

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Rainshadow Community Charter High School**  
**July 7, 2008**  
**5:30 pm**

**Location of Meeting:**

Rainshadow Community Charter High School, 434 Washington Street, Reno, NV 89503

**Call to order** – 5:39pm

**Roll Call** – Inge Gerber, David Fenimore, Julie Gabica, Julie Rast, and Deidre Pike

Others Present – Jeff Blanck, Steve West, Emily Inglebright, Staci Thiel, Sam O'Brien, Vikkie Velazquez, Rachael Homrichhausen, Leigh Metcalf, Steve Lafer, Joe Ferguson, and Toby Wiedenmayer

**A. Public Comment** - None

**B.** Discussion and approval of April 23, 2008, May 21, 2008 and May 28, 2008 Board meetings Minutes (Action Item) – *Discussion of corrections to minutes, no corrections needed. David Fenimore motion to accept minutes, Inge Gerber second, all in favor passed unanimously.*

*Julie Gabica would like to change agenda to eliminate items K and L and conduct all items in open meeting. Inge Gerber moves to eliminate items K and L, David Fenimore seconds, all in favor passed unanimously.*

**C.** Discussion and approval of Financial Report and Budget (Action Item) – *Deidre Pike motions to approve changes to 07 – 08 Budget, second by Julie Rast, all in favor passed unanimously.*

**D.** Discussion and approval of 2008/2009 Teacher Salary Schedule (Action Item) – *Steve West talks about the WCSD salary schedule and proposes that Rainshadow adopt the salary schedule as is for 08 – 09 despite any budget cuts that might come from the State. David Fenimore motions to accept the WCSD salary schedule, Inge Gerber seconds, all in favor passed unanimously.*

**E.** Discussion and approval of Andrea Hansen's Resignation (Action Item) – *Deidre Pike moves to accept the resignation of Andrea Hansen, Julie Rast seconds, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

**F.** Discussion of Audit and areas of concern regarding non-compliance issues (information item) – *Steve West discusses the issue brought up by WCSD regarding the state standards, Steve feels that the Rainshadow Curriculum was not presented well to WCSD. Steve has sent a response to WCSD regarding the issues of non-compliance.*

**G.** Discussion and approval of new Board Members (Action Item) – *Steve West introduces two of three new board members (Martin Braik and Mike Pacheco) that he is recommending to the board the third new member (Janine May) was not present. They are all licensed teachers who teach at Coral Academy of Science. These three members will bring Rainshadow back into compliance on the issue of at least three licensed teachers must be on the board. Deidre Pike moves to accept the three new members, Inge Gerber seconds, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

**H.** Discussion and approval of Board Training Proposal (Action Item) – *Steve West discusses Cathy Jordon who is recommended by Sandi Foster, Julie Gabica states that she likes the idea of someone training them on everything at once because she is unsure of what she is doing. Deidra Pike does not like how long the training will take, Julie Rast states that the Attorney General training is free, Steve West states that the training doesn't have to be 21 hours long that the board can tailor it to their needs and schedule he also states that it will look better to the district if we use someone that they have recommended. David Fenimore would like to look at everyone's schedule to see when the training can be scheduled. They will vote on date and time of training at next board meeting. David Fenimore motions to spend the money to cover a three hour workshop, second by Inge Gerber, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

**I.** Discussion and approval of new Insurance Proposal (Action Item) – *Steve West states that the liability insurance was canceled and he has picked up a new carrier to cover the liability part of the insurance so now Rainshadow will have to insure carriers. There is discussion about the bill that has already been paid by Rainshadow to Hartford for coverage. Motion by David Fenimore to approve coverage by Philadelphia Insurance that is not covered by Hartford and to get clarification from Hartford as to what they are covering, second by Deidra Pike, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

**J.** Interim Principal's Report with faculty comments (Information item) – *Steve West states that he emailed his report to the board, he also states that he feels we are spending too much money on the administrative staff and wants to spend less on administrative staff and more on students and student services. He recommends that the board not continue to look for and hire a new principal but instead just promote him and he will do both jobs as dean and principal. He feels this would save the school money; he also wants to reorganize the administration, which he feels has gotten over priced and expanded farther than it needs to be. Steve asked the board if there are any questions regarding his report and let the faculty talk. Julie Rast would like to know what changes he is talking about to the administrative staff. Julie Gabica suggests looking at attachment B. Steve states that attachment B is the figures he received on salaries. Julie talks about how much is spent on the administrative salaries as opposed to the amount spent on the teaching team. Steve states that the other item with getting a principal in place is the fact that we have accreditation and charter renewal coming up he feels that bringing a new principal in and getting them caught up on the things going on. Steve states he feels the budget has been a secret. Steve talks about the fact that he does not know of a plan to replace the computers in the school. Julie Gabica states that the budget has not been available to the board at every meeting this year. And just looking at numbers a lot of money is going to an administrative team with a school of a hundred students. Steve suggests that the board hear from the faculty. Toby Wiedenmayer talks about the fact that the teachers have always been aware of the fact that they have a very tight budget and the teachers at Rainshadow do a good job with the resources they have and all the teachers have always used their own money from time to time. Sam O'Brien talks about the fact that it is tough but that he deals with it. Sam also mentions that he has had some help with the basketball team a few years ago he spent about a grand on uniforms but this year he has not had to spend much of his own money on the basketball team. Joe Ferguson talks about the fact that when Carol was here at the beginning of the year they were able to hire teacher aides and through the course of the year through attrition we have lost those aides. He is unsure why we were unable to replace them once they left. Vikkie Velazquez states that her aide was told that Rainshadow could not afford to pay him two dollars more per hour. Staci Thiel explains that the aide money was grant money and the amount of pay for the aides was written into the grant and no additional money for aides was budgeted in the general budget. Leigh Metcalf states that she was told that there was no money in the budget for her to work at Rainshadow as a student teacher and she was uncertain of her position at Rainshadow so when she had the opportunity to take a job that she felt she had no choice to but to take it. Toby Wiedenmayer talks about the fact that because Carol White was leaving Rainshadow it was left up to the teachers to find the aides and once those aides left there was never a refill of that position. Julie Gabica asks if the grant money was ever utilized and Staci Thiel reports that it did get used and that it is in the financial report that they were given. Joe Ferguson wonders if the 80,000.00 dollar carryover could have been used to help fund additional aides in the classroom. Julie Gabica asks if there*

are any other questions; Toby states that we should look at everything that went on this year and that we were in a state of crisis throughout the year and miscommunications had a lot to do with what was going on at the school. The teachers need to know up front what they are going to get. Joe talks about the aides that were selected by the teachers were really great people. But the aides we got throughout the year didn't last but a day. Steve recaps that basically what we have been doing for the last five years with an expanding overhead and a fixed income. That they need to decide what they are going to do, continue to do what they have been doing with the administrative staff and hire a new principal and go into the red next year or the board can start looking at getting another building. Toby reads a letter from Alissa Wilmet. Staci Thiel asks what changes is being looked at for the administrative staff and Julie Gabica states that is not on the table for discussion. Jeff Blanck states that any changes to the administrative staff will need to be put on an agenda to be discussed and voted on at a future board meeting.

**M. Discussion and approval of principal position (Action Item) – Julie Gabica moves M and N together for discussion Julie Rast reads Carol Whites proposal to return as interim principal to assist the school in reporting requirements and finding a new principal for the school. Julie Gabica is not sure that we need Carol White as interim principal. Julie Rast talks about if Steve West has the five years experience. Steve states that he has talked to Sandi Foster and the district would be ok with his appointment to principal he also states that he has talked with the accreditation people and he meets their qualifications as well. Jeff Blanck states that Steve meets the qualifications. Deidra Pike states that she believes Steve will be great at the admin. position. David Fenimore moves that the board approve the promotion of Steve West to Principal for the school year 2008 - 2009, Deidra Pike seconds, Inge Gerber – yes, Julie Gabica – yes, Julie Rast – no. Motion passes. There is talk about how much they will pay Steve West. Jeff Blanck states that the salary would need to be put on the agenda for the next board meeting.**

**N. Discussion and approval of possible Interim Principal (Action Item) – No formal action taken.**

**O. Public Comment –**

-Emily Inglebright talks about that “she loves working at Rainshadow, she loves all the teachers, there is just many many times when she just doesn't feel like part of the team they keep talking about. She feels like we are treated like the bad guys because we have to say no sometimes. Like the BBQ, we asked several times were the money was coming from who's going to do what and nothing was ever said to us so it wasn't like it we ... it was several times when it was brought to our attention it was like how is this going to happen nothing was ever given to us. So when it came down to the wire about how this BBQ was going to happen we were made to look like the bad guys because nothing was ever planned ahead for us to give the money out. We all work very very hard and what I hear especially from Steve Lafer is that this (the teachers) are the team and we are the outsiders and I would love it if it would join. I know that Staci does more than anybody in this place then anyone could possible do, I mean she works hard. I think we need to come together.” Emily goes on to talk about that she can't always make the staff meetings because she has to run the front office but if we can arrange things so we can be part of the team things would be better.

-Steve Lafer thinks we need better communication he works with the teachers and that's why he supports them because they do such good work and they work as a team. The teachers need the support of an administrator who knows who they are and they are the school. They also need to know what is available to them and have the budget be public. The upcoming school year may be rocky because of the possible budget cuts but carefully as we can do it the budget need to be made public and everyone should be part of planning how to spend it. The school and the board need to give every bit of support they can to the teachers. The board doesn't get paid but the board needs to work harder than before, people need to come to meetings and be prepared. The charter is coming up for renewal and there is room for some possible change. Everybody who works with the school needs to know what the charter says and everyone needs to be part of any changes. The school needs to be run by a set of principals and those principals are in the charter. The charter is why the school exists and why the state let us be a school, because of what exist in those documents. They can be changed and should be changed but they should be done in accordance of what we promised. Steve is

willing to go through the charter with anyone who is interested to help make any needed changes. Every time someone new comes on as member of the team (board members, teachers, etc.) they should be handed the charter and it should be required reading. After three years at Billingham the plan disintegrated because new people came in who weren't part of the original planning committee. He doesn't think that can happen here, because we have an important mission to do and we need a charter to guide us and he asks that you make sure people are up to snuff on what that is and what it means, what's good with it and what's wrong with it.

-Toby tomorrow afternoon they will be meeting for accreditation and will be meeting here. Initially they were meeting at four o'clock but it will be at two. Everyone involved in accreditation will be here and anyone interested in the accreditation is welcome to come.

**P. Announcement of Meetings – Steve West suggests that the board bylaws are pretty skimpy and he would like to redo them and he feels that the board needs to meet more often than quarterly. Board sets the meeting for July 30 @ 5:30 .**

**Q. Adjournment (Action Item)** – Julie Rast motions to adjourn the meeting, David Fenimore seconds, all in favor passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.