



## Board Minutes

September 23, 2020

La Academia Partnership Charter School, Virtual via Zoom

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

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

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

Minute Recorder: A. Ferg

Guests: K. Linnelli

### I. Welcome -

A. A. Ceara called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

B. August minutes were presented. C. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes as written. L. Silva 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 will send reminders to Board members who have not completed them. A. Ceara would like them completed by the next meeting in October. A. Ceara will follow up with individual conversations if needed.

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

### III. Reports

#### A. CEO Dashboard - Tommy Henley

Tommy highlighted a teacher who embodies what we do as a school - Clarina Rodriguez. She is working to change the situations of injustice and inequality that our scholars face. Clarina shared her experience at La Academia. A. Ceara thanked her for her work. L. Silva asked what has changed from her time as a paraeducator to now. She responded that when she started that things were chaotic but Tommy has provided so much Professional Development to ensure we are successful. She also strives to be the best she can be in all she can do.

Tommy also ensures that each of us are always growing. It is never about “gotcha.” It is about being the best we can be for scholar achievement. Mr. Rally also spoke to the growth piece. He stated that while the scholars have always kept him here, he was always in survival mode. But the last couple of years have been all about feedback, useful feedback, from both Tommy and Amy. The leaders do not ask us to do anything they aren’t willing to do themselves. It has been such a positive change in the school and can see himself at the school for a very long time.

i. Instructional Focus Area - We are still focusing on writing effective lesson plans as a school. We just finished our PD around writing effective objectives and Mrs. Ferg will lead a PD on data collection and exit tickets this week. They will be tightening up on data aligned instruction and then moving onto using rubrics with our NTN partners.

ii. College and Career Readiness - We have 13 College and Career partnerships and work with the Workforce Development Board. A. Lopez shared the work La Academia did with the High Company. Tommy highlighted 3 scholars pursuing post-secondary education - Lizmarie, Leila, and Gamaliel. Tommy shared other post-secondary opportunities we shared with scholars including Surgery Live!, college tours, and Marine recruiters.

2019-2020 Stats

75% of seniors enrolled in College

12 Dual Enrollment

6 College Visits

100% FAFSA completed

90% Completed college applications

Since these activities are limited due to Covid, Tommy is teaching an online College and Career Readiness class. He has taken the standards and created modules for all students in grades 9-12 to complete.

iii. Covid-19 Update - Looking at the data, the 7 day average is trending up but the PCR is down. There was 1 positive case at the school. When there are 4 positive cases, the school will close. Based on the data, the school will open to General Education support on September 28, 2020. C. Wagner asked how many scholars we think will come in and if we are concerned about how safe our scholars are at home. T. Henley knows there is an increase in CYS and sexual abuse cases. We also know some scholars do not have food at home. That was a deciding factor. A need survey is sent out to all scholars weekly to see if there is a need for food, support, etc. Home visits are made Mondays and Fridays. T. Jones shared that currently attendance is capped at 22 students per hour. Various classrooms are capped based on their sizes. However, attendance

increased from 90 to 140 over 1 week. Starting September 28, Building 30 will still be capped at 22 per hour for Special Ed/ELL scholars. Building 38 (the gym) will be open for 15 scholars per hour. The separation is due to their varied needs.

iv. Personnel - Jacian Pabon graduated from La Academia in May 2020. He has worked hard to be integrated into our community. We were able to offer him a full time position as a Special Education Assistant.

v. Pass Rate - Tommy shared the pass rate. The 6th graders are the next group we will want to bring into the building as they are acclimating them to a new culture. A 7th grade team meeting was held to help get them together. We had a Week 0 to have a restart to the year because we went all in to start and had to be humble and show that we had to learn about this online journey with them. The online Playlist had to be modified so that we could maximize the learning for the scholars.

vi. Financial - The end balance will be \$262,092 even with the increase in staff and purchase curriculum.

vii. Teacher concerns -

a. When will the contract with Echo end? How much is it costing the school?

Tommy shared that teachers were offered to learn the system last year in a low stakes environment but most chose not to. Now that we are in the pandemic, teachers are in panic mode. Currently we are not paying for it. We will pay for it in one year and it is \$1600 per teacher. Tommy agrees it is a more difficult system to learn but all teachers need to use the same system. A. Ceara recommends we have a discussion to choose one system and train the teachers and the students. It is not up to the board. S. Almanzar and A. Ferg said that this concern is shared about many platforms. Tommy agreed that we can poll and make a decision at the end of the year. Amy will create a poll that will be given this Friday, in January, and at the end of the year.

vii. Items for Approval/Discussion/Upcoming - These items are coming up for the next meeting:

- a. Committee Strategic Planning
- b. Insurance Renewal
- c. 1920 Financial Audit
- d. Spring Reopening Plan

B. Finance Committee - T. Darcus

The audit is in full swing. It will happen on October 2, 2020. We are currently converting SUI tax. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet next week to continue work on the Strategic Plan and goal setting.

C. Planning/Development Committee - O. Rivera

Meeting was spent looking at the Strategic Plan so that at the next meeting they can develop goals to share at the next meeting.

D. Governance Committee - A. Ceara

The committee went through the Strategic plan to see how the Governance Committee could be a part of the Plan. They focused on making sure members of the Board are at various school and community events. Goals will be set before the next meeting.

A Ceara asked all board members to use time before the next board meeting to complete their goals for the strategic plan. It will need to be ready for the next meeting to review. Your committee may need to meet more than once.

IV. Action Agenda Items - No Action Agenda Items

V. New Business - No New Business

VI. Public Comment - No public comments

VIII. Adjournment - A. Ceara adjourned the meeting at 5:09pm.