



Board Minutes

October 28, 2020

La Academia Partnership Charter School, Virtual via Zoom

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

Board Members Not Present: C. Boyd,

Entity Liaison Present: S. Almanzar, P. McCartney, T. Henley, B. Smith, S. Rally. A. Lopez

Minute Recorder: A. Ferg

Guests: K. Linnelli, A. Marquez, B. Booher

I. Welcome -

A. A. Ceara called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

B. September minutes were presented. C. Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. T. Darcus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. A. Ceara reminded all board members to complete the child abuse clearance and criminal record check and send them to Amy Ferg. Amy Ferg sent reminders to Board members who have not completed them. Reminders will be sent to those who have not submitted them next week. T. Henley is available to help if needed.

D. Due to the holidays the board meeting dates will need to be changed in November and December. The new dates are November 18, 2020 and December 16, 2020. This will impact committee meetings so please plan accordingly. This will be sent via email. The Google invites have already been sent for your calendars.

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

III. Reports

A. CEO Dashboard - Tommy Henley

Tommy highlighted a staff member - Amy Ferg. She has worked for the school for 13 years. She has grown tremendously in 2 years. She moved here for this job and has held many positions at this school, particularly the year Tommy

started. She balances me out. She is amazing with the data and has found her niche in her current role.

A. Ceara thanked Amy for keeping the school going when the board needed it. C. Graupera echoed that sentiment and added that the board did not state this enough.

i. Instructional Focus Area - Teachers will focus on writing effective lesson plans that align with scholar needs. They will spiral skills to focus on re-teaching skills that are not mastered

ii. Scholar Data - We administered our first round of Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDTs). 74% of scholars completed the test, as compared to 25-50% at schools across the state. 5% of scholars are on grade level in math, which is about where we were on state assessments in 2018-2019. 7% of scholars are on grade level for literacy. In addition, we have 5% of scholars on the bubble in math and 10% of scholars on the bubble in literacy. These scholars are close to being on grade level. We can use the data we have to see what standards/skills we need to push them in to get them on grade level.

iii. Personnel - After recognizing that we have many scholars coming on campus for the blended model as well as an increase in Special Education scholar numbers, we hired an additional special education teacher. His name is Atul G. He will start on November 9. No staff members have resigned. We have not started any recruitment for hiring but we have 17 queued resumes for future hiring.

iv. Pass Rate - Due to the low pass rate from Q1 (79% fail rate), we are offering Summer School in November where scholars can redo/complete assignments from Q1 until November 8 for credit. There is an increase in Q2 submission rate so we are hoping for an increase in the Q2 pass rate. A. Lopez shared that the communication from the school is great. The issue is that many scholars are not online learners and are struggling to be motivated. K. Hammel asked if scholars can come to the building for those that struggle. A. Lopez shared that there are quite a few at the building when she drops off her scholars in the morning. T. Henley shared what our current model looks like.

v. Financial - The surplus is the same - \$262,092.90. The spending is right where it should be. The preliminary audit will be available to review in November. We are working on a grant for No Child Hungry for a new refrigerator. This will make the food program more accessible.

vi. COVID-19 Update - Still only 1 positive case at the school; at 4 cases the school would close. The PCR for Lancaster County has been steadily increasing. Looking at the specific zip codes, they are significantly higher. Covid is also

disproportionately affecting brown and black people. So Tommy is proposing a blended model in January -

vii. Semester 2 Blended Model - For scholars - SPED and ELD would attend full day and General Ed would have a full day learning center. Nothing would change. For staff - they would still offer 4 hours of Zoom sessions and a Daily Playlist everyday - no change. The change is that teachers would rotate to come onsite once a week to support scholars face-to-face. There would be 1 humanities teacher, 1 STEM teacher, 1 grade level teacher, 1 electives teacher, and 1 6th grade teacher on site daily. S. Rally and B. Smith both shared that they both support this model as they can target help. They both emphasized that safety measures would be important. T. Henley shared that temperatures are taken at the door, social distancing is enforced, contact tracing is happening, and rooms are assigned. Cleaning is also a priority. Tommy stated that this is what we will probably do for the rest of the year unless Covid magically goes away. K. Hammel asked how long we will know it will take until we know if this is working? Tommy shared that we collect data weekly. A. Ceara stated that she thinks this plan addresses our scholars' needs. Tommy also shared that we will be adjusting the weights of the quarters to account for the adjustments we have had to make. K. Hammel shared that he is excited that La Academia is figuring out this online model.

viii. Teacher/Parent Comments - no staff concerns

B. Finance Committee - T. Darcus

The insurance is usually an 8-9% increase every year. The teacher wanted to keep the insurance because it is hard to change insurance. The increase this year is only 1.4% and there will be no increase to teachers on their end.

C. Planning/Development Committee - O. Rivera

The Extraordinary Give is coming up on November 20. It is all virtual this year. We are seeking 100% from the Board this year - whatever you are comfortable giving. The Social Media campaign will start November 2. A list of donors was sent out to the Board. Contact those that you know with a personal email to please donate again. We raised just shy of \$4000 last year. Colleen will be at the staff meeting on November 13 to ask the staff to also be champions of La Academia.

D. Governance Committee - A. Ceara

Jose Lopez joined the committee meeting (President of SACA) to discuss the goals of the schools. We are still looking for new board members so if you know of anyone, please pass them on to the Governance Committee. K. Hammel has

sent an email suggesting that board members email 3 suggestions for mentors that could work with scholars and potentially become board members.

IV. Action Agenda Items

A. Approval of 2020-2021 Benefits Package - T. Darcus made a motion to approve the renewal of the insurance plan for the 2020-2021 school year. T. Darcus seconded with motion. The motion passed unanimously with O. Rivera abstaining.

B. Approval of Semester 2 Blended Learning Model - K. Hammel made a motion to approve the blended learning model. V. Ramos seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business - No New Business

VI. Public Comment - No public comments

VIII. Adjournment - A. Ceara adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm.