



La Academia: The Partnership Charter School
Guillermo Barroso
Chief Academic Officer

May 16, 2018

La Academia: The Partnership Charter School
Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Attending: Dr. Aida Ceara, Mr. Abe Borjas, Mr. Kenneth Hammel, Ms. Shirley Kosakoski, Mr. Victor Ramos, Ms. Marisol Torres, Ms. Ellen Svrcek, Ms. Susana Cortina, Mr. Ommie Rivera, Mr. Radames Melendez

Board Members Absent: Mr. Ted Darcus, Mr. Carlos Graupera, Ms. Colleen Wagner

Non-Vote Board Members Present: Ms. Cheryl Desmond, SDoL Representative

Non-Vote Board Members Absent: Ms. Pam McCartney

Non-Board Members Present: Mr. Guillermo A. Barroso, Ms. Rosa Graupera, Ms. Maria Provencher, Ms. Sandy Strunk & Ms. Lissette Colon & Ms. Kristi Baker

I. Welcome - Dr. Ceara welcomed everyone at 4:05 p.m.

II. Approval of April 18, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to accept the April 18, 2018 Board meeting minutes, noting the need to amend them by removing the duplicate for Pam McCartney's name as being both present and absent by Mr. Hammel and seconded by Ms. Cortina. All approved and the motion passed.

III. President Report

Dr. Ceara stated that she has accepted with regret the resignation of Board member Mike DeBerdine who has served the Board well for the past several years. She stated that he will continue to support the school and will attend the 20th Anniversary Celebration on June 1st.

➤ Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Ceara updated the Board regarding the Strategic Planning Retreat that was originally scheduled for late April, but was postponed until **June 28 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** The additional time allowed for a visit to the Samueli Academy in Santa Ana, CA and accommodate the schedules of two members of the Lancaster County STEM Alliance Board, Dr. Anderson, President of Millersville University and Mike Shirk, President & CEO of High Companies. Mr. Ramos offered to host the strategic planning meeting at HACC. He will send room details soon. It was noted that the Board will receive materials in preparation for the strategic planning meeting.

Dr. Aida Ceara,
President

Carlos Graupera
Vice-President

Ted Darcus

Kenneth Hammel

Victor Ramos

Abe Borjas

Colleen Wagner

Ellen Svrcek

Marisol Torres

Shirley Kosakoski

Ommie Rivera

Radames Melendez

Susana Cortina

Non-Voting
Members:

Dr. Cheryl
Desmond
SDOL Rep.

Pam McCartney, IU
13 Representative

>Samueli Academy Visit Update

Dr. Ceara provided an overview of the visit to Samueli Academy. It's a charter school made up of similar demographics as that of La Academia. The school serves about 500 students in grades 9 – 12. It is facilitated, project based, experiential learning that motivates and engages students.

“The idea for Samueli Academy started almost 10 years ago with Susan Samueli and Sandi Jackson, two local philanthropists and members of the board of directors of Orangewood Foundation. Susan and Sandi were concerned about the low high school graduation rates among teens in Orange County, including foster care teens served by Orangewood. They decided to explore new educational opportunities for local high school students and research best practices around the country. They rallied like-minded individuals and organizations from philanthropy, business, education and child advocacy to join their efforts. Samueli Academy offers educationally under-served communities a new choice for the high school education of their teens. Future expansion of the campus will include on-site housing for those students who need a stable living environment in order for them to excel academically.” The Samueli Academy is funded by the Samueli Foundation.

Dr. Ceara and Mr. Barroso agreed that the level of engagement with the students was phenomenal. Dr. Ceara shared a graphic entitled “Samueli Academy – What is Means to be a STEM School.” STEM is a culture at Samueli Academy – not just a class. It was noted that there are some things that we can imitate and some things that we cannot as it is very expensive. Dr. Ceara encouraged all to visit the Samueli Academy website at <http://www.samueliacademy.org>.

> 20th Anniversary Celebration Update

Dr. Ceara encouraged the Board to bring some guests for the event on June 1st event.

IV. Chief Academic Officer Report – Mr. Barroso reported

- Lowe's Project Update – Mr. Hammel reported.

It was stated that volunteers are needed for planting on Saturday, May 19th. A gardening student club is in the works for the 2018-2019 school year to provide assistance with landscaping maintenance. George Groves & Sons will be installing the rain barrels. A date will be set for the dedication of the project in early June.

- Summer Projects

- Facilities Committee Update – Mr. Hammel reported.

Mr. Hammel stated that he met with Mr. Vedock from Hammel Associate Architects to look more closely at the teacher's lounge as possible classroom space. A plan is being created and will be shared with Mr. Graupera.

- Contract with IU13 –Ms. Cortina will review the contract. It was recommended that we get more information before we sign the contact with the IU13.
- We currently have 201 students with a waiting list by grade.
- There is one staff vacancy position for the 6th Grade Academy.
- Re-chartering – The School District of Lancaster School Board will vote on the re-chartering on May 22 at 7 PM.
- The 21st Century After School Program is in session and the 21st CCLC staff is busy planning the 2018 Summer Program.
- PSSA testing is completed with 100% of the students participating and Keystone Exam testing takes place from May 14-25.
- Lancaster County STEM Alliance – Mr. Barroso echoed Dr. Ceara's positive comments about their visit to the Samueli Academy.
- The last day of school is 6/13/18.
- There are 31 students graduating, the most ever on June 13th at 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

V. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Mr. Ramos provided a review of the finances. He stated that the budget was based on 208 students and not the current 201 students. The estimated year end loss is \$101,000.00. There is an available fund balance as of 7/1/2017 per the auditors of \$133,289.00. The Finance Committee discussed various line items that will be analyzed for the 2018-2019 school year to see if some costs can be lowered, such as the audit costs and food costs. A draft budget for the 2018-2019 School Year was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Discussion of the finances took place. Mr. Hammel stated that we need to ramp up our recruiting efforts and have a larger number of students at the beginning of the year. A comment was made that several students that came from Puerto Rico returned to their homes on the island. Dr. Desmond concurred with this noting that the School District of Lancaster had 300 student evacuees who returned to their homes in Puerto Rico.

➤ **Motion** – Mr. Ramos moved that the Finance Committee Report be approved as presented. Ms. Torres seconded and the motion passed.

- Dr. Desmond stated that she will not be School District of Lancaster Representative after this year but Selena Almanzar will be the new representative. Dr. Ceara thanked Dr. Desmond for her service.

B. Personnel – It was stated that a few teachers (3 or 4) will receive a 2 year contract. This will be presented at the June Board meeting.

C. Public Relations/Communications

Mr. Hammel stated that the Block Party was held on April 27th and it was very successful. It was decided that this should be an annual event. The overall cost was \$500 which included some food, city permits, etc. and that we should secure a sponsor for next year's Block Party. It was further noted that we should start planning this event in September to get the teachers engaged and hold it in late April or early May 2019. We will need two Board members to volunteer to be on the committee. Mr. Hammel further noted that ticket sales for the 20th Anniversary event are sluggish so please encourage people to attend.

D. Development – There was no report as there is no longer a chair of the committee.

E. Academic Excellence – Please refer to Dr. Ceara's report on the Samueli Academy visit.

F. Governance - Dr. Ceara noted that Ms. Cortina will be providing assistance.

G. Old Business/New Business – There was none.

H. Executive Session – The group then met in Executive Session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kristi Baker, Development Manager