



Board Minutes

December 16, 2020

La Academia Partnership Charter School, Virtual via Zoom

Board Members Present: A. Ceara, C. Boyd, C. Ted Darcus, C. Wagner, K. Hammel, L. Silva, O. Rivera,

Board Members Not Present: V. Ramos, A. Evelyn, C. Graupera

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

Minute Recorder: A. Ferg

Guests: B. Booher, N. Garress, J. Johnson, LAPCS Basketball Team Members

I. Welcome -

A. A. Ceara called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm. Because members of the LAPCS basketball team are present, the board moved to the Approval of the Van from the Action Agenda to start.

i. Allocation of \$50,000 for a School Van

T. Darcus made a motion to purchase a 12-15 passenger van for no more than \$30,000 including all the necessary insurance. The finance committee is bringing this to the full board. C. Boyd seconded the motion.

Several members of the school's basketball team joined the board meeting to make comments. We have the first basketball team in the school's history. K. Hammel asked if the \$30,000 is correct. T. Henley noted that is an estimate. The \$50,000 would be for a possible increase in insurance. T. Darcus took his motion off the floor.

K. Hammel made a motion to purchase a 12-15 passenger van for no more than \$50,000. This would include all necessary insurance and graphics. T. Darcus seconded the motion.

J. Johnson (Athletic Director/Coach) thanked the board for the opportunity to be here and to work with the scholars at La Academia. He also thanked Tommy for the opportunity to work at La Academia and bring basketball to La Academia after growing up in Lancaster, right on S. Ann St.

I. Faldemoula (scholar/player) thanked the board and noted the importance of the van because not everyone lives close to each other. It would make things easier.

E. Gantt (scholar/player) thanked the board and noted this would be helpful in getting to the destinations.

J. Lebedev (scholar/player) said this is great because in Kazakhstan they use buses to get to their games.

K. Polite (scholar/player) thanked the board for this so the parents don't always have to drive.

O. Taveras (scholar/player) thanked Jerry, Dustin, and Tommy for giving him the opportunity to play basketball at La Academia. He also noted the van would be nice for all players to travel to the game together.

A. Lopez (parent) thanked the board and Tommy for actually hearing the parents. It was not easy moving scholars around as most games are not here in Lancaster. She also wanted to note the pride that is on our team. The team is bringing a different perspective to our school. The van can keep the team together before and after the game which will make a big difference.

A. Rivera (parent) appreciated the opportunity to meet the board.

T. Henley also noted the van could be used for college visits.

C. Boyd shared he felt the van would be a good use of the school's money. You cannot replicate the experience you have on a team bus arriving and leaving together. This will be something they will remember for the rest of their lives.

T. Darcus called for a vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. The Board entered executive session at 4:26 pm and returned at 4:45pm.

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

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

III. Reports

A. CEO Dashboard - Tommy Henley

Tommy highlighted a staff member - Emily Marks

Emily has been with us for 2 year. She started with us through the sub company and then worked as a long-term math sub. She has gotten 7 DOnor's Choose projects funded. She leads several literacy initiatives in our school. She currently co-teaches with Mr. Rally. She previously worked at Cocalico School District. Mr. Rally notes that she is a great co-teacher. She is very encouraging. She has a great rapport with the scholars. There is nothing negative to say about her.

i. Instructional Focus Area - Teachers will focus planning a meaningful learning experience by starting with the end in mind.

ii. Scholar Data - Pass rate is improving in grades 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12. We have not seen an increase or a decrease in grades 8 and 11. There are several steps being taken to improve the pass rate overall. Scholars will be able to turn in work over winter break and there will be no NEW work for the rest of Quarter 2. There are 2 weeks left in the Quarter. Scholars will turn in work they have not done and work to remaster work they have struggled with. Our focus is shifting to quality over quantity.

A. Ceara likes the idea of remastering work for the next 2 weeks.

iii. Personnel - No personnel changes

iv. Financial - The surplus is up to \$339,443.45. This is an increase from the initial surplus of \$262,000. We have been strategic in where we are leveraging our funds and working to get grants. We have been letting the vision drive us, not the funds.

v. COVID-19 Update - The cases continue to drastically increase. Lancaster County is in the 6th week of Substantial Transmission.

There have been 2 positive scholar cases while remote and 1 positive staff case. There is 1 pending positive staff case.

PDE and DOH still recommend full remote at this time so we will still remain remote at this time. It does not look like we will have a Learning Hub again until March.

vi. Upcoming Meetings

January 4, 2021 - Parent Meeting - A. Lopez intends for this to be a way for parents to communicate with the school and share positive and areas

of growth. A newsletter, in English and Spanish, was given out with the Turkeys.

January 27, 2021 - Board Meeting

vii. Items for Discussion/Approval

- a. 2019-2020 Financial Audit
- b. Allocation of \$50,000 for a School Van
- c. Approval of Revised 2020-2021 Budget

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

B. Finance Committee - T. Darcus

The Auditors gave the report at the committee meeting. It was a good report with no findings. T. Henley provided all necessary information. PSERS liability decreased by about \$1,000,000. This is based on a number provided by PDE. The financial solvency is headed in the right direction. T. Darcus made a motion to the full board to accept the Audit report as it was presented at the committee meeting. The motion was seconded by L. Silva. The motion was approved unanimously.

The finance committee also discussed moving two line items in the 2020-2021 budget - one for \$20,000 and one for \$7,000. LAPCS switched the food service provider and initially budgeted \$150,000 but due to Covid, we have not used as much as needed. Additionally, many families are taking advantage of our T. Henley requested moving \$20,000 from the cafeteria budget to the Student Welfare. Additionally, staff members have been taken advantage of several Professional Development opportunities through Zoom. There is a \$7,000 budget for PD travel, which will not be needed this year. T. Henley would like this \$7,000 moved to the Professional Development General Fund.

T. Darcus made a motion to approve the changes to the 2020-2021 Budget. K. Hammel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Planning/Development Committee - K. Hammel

K. Hammel shared that there are 24 names on the board contact list. If each board member could contact 2-3 people and see how these people could help at the school - coach, mentor, board member, etc. K. Hammel would like board members to choose 2 people to contact.

C. Wagner shared there is a Board Orientation binder for potential board members.

T. Jones thanked everyone for participating in the ExtraGive. The donor base was doubled. Teachers donated as well as 100% of the Board. 100% of the money goes to scholarships for the scholars. A. Ceara thanked everyone who

worked so hard for making the day a great success. T. Henley noted we raised more this year than we ever have in the past.

D. Governance Committee - A. Ceara

All committees should have their strategic plans ready for the next Academic year so we can be ready to go in August.

The committee is also contacting potential board members to see how they fit with La Academia.

The committee discussed T. Henley's evaluation will start in January and be completed in by April.

T. Henley shared a personnel issue and possible non-renewals for next year.

IV. New Business - No New Business

V. Public Comment - No public comments

VI. Adjournment - A. Ceara adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm.