

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2018 – 4:00 PM

Dr. Aida Ceara
President

Carlos Graupera
Vice-President

Ted Darcus, Treasurer

Kenneth Hammel

Víctor Ramos

Abe Borjas

Ellen Svrcek

Marisol Torres

Colleen Wagner

Shirley Kosakoski

Ommie Rivera

Susana Cortina, Esq.

Radames Melendez

Joseph Morales

Non-Voting Members

Pam McCartney, IU 13
Representative

Salina Almanzar
SDOL Representative

Present: Dr. Aida Ceara, Carlos Graupera, Kenneth Hammel,, Colleen Wagner, Radames Melendez, Joseph Morales, Guillermo Barroso, Ted Darcus, Susana Cortina, Ommie Rivera, Victor Ramos, Salina Almanzar

Unable to attend: Marisol Torres, Pam McCartney

I. Approval of September 26, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

- a. Dr. Ceara brought meeting to order
- b. Approval of minutes with corrections noted by Ken
 - i. ELL Correction
 - ii. Change of "Retreat" to "Meeting"
 - iii. Noting who abstains
 - iv. change of November & January Recruitment to Open House for

Recruitment

- c. Voted & approved - unanimous

II. Brand Presentation

- a. La Academia BEYOND was chosen
- b. Colors - stayed with burgundy because it is classic La Academia & an academic color; Gold chosen to remind of self
- c. Ken suggests that it is an updated logo which will appeal to students; colors could also be changed to wine, grey & lime green or others; give students options of different colored shirts
- d. Victor suggests that we ask students
 - i. they liked color options; noted that pant colors should also change to have darker options
 - ii. they were unclear of the triangles
 - iii. suggestion was to make the logo bigger
 - iv. also to change the panther
- e. Ken asks if anyone has objections
 - i. Colleen Wagner suggested the word beyond could be replaced with a STEM word
 - ii. everyone agrees to proceed with the new branding

III. Student Presentation - Esports (provided a PowerPoint note guide)

- a. competition every wednesday at 6 pm
- b. work on financing, communication skills

- i. example: Jordan not releasing so much anger when he plays;
- c. first school on the east coast; they are the model school
- d. currently only high school students are allowed to play; competitions are online and will eventually be broadcasted online & on a big screen tv at La Academia
- e. La Academia is playing teams from California; they are working on time zone challenges
- f. Finances - they will need to do some fundraising because funds are limited
- g. Benefits
 - i. communication between different grades
 - ii. practices - help with this because they provide suggestions and collaboration skills
 - iii. hopes to expand and include more female students
- h. Questions?
 - i. how much would you like to raise? as much as they can get to help get items needed; Julio Colon is the treasurer and is working on finances - Sean Kennedy is the general manager and can provide more information
 - ii. Are you playing on a computer? On a PC. Students are using OverWatch (Fortnite Fridays is a new thing they will participate in)
 - iii. Is there a fee? No fee. Equipment has been donated from the Emerald Foundation;
 - 1. student wants: gaming desks, gaming chairs, mousepads, team shirts
 - 2. Students are being provided with food each Wednesday

IV. President Report

- a. Abe Borjas has resigned from the board due to traveling for work
- b. Shirley Kosakoski also resigned
- c. Correction: Salina Almazar did NOT resign

V. Chief Academic Officer Report

- Need to create a wellness committee to create the wellness plan; needs to be implemented ASAP
 - if you would like to volunteer, send Dr. Ceara an email
- Barroso will send the wellness policy in an email & will need a vote by Tuesday next week
- Thanksgiving Lunch - Tuesday November 20 - look for a follow-up email

VI. Committee Reports

- Finance/Facilities
 - Financial Audit
 - everything is marked as a draft currently
 - page 8 - Statement of Deficit
 - pension liability (PSERS) - \$5.4 million
 - page 9 - Statement of Activities
 - shows a loss
 - page 10 - the general fund
 - this is really our fund balance
 - around \$190 thousand
 - \$121 thousand that was owed to SDOL has already been paid back
 - page 14 -
 - left: original & final budget reported to state

- middle: the actual balance
- individual line items: differences & variances
 - submission of budgets is not consistent with how audit is being done
- Student Services - non academic services for students; the number went up because of the guidance counselor's salary; that position was not in the original budget that was submitted to the state
- depository insurance - in the process of contacting the bank to get more information
- Rent question - SACA & the financial committee work together on the rental agreement; SACA has kept the rent flat for the next 3 years
 - lease with 38 N. Ann is with SACA
 - lease with 30 N. Ann is with SACA Development
 - 5 year lease is assigned to the first year of the lease
 - motion (Victor) & second to approve (Susana)
 - Unanimous approval
- Funding for Personnel Requests - they asked Guillermo to go back to personnel committee for more information
- Financials - if no questions
 - motion: Ted
 - second: Aida
 - approval unanimous
- Facilities
 - design & cost estimate presentation - hopefully by the end of January
- Personnel
 - discussion of new position for the school; recommendation is to move forward on the paraeducator for part-time
 - Motion: Radames
 - Second: Susana
 - Unanimous decision
 - Joe suggests that Mr. Barroso should have the decision to decide between \$13 - \$15
 - Hard to bring goals to the table because it's hard to know the direction of the school
 - Rosa - from human resources side can send some goals
- Public Relations/Communications
 - December 6 (4:30-6:30) - more information to come for meeting with EITC members & new potential donors
 - Extra Give (Nov. 16) - Junkyard drummers will perform; stations for an hour at a time; 11-7 sign-up sheet if you would like to come
- Governance
 - list of responsibilities for all board members; please read & respond to an email about comments
 - next board meeting -- approval of responsibilities
 - Complete Evaluation for Mr. Barroso
 - 2 open seats on the board

VII. Old Business/New Business

- Presentation about diagnostic results - i-Ready
 - School Summary - green (on grade level), yellow (2 grade levels below), red (3 or more below grade level) - most of pyramid is red
 - reading and math results are similar - majority of students are scoring in red
 - 12th & 9th are entirely red for math
 - higher number of ELL & special education students
 - influx of students from Puerto Rico
 - math questions on state testing incorporates many areas of math skills; our high school students have not been taught this way, but our 6th graders were in elementary school which is why their schools are a little better
 - Would like to see data on the students who were here last year to measure their growth
- diagnostic administered in September, January, May; growth checks will be administered in between diagnostics
- what are we doing to improve
 - hired a certified ELA teacher
 - vocabulary strategies for all subjects
 - instructional coaching - Ferg & Palow
 - Could we provide peer tutoring? Victor suggests this could help especially with the relational aspect
 - Could we provide book clubs? this could help students be more interested in books & reading
 - Armstrong employees will come into the afterschool program to tutor students
 - Do we have the resources we need to move students?
 - resources for high school students
 - training for teachers for specific strategies
 - impact of behavior & the need of mental health counseling services - regular services
 - Jackie Fischer - will come for intake on Friday & will provide group & individual counseling
 - SDOL has received additional funding from the state to help with the influx of EL students; maybe there will be a second round of funding or could we work with the district for the students we have
 - Is there a pull out for behavior (ISS)? No, but this kind of consequence does not address the misbehaviors
 - Self-care for teachers - secondary stress disorder is a real thing for teachers; we do not have a lot of support for this either
 - Leadership of the school should put together a plan together for the needs of the school for mental health & ELL support

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Palow, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction