



Board Minutes

January 27, 2021

La Academia Partnership Charter School, Virtual via Zoom

Board Members Present: V. Ramos, C. Graupera, A. Ceara, C. Boyd, C. Ted Darcus, C. Wagner, K. Hammel, L. Silva

Board Members Not Present: A. Evelyn

Entity Liaison Present: T. Henley, T. Jones, S. Rally, A. Lopez, P. McCartney, R. Goodson

Minute Recorder: A. Ferg

Guests: B. Booher, N. Garress

I. Welcome -

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

B. December minutes were presented. L. Silva made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. V. Ramos seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. The Board entered an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 4:07 pm. The regular meeting resumed at 4:21 pm.

II. Consent Agenda - Consent agenda presented. No items were added or removed.

III. Reports

A. CEO Dashboard - Tommy Henley

School Choice Week - We are celebrating School Choice Week which is about celebrating the fact that scholars have the right to choose their school.

Tommy highlighted a staff member - Carmen Epstein

She has been with us for 3 years. She joined us from a private school. She is passionate about educating scholars who are underserved. She is always willing to take on more and looks to develop better systems for the school.

i. Instructional Focus Area - Teachers will focus on spiraling skills by focusing on the data available from CDTs and other sources.

ii. Scholar Data - There have been significant gains in scholars submitting work. Overall, there is an increase of 5%, most notably 6th grade has increased 16%. We are now focusing more on Mastery based grading. We have continued to reflect on what we can do better as teachers as we continue to learn how to teach virtually in a pandemic.

iii. Personnel - No personnel changes

iv. Financial - About 50% of the revenue has come in and expenses are at 46%. The surplus is up to \$377,580.51. This is an increase from the initial surplus of \$262,000.

The CARES II Act was approved and awarded for \$360,000. It will provide more PPE as well as more targeted support for scholars.

The Achievement Network will provide an infrastructure for all data and assessment at a cost of \$35,000. This is fully grant funded. K. Hammel asked if the data would be blunted since we are starting mid year. Tommy clarified that we would be starting in April by gathering our data sources and setting the infrastructure. Testing and data gathering from scholars would start in the 2021-2022 school year.

Tracy is still working on the van purchase. All legal requirements have been met. Tracy is gathering various van prices. Tommy checked the cost to increase liability insurance to \$1 million and it will cost \$1500 per year.

v. COVID-19 Update - There has been a significant increase in scholar positive cases however scholars are virtual. There were scholars on campus for PSATs and WIDA. There is contact tracing in place if needed. We do want to open the Learning Hub at 10%. Lancaster is currently at 10%. We will be mindful that although cases are coming down, deaths are still stagnant. V. Ramos asked if we are getting calls to open the Learning Hub. T. Henley stated that he has not been getting as many calls as scholars seem to find their groove in online learning. However, he knows the value of in person learning. He does worry about the inconsistency of possibly having to open and close again. V. Ramos worries that we are doing this because this is what we believe they need. He thinks a survey should be done to see if this should or needs to be done. Tommy did note that there are 7 parents who chose to go back to the district since we are still online. A. Lopez said that many parents she talked to appreciate the online learning as they understand the struggle to socially distance in the building. She has heard only positive feedback from parents.

vi. Upcoming Meetings

February 1st - Parent Meeting with PowerSchool Tutorial
February 24th - Board Meeting with Training

vii. Items for Discussion/Approval

a. Achievement Network Contract

viii. Teacher/Parent Comments - no staff or parent concerns

B. Finance Committee - T. Darcus

The budget is doing very well right now. Tommy has worked with Mike to clean up the line items, deactivate accounts, and move money to where it needs to be. V. Ramos made a motion to approve the Achievement Network contract for up to \$35,000. T. Darcus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Planning/Development Committee - K. Hammel

There was no meeting this month due to the Chair of the committee resigning. K. Hammel has been working to get the committee more organized. He made a list of all the school partners and foundations in Lancaster County that may support charter schools, as well as though that would not be what we need. K. Hammel also worked on the strategic plan and the job description for the new hire.

D. Governance Committee - A. Ceara

There was no meeting this month. The Governance Committee will be completing Tommy's evaluation soon. You will receive a form from the committee soon. There are still some board members who have not completed their clearances. Contact Tommy if you need help. We will be using the @lapcs.org email address for board communications due to school law. Be sure to check this account regularly. A. Ferg will be putting together a teaser for potential board members.

IV. New Business - No New Business

V. Public Comment - No public comments

VI. Adjournment - A. Ceara adjourned the meeting at 4:57pm.