



La Academia: The Partnership Charter School

Guillermo Barroso
Chief Academic Officer

December 19, 2018

La Academia: The Partnership Charter School Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Aida Ceara
President

Carlos Graupera
Vice-President

Ted Darcus

Kenneth Hammel

Victor Ramos

Colleen Wagner

Ellen Svrcek

Ommie Rivera

Radames Melendez

Susana Cortina

Joseph Morales

**Non-Voting
Members:**

Salina Almanzar
SDOL Rep.

Pam McCartney, IU
13 Representative

Board Members Attending: Dr. Aida Ceara, Mr. Ted Darcus, Mr. Carlos Graupera, Mr. Kenneth Hammel, Mr. Joe Morales, Ms. Colleen Wagner, Ms. Susana Cortina, Mr. Ommie Rivera

Board Members Absent: Mr. Radames Melendez, Mr. Victor Ramos, Ms. Ellen Svrcek,

Non-Vote Board Members Present Ms. Salina Almanzar, School District of Lancaster Representative,

Non-Vote Board Members Absent: Ms. Pam McCartney, IU 13 Representative

Non-Board Members Present: Mr. Guillermo A. Barroso, Ms. Amy Ferg, Ms. Maria Provencher, Ms. Sandy Strunk & Ms. Kristi Baker

I. Welcome - Dr. Ceara welcomed everyone.

II. Approval of November 28, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board meeting minutes were reviewed.

➤ Motion

A motion was made to accept the November 28, 2018 Board meeting minutes by Mr. Ken Hammel and seconded by Ms. Cortina. All approved and the motion passed.

III. President Report

- Dr. Ceara stated to all that the La Academia Board is here to listen to all the concerns of those present. She also stated that there are some parameters to have order for the meeting and these include: one speaker at a time and a maximum of 3 minutes for each speaker. She stated that Mr. Barroso had resigned and that the Board accepted his resignation effective December 21, 2018. Dr. Ceara stated that this is a personal situation which is confidential and that she and the Board wish Mr. Barroso well.
- Dr. Ceara stated that the education and well-being of the students is of foremost importance. The Board is committed to doing all that it can to raise academic standards and there is a team in place to transform the school into a STEM school. Mrs. Amy Ferg will be the new Chief Academic Officer (CAO) and Ms. Maria Provencher will be the Chief Operating Officer (COO) effective 12/22/18. A national search will be conducted for a new CAO starting in January 2019.

Dr. Ceara's report cont.

- * La Academia will transform its culture into a STEM school that uses hands-on, experiential project-based learning. La Academia is selecting a national consultant to assist with this initiative who will begin work in January 2019.
- * La Academia has also contracted with the Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 to conduct a Special Education Audit that will provide critical information for enhancing our services to our Special Education students. The audit will report findings on ways that we can improve our Special Education curriculum.
- * La Academia has a host of critical partners instrumental which include: Elizabethtown College, IU 13, Spanish American Civic Association (SACA), School District of Lancaster and the PA Department of Education.
- * La Academia will do all that it can to ensure the best education for our students.

IV. Comments from the audience

- * Ms. Santiago went to La Academia 20 years ago and now has a student at LAPCS. She has serious concerns about the new leadership and the lack of professionalism and respect shown by a staff member. She stated that "Just because you have authority means nothing."
- * Mr. Barroso is truly loved. Parents and students believe he is being forced out. The new CAO is not qualified to do the job. Mr. Barroso's resignation hit students hard. The students and parents respected Mr. Barroso a great deal. As he did so much for the school and always went above and beyond to help in any way that he could. He listened to the students' concerns and helped them so much. He is like a father figure to them. Mr. Barroso is all about the kids and the parents.
- * Kids need Hispanic mentors, so they can understand where they came from, just like Mr. Barroso did.
- * Mr. Barroso is always in front of the school and there is no fighting. He loves our kids and puts everything out there no matter what. He always made the students feel warm & welcome.
- * Several students voiced their concerns over this situation. Many seniors spoke and asked that he stay until graduation in June.

Dr. Ceara stated that she appreciates all the comments made by students and parents and that the Board will take them into consideration, however the decision to accept Mr. Barroso's resignation is final. A parent stated that if this is the case, then this meeting was a waste of time. Mr. Graupera further stated that he too appreciates the comments and the concerns and will take them under consideration. He stated that "a decision will be made; however, you may not like or agree with it."

This portion of the meeting concluded, and the teachers, parents and students left the meeting.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Finance/Facilities** -Mr. Graupera stated that the loan for renovating another building is being considered.
- B. Personnel** – There was no report.
- C. Development/Public Relations/Communications**
Mr. Rivera highlighted key Development & PR/Communications activities including:
 - A year end letter has been sent out to past donors.
 - EITC funds continue to be solicited.
 - LAPCS rebranding continues to be worked on including a new logo, new letterhead, marketing collaterals, etc.

- The Steinman Foundation has awarded LAPCS a \$30,000 grant for development of a new website. There is a committee working on this.
- A Block Party committee is being formed and will start to meet in January to plan the May 2019 event. Ms. Wagner & Ms. Svrcek will co-chair this committee.
- La Academia recruitment will be implemented year-round rather than only over the summer. A recruitment open house is planned for in January 2019. A new recruitment brochure has been created along with other supporting materials.

D. Governance – A Board orientation/introductory packet is being created for new Board members.

E. Old Business/New Business

- Dr. Ceara encouraged everyone to attend the holiday gathering on Thursday, December 20th from 6 – 8 PM in the school gymnasium.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 PM.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Baker
Development Manager