought it was an excellent choice. It offers a somewhat different instruction, a choice that will fit the child. She strongly believes in the concepts of Montessori. She wants to do something that has meaning for her, as that has been her work.

Ms. Federman moved that the FCMS board elect Nancy Tellez as a community member of the FCMS Board of Directors.

Mr. Sanderson seconded.

Motion passed.

### **HOS Report:**

- Annual Report: Mr. Sanderson thanked Lexie Croft for her work on the Annual Report.

Mr. Vincent explained the 3 C's in the report: Commitment, Community, and Courage. The report makes a positive statement about where we are and where we are going.

It can be put on website and used as a marketing tool for facilities and donations.

- Enrollment: We will be fully enrolled by Monday, November 23 in all grades. Half-time preschoolers: discussion about how many we should have. Mr. Vincent will make recommendations about numbers after we establish the facility issue.
- Marketing and recruitment: we want to put out a survey about:
  - how people found out about the school
  - What factors they felt were most important in choosing and enrolling
  - What their friends may be looking forWill wait on survey until facility is resolved.

Events in which FCMS has participated:

- Be Ready Fair: October 10
- Treatsylvania: October 23
- Parent information night was on Nov. 17: There will be three more of these on 12/8, 1/26, and 2/9.

Events in which FCMS will participate in the coming year:

- Preschool Fair: January 30
- Kites in the Park: May
- Fourth of July Parade

Advertisements:

- *Recreator*
- Trolley

- Starbucks
- Targeted Facebook Advertisement

Additional comments by Mr. Vincent:

- Scheduled and impromptu tours for the public are a strong marketing tool. There are tours every Wednesday.
- Last year our parents put their children in the school sight-unseen! Thank you for your faith in FCMS.
- The best supporters are our current families. Regular referrals are coming from them.
- Mr. Sanderson addressed the parents and stressed the importance of word of mouth, especially for three- and four-year-olds.

**School Accountability Committee:**

Ms. Federman described the Unified Improvement Plan, and the process for Mr. Vincent with the support of the School Accountability Committee. This year there is insufficient data for much of the report. Mr. Vincent will put it together with SAC input; SAC approves it to go to district, state.

**Parent Board member process:** Parent Council will review applications, and nominate two people for consideration. The Board will then interview applicants and select one to represent the parents on the Board.

**Facilities:** Mr. Sanderson reported that ICRC wants to renew our lease for next year. Westminster Presbyterian Church has approved our proposal for a second location. This is less than ideal; facilities are the single biggest issue that charter schools face. Still working on staffing, enrollment, and budget. John is working daily with Ronnie Estelle, chair of the Facilities Committee, on these issues.

We are adding a third primary classroom next year; we do not have a waitlist for three- and four- year olds. Mr. Vincent is concerned about attracting preschoolers. We need to decide how to expand and where. We could expand elementary, as there are waiting lists. We may put upper elementary in the fellowship hall at ICRC. We need time to make a long-range plan. We will be adding around 36 children: 20 new primaries, totaling 60, 16 new first-graders moving up from kindergarten.

All of primary would be at Westminster, with elementary at ICRC.

Mr. Vincent: Licensing mandates that we cannot have primary children in the ICRC annex.

Mr. Sanderson: Enrollment begins in January. It would be preferable to have enrollment caps.

We should be coming back in December or January with leases from both churches to be approved by the Board.

We will need two additional teachers: Upper El and Primary. Mr. Vincent: Best practice is to start students at lower El and move teacher up with group.

Mr. Sanderson: Do we need an assistant in Upper El? Mr. Vincent is not convinced that we need 2 assistants in Elementary full-time.

Ms. Federman: Why are we concerned about getting preschoolers?

Mr. Sanderson recommends that we not increase tuition for next year.

Mr. Vincent: We may increase the number of ½ day slots for primary children. It is hard to get 3-year-olds to commit to five days. Stressed the need for the three-year cycle for Primary/Kindergarten students. We will need to look at projections and make decisions based on results.

Mr. Sanderson: We have a strong reserve in the budget; we need our reserve for the facility; however, it gives us some space for risk-taking.

**PSD 2016 Bond Issue:** There will be a funding initiative on the ballot next Fall for \$350 million. The school district adds 300-400 new children per year. PSD needs this money to build new schools and refurbish existing schools. This initiative could be a combination of mill levy and bond but likely will be just bond. The way it is currently being proposed, it will require no new taxes. There exists an opportunity for charter schools to take part in the funding initiative, but our slice will be small. Most importantly, PSD likely will not and probably cannot spend money on facilities they do not own. PSD staff has suggested we ask for investments in technology, and they are also open to furniture and other equipment. Mr. Vincent will compile needs through ninth grade that could possibly be put forth for this initiative. Draft list is due December 15.

We will need our community to help get the bond issue approved.

Mr. Vincent: We maintain a close relationship with PSD as our authorizer. Mr. Vincent attends Principal meetings to maintain that relationship. There is a sense of Charter antagonism toward school districts, yet we are in it for the children, not the politics.

### **Enrollment Policy:**

Mr. Sanderson:

- The policy addresses ambiguities in current policy.
- As soon as we're off the federal grant we will have flexibility about preferential treatment toward preschoolers getting in to Kindergarten. All preschoolers currently have to go through the lottery to get into kindergarten until we are off the federal grant.
- Policy will go on the website. It addresses all aspects of enrollment at FCMS, including dates for new enrollment and re-enrollment for currently enrolled children.
- The policy was reviewed and approved by our attorney.

Mr. Sanderson moved that we approve the revised enrollment policy with an amendment to keep tuition and supplies the same as last year.

Ms. Federman seconded.

Motion passed.

**Financial Report:**

Mr. Danielson reported on the audit.

Mr. Sanderson: We ended with a budget surplus of \$100,110.

Mr. Vincent recognized the staff for all they have done. The teachers stepped up and worked hard for the school at a conservative rate of pay and should be commended. Parents say they love the teachers.

Mr. Danielson discussed the October 2015 monthly financial reports

Fundraising is way below budget.

Mr. Sanderson: We would like to grow a spirit of giving with our community.

Mr. Danielson suggested we use the Annual Report for fundraising.

CDE spending: We are still waiting for reimbursement. Mr. Vincent is researching this.

Mr. Danielson moved to adjourn.

Ms. Federman seconded.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorie Federman