

**BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WESTLAKE CHARTER SCHOOL**

**May 6, 2008
Westlake Charter School
3700 Del Paso Road
Sacramento, CA 95834**

7:00 PM Board Meeting in Room N5

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO
THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND CITIZENS**

The Westlake Charter School (“School”) welcomes your participation at the School’s Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) is to conduct the affairs of the School in public. We are pleased that you are in attendance and hope that you will visit these meetings often. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our School. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided.

1. Agendas are available to all audience members at the door to the meeting.
2. Blue “Request to Speak” forms are available to all audience members who wish to speak on any agenda items or under the general category of “Oral Communications.”
3. “Oral Communications” is set aside for members of the audience to raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond or take action. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.
4. With regard to items that are on the agenda, you may specify that agenda item on your blue request form and you will be given an opportunity to speak when the Board discusses that item.
5. Members of the public may request that a topic related to school business be placed on a future agenda by making a request to the Board President. Once such an item is properly agendaized and publicly noticed, the Board can respond, interact, and act upon the item.
6. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, the Charter School may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require appropriate alternative modification of the agenda in order to participate in Board meetings are invited to contact the Board President.

I. OPENING

- A. Call to Order 7:05 p.m.
- B. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum:

		present	absent
1.	Phil Nanni	_X_	_____
2.	Paris Coleman	_X_	_____
3.	Monica Anderson	_X_	_____
4.	Ting Sun	_X_	_____
5.	Gretchen Hanson	_X_	_____
6.	Teri Burns	_X_	_____
7.	Debbie Hightower	_X_	_____
8.	Christina Thorall	_X_	_____

The meeting will now convene to closed session to discuss the following matters described in Section II.

II. CLOSED SESSION
Information/Update on existing litigation

III. PUBLIC SESSION

A) RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: The meeting was reconvened to open session at 7:36 p.m.

B) PUBLIC REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY
No action was taken during closed session.

Paris Coleman moved to address item 6a as the next agenda item.

C) BOARD COMMENTS

PC: I have taken the liberty of interviewing all but three of the teachers. I am looking toward strategic planning and getting to know them. Would like everyone to start thinking about strategic planning within the coming year.

D) PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comment.

E) REPORTS

1. WAVE Report

Peggy McAllister presented the WAVE report. A written report was submitted to the Board.

2. Principal Report

Christine Smith provided the Principal's Report. A written report was submitted to the Board.

3. Facilities Grant Update:

We were on the OPSC April agenda, but the item did not get voted on because others on the list had not met their financial soundness. We should be on the OPSC May agenda. We have met our financial soundness piece. All that is left is for OPSC to approve. We met with the District regarding facilities. We will be staying at Natomas Middle with four additional portables and the nurse's room. Now we need to decide where to place the portables. We also need to know if we really need the portables or might there be rooms available at Natomas Middle School because of the cap at Natomas Middle and the opening of H. Allen Hight.

4. Financial Report

Jodi Retzloff presented the financial report to the Board. Looks like we will be under budget about \$80,000 at the end of the year, which will give us more cushion going into the next school year. The audit for the start-up and implementation grant was completed. Everything went fine and we got our final apportionment for that. Kudos to Christine and staff for handling that process very well. Benefit renewal rates have come back. Health Net increased 15.5% and Kaiser 5%. Current monthly cap will barely cover employee only for medical, dental and vision. This is something we will have to keep in mind as budgets are approved with the State. The State budget is an unknown at this point. Even though this is a crucial planning time, we need to wait out the State budget to see how it will affect us. Next year's budget will be adopted in June. Propose having a budget sub committee prior to the June meeting.

IV. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION:

A) Approve Minutes for April as amended.

Motion: TB	Action: Approved
Second: GH	Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain

B) Approve New Hires – four teachers, one curriculum coordinator

Motion: TB	Action: Approved
Second: GH	Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain

V. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR CONSENT

- A. NWEA Renewal
- B. Computer Purchases

Motion: TB	Action: Approved
Second: PN	Vote: Sub prior unanimous roll call

VI. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/UPDATE

A. Spanish Program, Benchmarks – Vanessa Arnaud

Vanessa Arnaud is a founding parent who was instrumental in coming up with the Westlake philosophy around language arts. She teaches at Sacramento State with a PhD in French. Vanessa has been asked to help come up with benchmarks for Westlake's Spanish language program. The following documents were submitted to the Board for review and discussion: Westlake Charter School Foreign Language Program Statement of Philosophy and Westlake Charter School Language Benchmarks.

B. Buying Parent Hours Policy

The questions are: Should parents be allowed to buy back hours? And if they don't meet their hours, what should the consequences be? The committee looked at the feasibility of buying back hours. Natomas Charter School does enforce the

volunteer hour policy. Students are disenrolled if parents don't fulfill their volunteer hours. The Montessori project has five campuses. The committee liked their approach toward the parent hours. The campus advisory committee works with the principal to enforce the hours. They allow buy-back of a certain number of hours and they attributed a rate. The committee discussed having the buy-back amount be the same as the amount of purchasing supplies. If that's the case, there should be more consistency in the allocated amounts. The committee looked at buying a certain number of hours per trimester. The amount would be lower earlier in the year and higher later in the year. There could also be exemptions for parents who need it. The committee is recommending that parents who don't qualify or aren't given an exemption, they should go back into the lottery for the following year. This is how the California Montessori Project handles it. They say that it doesn't happen very often, but when it does happen, it's usually because the parents haven't taken the opportunities. Committee will need to consider whether or not a parent could buy all their hours. This could go a little against WCS philosophy of parent participation.

C. Parking Lot/Blackbird Park

The Parks Department is open to the idea of re-configuring the proposed parks so that we could purchase land to the south of our school. Would like to recommend that we look with our finance committee into the viability of purchasing land before we discuss any more the K. Hovnanian and the Parks Service. If it looks to be feasible, we should form a committee to look at how it fits in with our strategic plan.

D. Board Elections – Community member

Paris Coleman moves to table this agenda item until next regular meeting.

E. Retention Policy

There is some clarifying of language that Christine would like to implement. Language will be posted by May 19 so that action may be taken at the following regular board meeting.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Adopt Spanish program and schedule.
- NWEA results
- Summary of library materials
- Possible dates for Board retreat

VIII. ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9: 29 p.m.
Next meeting, Tuesday, 6/3/2008