

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

**November 6, 2007
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 7:11 p.m.

B. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum:

| | present | absent |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Phil Nanni | _X_ | _____ |
| 2. Paris Coleman | _X_ | _____ |
| 3. Carol Moore | _X_ | _____ |
| 4. Ting Sun | _X_ | _____ |
| 5. Community Member LB | _X_ | _____ |
| 6. Gretchen Hanson | _____ | _X_ |
| 7. Lisa Kaplan | _____ | _X_ |
| 8. Debbie Hightower | _X_ | _____ |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The meeting will now convene to closed session to discuss the following matters described in Section II. |
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II. CLOSED SESSION 7:12 p.m.

A) UPDATE ON PENDING LITIGATION

III. PUBLIC SESSION

A) RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: The meeting was reconvened to open session at 7:27 p.m.

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

C) BOARD COMMENTS

LB: Plans to start doing more with the campus. Has been sitting the tree from the groundbreaking ceremony since summer and would like to get it planted in the ground. Will work with Phil on getting some water to get the garden going. Not much response from district at this point. This is not very high on their priority list. Still have the \$2500 grant, so there may be some money to get the water situation resolved.

PN: Would like to let everyone know that we recognize shortcomings in the parking lot pick-up/drop-off situation. Charlie Leo has offered help and assistance. An architect was brought over to look at ways to mitigate traffic issues. Have come up with some strategic ideas that may offer temporary and long-term help. Will look at re-designing parking lot and may consider adding another exit to the parking lot with multiple drop-off points. As far as funding, we are hopeful that we can take current plan to NUSD Board and lobby for some "Safe Routes to Schools" funding. Could be considered priority from the district just given the current unsafe situation both for students walking and traffic back-up on the street. If that doesn't work out, we will have to rely on our own funding. We see this as a priority situation. In the meantime, there's a handicapped area of parking all along the side. We may keep just a couple of those spaces close to the entrance and zone off the rest of the spaces to add more drop-off points. The goal is to have that done in time for the return from Thanksgiving break. That will give us the opportunity to educate people on the new drop-off rules.

D) PUBLIC COMMENTS

This portion of the meeting is set aside for members of the audience to make comments or raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda or for those that are on the agenda. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes per presentation and the total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

Peggy McAllister: I'm concerned about all the signs that say, "no parking" yet parents park there. If we get those other exits, are we still encouraging parents to park along the street? PN: I think we need to look at a comprehensive policy. Christine

Smith: No one is supposed to be parking there. They can be ticketed or towed if police come by. CM: Saw a student run out through the cars to the street to get a parent's car. TS: Would suggest more diligence on the part of the staff to ensure that parents and children are following the rules. PN: Do we have enough staff to mitigate the problem? Christine Smith: We should have enough staff. Would like to continue working with the current staff allotment. CM: Concerned about a really bad weather day. More chaotic and bad visibility. Christine Smith: We've talked about a staggered release with classes. Maybe it could be done by alphabet. We do have places for kids to stand during inclement weather. LB: The advantage of going by alphabet is that parents of multiple children could pick up all at once. Lisa Corr: Is staff being asking to open doors for kids to facilitate them getting out more quickly? If staff could open the door for us, things would go much more quickly. Christine Smith: Occasionally it happens, but perhaps we could make it routine.

E) REPORTS

1. WAVE Report

Peggy McAllister submitted a report of WAVE activities that have occurred since the last board meeting.

2. Principal Report

Christine Smith submitted a report of WCS activities that have occurred since the last board meeting.

3. Facilities Grant Update

In order for us to receive a half million dollars, the district would have to give up some eligibility of about \$500,000. It's up to the district at this point. If the district does not give up eligibility, we will not be able to claim those rooms. If the response from the district is not positive, we will move forward with a list of what we were planning to use the grant money for and request that they help us with the items on that list. The district is ultimately responsible for helping us with those things. PN: Would it help for us to try and get this item on the next NUSD board agenda? Christine Smith: The agenda for the next meeting is already set. TS: When does the district have to respond to OPSC? Christine will check on that.

IV. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION:

A) Approve minutes for June 2007 as amended.

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Motion: PN | Action: Approve |
| Second: PC | Vote: Sub Prior Role Call |

B) Approve minutes for October 2007 as amended

Motion: PN
Second: LB

Action: Approve
Vote: Sub Prior Role Call

C) Approve the signing of the SIA resolution.

Motion: PC
Second: CM

Action: Approve
Vote: Sub Prior Role Call

V. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR CONSENT:

VI. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/UPDATE

A) Spanish Program: An ongoing question has been where we would like students to be when they leave Westlake. Research on the subject has uncovered the “Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools.” This document gives us a good framework to look at and discuss. For students who start at Kindergarten and go all the way through fifth grade, we would like for them to reach stage III by the time they leave Westlake. Will also be looking at the International School of Monterey and Rocklin Academy curriculum. Will review curriculum with Ms. Fernandez after Thanksgiving break. Would like to incorporate Spanish into other areas of the school as well. Currently, students are only using their Spanish in the Spanish classroom. It is important to get them comfortable using it outside of the Spanish class environment and sending activities home. Is there any way parents could get some help in Spanish so that we could work with our children at home? We will look into it. PN: Can any of this tie into the NWEA program? CS: I don’t believe there is a piece, but we can look into it. TS: I think Stage III is an appropriate stage to shoot for. We have discussed mapping backwards, but along with that, we need some very clear assessments and goals. We can understand that not all students will be at that level, but we can certainly pick something to shoot for. Stage III seems appropriate. PN: could we get an update on the assessment program for the next board meeting?

Jenn Short: For the Spanish program, I am assuming there is an appropriate bridge from Westlake e to another school. I’m assuming that the only option when they leave Westlake won’t be beginning Spanish. Will there be a conversation with the district about where our students should go once they leave here? Christine Smith will look into it.

Greg Zumstein: For future hiring, are we looking at teachers who are bilingual? Christine Smith: It is a hiring preference.

Emily Chan: Regarding the teachers aides in certain classes, I am a parent helper in a kindergarten class and the aide she had last year is no longer in the class. It is my understanding that they don’t have a kindergarten aide on a regular basis? Christine Smith: We have the same aides as last year, but last year, more aide time was spent in the Kindergarten classrooms and there wasn’t equity among times with the aides with the rest of the classrooms. This year, there is equity across the school in terms of the aides’ time. If we have extra time, an aide can be placed with teachers who need extra help upon request.

B) Extended Day Program: Christine Smith: I pulled up Club Montessori to use as a

model. What I liked about the program is that it is an extension of the school. That's a benefit of why we would like to have our own program. Jen tries to incorporate our curriculum into her 4th R program; however, she is also bound by the parameters of the 4th R program. Thought this piece of literature with Club Montessori was powerful because it says that what we do during school with your kids, we do after school as well. [A Westlake Charter School After School/Extended Day Program Summary was presented.] Based on estimated costs, it would most likely be a wash at first with possible income down the line. To our knowledge, this is a money maker for the California Montessori Program. PN: In the current 4th R Program, how are fees collected? Christine Smith: Fees are collected monthly. If we took this on, the program manager would manage this. Could also do electronic payments. They also offer a discount if you pay in advance. Recommend putting together a committee to move forward with this. PN: Would like to see more information around the specific cost of insurance, supplies, facilities and anything else that comes into play so that we have a good understanding of what we would be getting into. TS: Is there anyone who would be willing to research this for us? Christine Smith: Yes, I think we have someone who could help us with this research. Recommend opening in the fall and not during the summer. We want to take the time to do it right and summer program is very different from a school day program.

Peggy McAllister: Would like to see time for homework included.

Jenn Short: Would like to a balance between structure and free time.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Spanish Program

Extended Day

Parent Participation Policies

Board approval of revised policies (under consent)

Facilities Update

Grant Update

Date of board retreat to discuss grade level expansion

VIII. ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.