



# LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2019

### OUR MISSION

A dynamic learning community sustained by partnerships, La Academia transforms today's learners into tomorrow's leaders through innovative instruction, comprehensive student supports, cultural competency, and work-based learning.

### OUR VISION

Our students will be critical thinkers and global citizens, recognized by their commitment to lifelong learning and meaningful contributions to the world.

#### i. Call to Order / Roll Call

| Board of Directors                  | P / A / T |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Dr. Aida Ceara, President           |           |
| Mr. Carlos Graupera, Vice President |           |
| Mr. C. Ted Darcus, Treasurer        |           |
| Ms. Colleen Wagner, Secretary       |           |
| Mr. Kenneth Hammel                  |           |
| Mr. Victor Ramos                    |           |
| Ms. Ellen Svrcek                    |           |
| Mr. Ommie Rivera                    |           |
| Ms. Susana Cortina                  |           |
| Mr. Joseph Morales                  |           |
| Mr. Christopher Boyd                |           |

#### ii. Consent Agenda

- a. Items on the Consent Agenda will be enacted without a separate discussion of each entry but may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as a separate action item per a Governing Board Member request for discussion/action.

#### iii. Reports, information and Discussion Items

- a. Tommy Henley, Principal / Chief Executive Officer Report
- b. Finance Committee
- c. PR / Development Committee
- d. Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

#### iv. Action Agenda Items:

- a. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of New Bylaws
- b. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of Special Education Policies and Procedures

#### v. New Business:

#### vi. Public Comment:

#### vii. Adjournment

## Board Minutes

January 22, 2020

La Academia Partnership Charter School, Conference Room

Board Members Present: A. Ceara, C. Graupera, C. Boyd, S. Cortina, C. Wagner, O. Rivera

Board Members Call-In: C. Darcus, V. Ramos

Non-Voting Members Present: R. Goodson (S. Cortina alternate)

I. Welcome - A. Ceara called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

### II. Reports

#### A. CAO Dashboard - Tommy Henley

PD - will focus on transitions over the next quarter

i. Personnel - fully staffed. Currently have a Long Term Substitute in the MS math role. MS SS teacher had resigned but we were able to quickly hire a teacher from the Baltimore Public Schools. We also hired a second special ed para with a large increase in the special ed population.

ii - school-wide attendance is at 91% since the beginning of the year. Individual targeted meetings have been held with 34 families to work on tardies and absences.

iii - finances -

iv - enrollment is at 234 (goal was 230)

v - discipline - less than 20 referrals monthly

vi - Highlights from the month -

10 students in dual enrollment

Holiday celebration 12/19

Pilot program with Tech Centro (4 students)

C. Wagner asked about making a connection with Millersville as

well

Winter Formal Dance 1/31

National Rocket Contest

We were selected for a scholarship to participate in this program

NTN School Award Nomination

Both ELA/SS co-teaching pairs have been nominated for an award and the school has been nominated for turn-around award

PIAA

School will be inducted into PIAA in March

#### B. Finance Committee - T. Henley

Tommy will provide a breakdown of what all of the Title funds are used for at the next meeting. No funds from Title II have been used to this point. Trauma-informed practices and principal professional development, as well as math development, are all options that are being looked at. Currently, there is a \$270,000 surplus for the year. We cannot invest it because it is public money. A. Ceara cautioned that we need to be strategic about how we spend our money since the money we receive from SDoL can fluctuate year to year.

#### C. PR/Development Committee - O. Rivera

A full or part-time employee was not budgeted for this year. Since the school is financially in good shape right now, this position should be put on hold. We should still continue to work on a 501c3 but it is more complicated. K. Hammel has been working on it. A. Ceara contacted the lawyer who told her the application is a very long process. The board can complete the application and give it to a lawyer to review or pay more money to have a lawyer complete it. This will need further discussion to see if Ken is willing to take on that much work. C. Graupera advised with how complicated it is it may be worth spending the money to get it right the first time. C. Wagner asked if Barley would be able to give us an estimate of how much this would cost us. The consensus was that would probably not be possible due to too many variables.

The PTO will select dates for the Block Party so planning can begin on that.

#### D. Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

There were a few changes made to the Bylaws at the Executive Committee Session. Ken worked with Keilani at Barley Snyder.

Page 2 - Voting - CEO will appoint teachers instead of board

Page 3 - Trustees - whenever possible instead of at the minimum

Page 4 - Staggered Terms - after 2020, anyone who had reached their term and is deemed of vital importance may be voted in for a final term of 3 years into an ex-officio non-voting position

### III. Action Agenda Items

#### A. New Bylaws

C. Wagner made a motion to accept the Bylaws as they are written in the folders today. The motion was seconded by C. Boyd. The motion passed unanimously by all present. K. Hammel and E. Svrcek approved via email. V. Ramos and C. Darcus approved via phone.

The next steps are to implement the Bylaws. A. Ceara asked for each member to record the year they started on the board. A. Ceara also noted that the maximum number of board members is 16 and we only have 11. She would like board members to begin

recruiting so that the election of officers and swearing-in can happen by June. Another training will also happen. C. Boyd asked for updated skills set of current board members so that the board knows what gaps need to be filled in the 6 - 8 open seats. C. Wagner will share a document she uses for her board.

#### B. Special Education Policy and Procedures

T. Henley shared about the Special Education Audit that is occurring this year. He shared the changes we have been making this year. There are several policies that need to be updated. S. Cortina made a motion to approve the policies. C. Wagner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. New Business -

T. Henley shared copies sent by the state of the Statement of Financial Interests Form for 2020. All board members need to submit by May. Some board members still need to submit their 2019 forms.

#### A. Ceara wanted to share:

We went through a year and a half of trials and tribulations. We weren't sure if we would be here. But we are here. Tommy was a Godsend. We as a board are doing a great job. Through all the ups and downs, we survived and we are thriving. The same way the school has moved to the next level, now it's our turn. We don't have any more crises. It's time to move the board to the next level. It's time to be the best board we can be. Thank you all so much. Let's roll up our sleeves and work!

#### V. Public Comment - no public comment

VI. Adjournment - A. Ceara adjourned the meeting at 4:56 pm.