



Board Minutes

March 31, 2021

La Academia Partnership Charter School, Virtual via Zoom

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

Board Members Not Present:

Entity Liaisons Present: A. Ferg, T. Jones, S. Rally, B. Smith, A. Lopez, P. McCartney, S. Almanzar

Minute Recorder: A. Ferg

Guests: B. Booher, N. Garress

I. Welcome -

A. A. Ceara called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. A. Ceara welcomed everyone, including the many teachers who joined the meeting today as well as new board member James Rovito.

B. February minutes were presented. V. Ramos made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. T. Darcus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. An executive session was held on March 19, 2021.

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

III. Reports

A. Leadership Dashboard - LAPCS Executive Team (A. Ferg, T. Jones, B. Booher, N. Garress)

Brian highlighted a staff member - Matt Giordano

Matt joined LAPCS this school year as a para-educator in the Special Education department.

i. Transition Planning -

As we move forward at La Academia, each member of the Executive Team has taken on additional responsibilities. Amy and Brian will focus on academic and teacher support. Nicole will support scholars and social/emotional well being of both scholars and staff. Tracy will take on more responsibilities in school operations, finance, and HR. Together, the team will push forward with Quarter 4 planning, summer planning, and planning for reopening in 2021-2022. As part of the transition planning, the team has developed a 30-60-90 day plan for both Quarter 4 and for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The full plan is included in the board documents.

The plan highlights 3 important areas - Academics, Personnel/Ops, and Collaboration/Trust. The plan for Quarter 4 is to implement tiered support for scholars, maintain staff enthusiasm and commitment at LAPCS, and develop transparency and trust amongst staff and between leadership and staff.

B. Smith asked about Summer School. A. Ferg let the board know that planning sessions for Summer School will begin soon and more information will be provided as soon as it is available.

ii. Academic Focus -

We are continuing to build our instructional model and coach teachers in several areas including using data, modeling the thinking, and providing activities that perfect their practice.

iii. Testing -

PDE, with guidance from the US Department of Education, has given an extended testing window for both PSSAs and Keystones. We will administer the 2021 State Assessments in September when we return to in person instruction. We do have 2 more administrations of the CDTs this year. One is occurring this week and one will be near the end of the year, the week of May 24. The data from this assessment is used for our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan and for teachers to plan instruction around closing gaps. Additionally, we are offering the SAT to all Juniors and Seniors on April 13th and the AP US History Exam and the AP English Lit Exam will be May 19th and May 26th.

iv. Pass Rate -

Amy spent a significant amount of time over the last 2 weeks looking at scholar data to get a true picture of where we are, beyond how many Fs each scholar has. Given the circumstances of the last 12 months, we are going to look at more than just the number of Fs when we consider promotion, retention, and summer school recommendations. We will look at scholars' overall grades for the year and speak with teachers about the work and effort scholars put into their classes. We do still need to consider credits for high school students as this is a state

requirement. Each scholar was evaluated to see if they are on track credit wise for graduation. For example, a 10 grader would need to finish the year with 11 credits to be on track to graduate and move into 11th grade (22 credits needed to graduate). Scholars can take up to 2 recovery credits in summer school. V. Ramos asked for clarification on “passing students who are failing.” The concept of passing students who have mastered standards despite their grades was discussed. A. Lopez asked for information on Credit Acceleration in Summer School. A. Ferg confirmed that is an option.

v. Senior Highlights -

As we get closer to the end of the year, Nicole highlighted some of the work happening with our seniors. She is working with Seniors every Wednesday from 8am-3pm in person. During this time they can get help with their classes, apply for colleges, or receive other assistance. Seniors are working on completing their FAFSA, Common App, and applying for college.

vi. Learning Hub

To continue to support scholars in the 4th quarter, the Learning Hub will expand on April 12, 2021. It will be open from 8am-3pm. Additionally, subject matter teachers will be coming on site to support scholars. A. Lopez asked if the team knew what parent or scholar interest was for the Learning Hub. T. Jones shared that currently there are 70 unique scholars per day and in the fall that was up to 90.

vii. Covid-19 Update

In the last 2 weeks, the PCR rate has been 5.7% and 6.9%. Despite the slight increase in the rate, it is our best option to open the Learning Hub full time to support Scholars

viii. Upcoming Dates

a. April 1st - CSI Meeting

Ken asked for another board member to start attending these meetings as well.

b. April 7th - Executive Team Meeting (Graduation)

c. April 12th - Parent Meeting

d. April 28th - Board Meeting

B. Finance Committee - T. Darcus

Finance committee meeting met Tuesday, March 30, 2021. The committee discussed a personnel matter that will be brought to the executive session. The committee also discussed a stipend for the Basketball Coach and the Assistant

Basketball Coach. The committee decided this would be sent to Ms. Ferg for a policy to be developed.

C. Planning/Development Committee - K. Hammel

The committee met on March 11, 2021. The job description for Development Coordinator was shelved. All Board members' LinkedIn accounts will be added to the Website. The committee continues to work on Action Items. ESSR grant was discussed.

D. Governance Committee - C. Wagner

The Governance Committee has personnel matters to discuss.

The board went into an Executive Session at 4:44pm. Executive session ended at 5:02.

The Board accepted Tommy Henley's resignation and they named Amy Ferg Interim Principal/CEO. The Board is looking forward to working with Amy and moving the school forward.

IV. Action Agenda Items -

A. New Board Members - Guy V. Kingree III and Jessica Edonick - presented by C. Wagner

The board currently has 10 members but we would like to grow the board.

C. Wagner presented Jessica Edonick to be appointed to the Board of Directors.

T. Darcus nominated the approval of Jessica Edonick to the Board for a term of 3 years. L. Silva seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Wagner presented Guy V. Kingree III to be appointed to the Board of Directors. C. Boyd nominated the approval of Guy V. Kingree III to the Board for a term of 3 years. C. Wagner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. IU13 Representative

Pam McCartney is retiring. C. Wagner thanked her for her time on the board. C.

Wagner is working with her to appoint a new representative.

IV. New Business - No New Business

V. Public Comment -

B. Smith - Are you concerned about enrollment? A. Ferg shared that it is normal for enrollment to drop 30 scholars during the year. However, we normally add scholars throughout the year. A. Ceara added that we cannot drop below 200 scholars but we cannot expand to 300 either. We have looked into expanding but that is tied with our recharter with the School District of Lancaster. A. Lopez asked about how this affects enrollment for next year. T. Jones clarified that we will start recruiting efforts in the next 2 weeks and push for 230 scholars to start the year. Scholars are transferring out of state (16/24) or to SDOL as they opened in person. Tracy thinks we will lose 5 or 6 more by the end of the year.

E. Marks - AP English Teacher and Head of Humanities

First congratulations to Amy. Sean and I are ready to support Amy. Being the head of a department I have had the responsibility and privilege of talking to many teachers over the last few days. There has been one consistent question. Our system is not perfect but a lot is working, some teachers are fearful of some changes that may come to systems. We would ask or advise the board that we would like to see a lot of the changes stay for the purpose of consistency. Both the scholars and the staff need consistency.

C. Boyd responded that in this process they have been intentional about not trying to reinvent the wheel. We are not coming in to try to change the curriculum. The board wants to hear the suggestions of the things that work.

A. Ferg added that Tommy taught her many things and she does not see changing the big picture.

A. Ceara noted she shares C. Boyd's and A. Ferg's sentiments. She noted that when the board met with the Executive team, one of the first questions was what has been working, what should we keep.

C. Wagner thanked all of those who attended the meeting and invited all attendees to join us for future board meetings.

VI. Adjournment - A. Ceara adjourned the meeting at 5:29.