



# SANTA ROSA FRENCH-AMERICAN CHARTER SCHOOL

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PAF Open Meeting

1/16/19 | SRFACS Cafeteria

## Attendance

### PRESENT:

Elif Alton (Vice President)  
Travers Ebling  
Ronit Glickman  
Jeff Gospe  
Megan Hernandez  
Tracey Klein (President)  
Samantha Makinano (Secretary)  
Brianna Matel  
Crystal Santorineos  
Rachel Sweet (Treasurer)  
Dana VanBlair

### NOT PRESENT:

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## I. Meeting Called to Order

5:40 PM by President Tracey Klein

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## II. PAF Mission Statement

Read to selves

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## III. Public Comment

Public comment was offered to extend to 3 minutes each and take place as a Mid-year Review discussion. See Discussion Items.

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## IV. Consent Agenda and Approval of Minutes

A. **AGENDA:** Approval of Agenda for this General Meeting of 1/16/19

T.Klein added "Mid-Year review" to Discussion Items. J.Gospe added "Review and Approval of Non-profit Form 990 Tax Filing" to Action Items. Lori Flanagan (principal) requested to remove "Approval of \$3750 for School Radios" from Action Items as she has already purchased these with school funds. M.Hernandez motioned to approve amended agenda. J. Gospe seconded. Unanimously approved.

B. **MINUTES:**

1. Approval of Minutes from General Meeting of 11/7/19: No corrections. E.Alton motioned to approve minutes. J.Gospe seconded. Unanimously approved.
2. Approval of Minutes from General Meeting of 12/12/18: R.Sweet made a correction regarding bookkeeper/tax accountant fee. M.Hernandez motioned to approve amended minutes. J.Gospe seconded. Unanimously approved.

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## V. Board Reports

A. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** T.Klein waived.

B. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** R.Sweet provided current profit/loss sheet. High points discussed and amounts rounded below. Full document available on request.

- We average \$130k/year in donations. Seem on track to reach or surpass that average this year.
- *Total money raised so far this year is \$127k*
- Our bookkeeper has started work.
- Carnival expenses are coming in.
- *Total money spent so far this year is \$73k*

C. **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Lori Flanagan

- Thank you for the feedback, it is important to her. She was taking notes.
- She is new, and she will be continuing to work with everyone to move forward in a positive way.
- She started advertising for new teachers in December and has had many applications. She doesn't know how many openings there will be to fill. A team of teachers will screen applicants with her.
- English Language Development: a teacher is putting together groups of EL students to be receiving support based on LPAC scores.
- Instructional Assistants have started working as of 1/7/19 to assist kids in class. Scheduling is evolving.
- We have 5 yard supervisors now.
- A new school psychologist, Nicole Valle, has started.
- Radios were purchased to communicate with when the power goes out and our phones/alarms don't work.
- She will ask the teachers how the positive behavioral programs are doing. Najine Shariat requested a detailed report at the SAB meeting.
- Nutrition Program: She feels we need a chef, and reports that the District is advertising for one. PAF (who subsidizes the nutrition program) was not aware of this. Founder/SAB member Najine Shariat feels that since it is part of our charter it is a school responsibility and SAB should be in charge. SAB member Michelle Gervais requested that Principal Flanagan ask the District to please hold on hiring a chef and await advice from our school - it is felt that since our nutrition program is unique that our own boards / committees should have an advisory role. PAF also requested that Ms. Flanagan follow up on a \$6k invoice we've received from the District regarding our nutrition program - it was received at the beginning of the year, but no itemization / explanation. We had requested explanation from the district but have not received it. L.Flanagan had advised us that all communications on the matter should be through her.

D. **SAB / DISTRICT REPORT:** J.Gospe advised us that there are enrollment issues across the city.

- 1/28/19 is the next SAB meeting, and he encouraged us to attend.
- 1/31/19 is the next District Budget Advisory meeting. He is on this committee and will be attending.

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## VI. Committee Reports

A. **MERCHANT REWARDS:** Aubrey from Sports Basement did not make it to tonight's meeting.

B. **NUTRITION/LUNCH PROGRAM:** T.Ebling

- The program and our active collaboration with the District in it seems to have stalled. Despite repeated attempts to engage both Principal Flanagan and the District in communication, no response has been given by either. We have no menu, no idea what the \$6k invoice is for, and no input or information on the plan going forward.

- It is felt that the motivation and guidance to implement our program must come from the school - it is a unique part of our charter and the district is not experienced in implementing it. L.Flanagan had informed us that all communication with the district on the matter must go through her however, and this has not happened.
- Going independent with the program is an option. It would require a lot of time and volunteer work to implement and maintain, and we would need district approval. We would have to provide a reciprocal free & reduced fee lunch program as what exists now. The biggest estimated expense is labor. We would need 300 students participating regularly to feasibly afford it.
- Given the current apparent climate with our principal and community, it is felt that this issue should be put on hold - we should not add to the chaos. We will however attempt to address it before the end of the year.
- In the meantime, we will attend SAB meetings and encourage others to do so.
- *Our food IS still prepared by our kitchen staff, not reheated from frozen/pre-prepared.*

**C. FAMILY GIVING CAMPAIGN:** E.Alton

- We reached 93% participation - 1% more than last year.
- She and D.VanBlair are working on getting Donor Software to be even more interactive next year

**D. CARNAVAL:** M.Hernandez

- The event website is up and tickets have already been purchased.
- The tables are 10-tops this year.
- An Outdoor Classroom will be the paddle-raise concept this year. Lynn Wheeler has an illustrated concept that will be turned into a graphic rendering for presentation at the event.
- We need more donation items for our auctions.
- The online auction will be held at the same time as the event.
- The live auctioneer will be changing the format to afford more eating and conversation time.
- We are working on a signature drink.
- Whimsy Wash will be face painting at the beginning of the event - all proceeds will be donated to SRFACS.
- We will be inviting people from the SRTA (teachers union) and the District.

**E. PLAYGROUND:** T.Klein reports that dates are set for demo and installation:

- 1/26/19 - 1/27/19 Backstop removal (done by parents)
- 2/2/19 - 2/3/19 Site grading and prep (done by parents)
- 2/4/19 - 2/8/19 Structure installation (done by professionals)

**F. VOLUNTEER:** B.Matel

- 2/1/19 is the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. We need volunteers.
- We need some Caranaval volunteers.

**G. LA PLUME:** D.VanBlair says he always needs content. These are our main form of communication along with the website.

**H. WEBSITE:** D.VanBlair

- He would like to formally thank the Budlong family, especially Ryan Budlong, who designed and launched the site.
- Reception has been very positive so far.
- There are little fixes we are finding and addressing.
- We can all update the bulletin board easily, he will send the info on how to do so.
- We all need to promote it. B.Matel will disperse flyers to pre-schools to interest potential kinder families in the school.

**I. CALENDAR:** T.Ebling will be updating calendar, multiple data points to be included.

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## VII. Discussion Items

- A. **PARENT LUNCH PROCEDURE REQUESTS:** Front Office via T.Klein... Cheryl and Angel need to know the name of the child and the attending guests relationship to the child for security reasons.
- B. **MID-YEAR REVIEW / PUBLIC COMMENT:** Meant to be a public commentary on how individuals view their experience at SRFACS so far this year. Comments are individual opinion only and are summarized and abbreviated here.
- T. KLEIN (PAF / parent): States that we have great donations and community support this year, our playground is moving forward, there is always work to do.
  - D. VANBLAIR (PAF / parent): Thinks the principal's letter regarding air quality after the Carr fire came too late. Thinks communication from the administration is lacking.
  - E. ALTON (PAF / parent): Thinks communication is missing in general, and the nutrition program has deteriorated.
  - B. MATEL (PAF / parent): Thinks our teachers are amazing, worries they are being stifled. Thinks our nutrition program has deteriorated.
  - S. MAKINANO (PAF / parent): States that we are a strong community and we need to lean on that in these challenges. Thinks our teachers are amazing. Thinks our nutrition program has deteriorated.
  - M. HERNANDEZ (PAF / parent): Thinks teachers are the heart of our school and they need to be protected.
  - R. SWEET (PAF / parent): Thinks leadership is lacking and it's affecting our community. Thinks French culture at school is fading and school needs a revamp.
  - C. SANTORINEOS (PAF / parent): Thinks French culture is fading at our school. Thinks nutrition program has deteriorated, and with kids with food allergies she cannot confidently participate.
  - J. GOSPE (PAF / parent): Thinks the vision of the school is being lost, the feelings of our teachers reflects that. States we need to retain our teachers and we need to work with the district to that end.
  - ADAM BRAND (parent / former SAB member): Thinks the teachers are amazing. Feels disappointed in administration's public and private communications this year. States he is concerned about support of EL (English Learner) and IEP (Individualized Education Program) students. Thinks there is a lack of understanding about the importance of native French-speaking teachers and accreditation.
  - AMELIA SHAPIRO (parent): Chose this school over other language immersion schools for the accredited French curriculum, and feels that will be lost if native-French speaking teachers leave and are replaced with Americans who speak French. Without our teachers and accreditation there would be nothing holding her to this school, so she hopes they are retained.
  - BRUCE MARINACE (parent): Thinks our teachers are amazing. Thinks communication and connection with community from administration is lacking. Worried that academics and students are being negatively affected.
  - JACKIE ELWARD (classified staff member / parent): Thinks education at our school has been great due to our teachers. Feels that the majority are unhappy. Worries that if we lose our teachers the level of academics will suffer.
  - LAETITIA PHELPS (parent): Thinks the teachers are amazing. Thinks Facebook Circle is becoming the de facto means of discussion due to lack of communication from the administration.
  - NORMA YAZBEK (parent): They commute from San Francisco every day for the education at our school, which she feels is much better than at the private Lycee her older son went to. She thinks this is due to our accreditation and our French teachers. Advised support of them.
  - LYNN WHEELER (parent): Wonders whatever happened with the positive behavioral programs implemented this year. Concerned they have not been followed through on.
  - SEVERINE VERGE (ELAC member / parent): Thinks communication is lacking from administration. Concerned that EL students have a lack of support.
  - JENNIFER FRENGEL (SAB member / parent): States our community is wonderful, she is proud of us for working together through the kinks.
  - ASHLEE STAROBA (parent): Thinks our teachers are amazing and the soul of the school. Thinks parents need to get involved and ask administration and the district to listen to them and their needs.

- NAJINE SHARIAT (school founder): Thinks that if our charter is not followed our school is in danger. States we are not an American school that teaches French, we are a dual-curriculum immersion school with French accreditation. Thinks students should not be negatively affected because we have a different curriculum.
- MICHELLE GERVAIS (SAB member / parent): States we can work together. Realizes the current administrative challenges our principal is dealing with that were left for her due past principals having to deal with other pressing challenges
- WILL LYON (president of Santa Rosa Teachers Association): He is thrilled to hear how much our teachers are appreciated by the parents. The union understands the importance of accreditation to our school. They are in talks with our administration at this time. States that the teachers are not speaking publicly because they fear reprisal and dismissal.

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## VIII. Action Items

### A. **\$695 - ZEYNEP BROCKETT TO MATHEMATICS WORKSHOP:** Z.Brockett presenting with B.Matel & S.Makinano

Ms.Brockett would like to attend a Mindset Mathematics professional development workshop at Stanford University, the goal of which is helping students with difficulties in math to learn and gain confidence in their abilities. The workshop cost is \$995. She has received a grant of \$300 towards this fee from the John Jordan Foundation. She applied to L.Flanagan for the remainder of the cost (\$695) but was told by her to ask PAF for the funding.

It is felt that this is a school responsibility, and J.Gospe will publicly ask it to be funded as such at the 1/28 SAB meeting. If it is refused by Principal Flanagan again then we will fund it.

J.Gospe motioned to approve \$695 to pay for Z.Brockett's attendance of this professional development course, pending refusal of administration to fund at the SAB meeting. T.Ebling seconded. Unanimously approved.

### B. **Up to \$500 - CHILDCARE EXPENSE FOR PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT:** J.Frengel via S.Makinano

SAB member J.Frengel, who holds an interdisciplinary studies degree in bilingual education, would like to hold a parent education evening. She requests up to \$500 to provide childcare so that more parents can attend.

It is felt that the amount is too high for what would be needed. It is also felt that this is a SAB/School matter to fund, and a LCAP budget does exist for parent education as such. However, we do recognize the need to currently inform parents on terms and concepts they are hearing about lately (accreditation, native-language speaking teachers in immersion programs). If we are to supply funding for what is already in the school budget, it was requested of Ms. Frengel that the discussion be focused on those concepts. It was also requested that this be held soon, and that the information also be put into written format to be provided to parents who cannot attend... PAF encourages Ms. Frengel to pursue further parent education events (ex: the benefits of immersion, what to expect, etc) as we appreciate the need and her ability to provide it. We would love to see her put together information we can post on our website, particularly to support enrollment.

B.Matel motioned to approve *up to \$300* to provide childcare for parents attending a parent education night focused on accreditation and native-language speaking teachers. S.Makinano seconded. Unanimously approved.

**C. Review and Approval of Non-profit Form 990 Tax Filing for 2017:** J.Gospe

Each member received a hard copy of the form to review. Notable was that in 2017 we spent \$90k on our school. J.Gospe motioned to approve the form. C.Santorineos seconded. Unanimously approved. Our tax accountant will file, and it will be posted on our website.

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## IX. Future Meetings

5:30 pm in the library

2/6/19, 3/6/19, 4/3/19, 5/1/19

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## X. Meeting Adjourned

9:25 PM by President Tracey Klein

Minutes prepared and revised for review by Samantha Makinano.