



Board Minutes

February 24, 2021

La Academia Partnership Charter School, Virtual via Zoom

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

Board Members Not Present: A. Ceara,

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

Minute Recorder: A. Ferg

Guests: B. Booher

I. Welcome - C. Wagner served as chair for this meeting due to A. Ceara's absence.

A. C. Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

C. Wagner started by talking about the attendance at the meeting. Recently 2 members have resigned. By-laws state that we are a board of 10. We currently have 8 members. C. Wagner spoke with the attorneys and we must have 60% of the current 8 members present to conduct business. 2 new members will be nominated today to bring the board back up to 10. Colleen's hope is to bring the number of members up to 12.

B. January minutes were presented. V. Ramos made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. K. Hammel 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

T. Henley encouraged the board members to look over the culture survey data included in the evaluation folder for the upcoming March board meeting. He pointed out that even in times of COVID we have a 95% staff satisfaction rate

and 100% feel supported. Tommy shouted out his leadership team for helping to make this happen.

Tommy highlighted a staff member - Irene Aco Cortes

Irene joined us 3 years ago as a Spanish teacher. She is from Mexico and is Aztechan. She came to the US about 15 years ago. She now works as Recruitment and Family Engagement. She has reinvigorated our enrollment process and always asks why. She is an innovative and system-oriented thinker. She is kind-hearted and genuine.

i. Instructional Focus Area - Foci remain the same for this month. We know data drives everything we do. We understand that there is learning loss - about 15%. Teachers are focusing on Vocabulary and annotation. Teachers are continuing to focus on spiraling skills by focusing on the data available from CDTs and other sources. They are building out their Friday assessments to collect data.

ii. Scholar Data - We are in the middle of Q3. The 12th grade data is off and not reliable. There is significant growth over the first 2 quarters. We are hoping to see these numbers up to 50% by the end of this quarter. We will then be on track. T. Henley realizes the mistakes made in the beginning of the year. We went in high at the beginning of the year, going off the success of last year. Adjustments had to be made and it took time to make them. C. Wagner asked more about the 12th grade data and how that affects graduation. T. Henley shared that last week there were 50% of seniors on track. There was a misconception from teachers that led to a 2 week lag in our gradebook. The expectation was made very clear to teachers moving forward. S. Rally and B. Smith agreed that the expectations were made clear. WE are looking at about 50% of seniors on track for graduation. Planning is on hold until later to see what COVID restrictions are. Many seniors are struggling because they are working to support families. Since they are 18, we are limited in what we can do. T. Henley will call employers to make them change hours when we can. Additionally, some scholars and parents are just saying "we'll start fresh and try again next year." A. Lopez asked if we would reach out to the scholars that do not graduate to make sure they re-enroll next year. T. Henley and A. Ferg will meet at the end of March and go through each scholar individually to send out notices for potential retention and encourage them to reapply. C. Graupera asked if SDOL is having the same challenges. SDOL still has 167 students who have not logged into Virtual School. The start of the school year was at 409. P. McCartney noted this is across the county. CYS is not assisting in looking for these students at this time due to the high number of students. SDOL is showing 43% learning loss. T. Henley emphasized the rock and hard place we are in between. We want scholars to be successful but we can't just pass them on.

iii. Personnel - No personnel changes

iv. Financial - About 57% of the revenue has come in and expenses are at 53%. The surplus is up to \$323,102.87. This is an increase from the initial surplus of \$262,000. CARES II was accepted for our school so that will be spent in July. Title II will be spent out by buying school supplies for scholars and giving \$500 allowance for each teacher for supplies.

v. COVID-19 Update - Week 26 PCR rate is at 8% which meant we could open the Learning Hub again on February 16, 2021. Current PDE and DOH recommendations are still for full remote instruction. There have been no cases since opening on site. The 2 weeks before opening there were 8 positive scholar cases. When we are at 5% PCR, content teachers will be allowed to rotate in to support scholars. Additionally, teachers will come on-site for Friday Professional Development. A. Lopez asked about if teachers will be getting the COVID vaccine now that the vaccine hub will be opening at Park City. T. Henley shared that PA is not in the 1B category where teachers will be included. C. Graupera has heard that the teacher's union has been very vocal in getting the teachers vaccinated. C. Wagner asked for Tommy to keep the Board updated on any developments.

vi. Upcoming Meetings

March 1st - Parent Meeting

March 24th - Board Meeting with Training

The training is completed every elected term (3 years)

vii. Items for Discussion/Approval

a. Resignation of Board Members

b. Appointment of Secretary of Board of Trustees

c. New Board Members

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

B. Finance Committee - T. Darcus

The finances are in good shape.

C. Planning/Development Committee - K. Hammel

Committee finalized the strategic plan and assigned action items to various people. Placed an emphasis on finding a board member with experience in marketing to help a new hire. V. Ramos commented that it would be helpful to

send a job description to assist in possible recommendations for the marketing position. Ken asked Tommy how he would like to get feedback from contacts made by board members. Tommy offered to go through the contacts now. Contacts were reviewed. C. Wagner noted we should be very intentional with who we bring onto the Board in the future. They should be local, know the community, and interested in what the school is doing.

The Block Party will be cancelled the year. The sponsor will push sponsorship a year.

D. Governance Committee - C. Wagner

The committee spoke about the 2 vacancy positions and potential members thanks to Ken. Ommie Rivera recently resigned and was secretary so we will be voting on that today. The Committee will also be nominating 2 new members to the board today - Jessican Gehman and James Rovito. Resumes for both nominees were included in the Board folder. The committee also discussed Tommy's evaluation. As a reminder to the Board, please complete his evaluation. As a reminder, Tommy signed a 3 year contract in 2022 so this is just a Performance review.

IV. Action Agenda Items - A. Ceara voted by proxy through C. Wagner

A. Resignation of Board Members - Ommie Rivera and Austin Evelyn

K. Hammel made a motion to approve both resignations. L. Silva seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Appointment of Secretary of the Board of Trustees - Christopher Boyd

T. Darcus made a motion to approve the appointment of Christopher Boyd as Secretary of the Board of Trustees through 2023. K. Hammel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. New Board Members - Jessica Gehman and James Rovito

C. Graupera made a motion to approve the nomination of Jessica Gehman and James Rovito both to 3-year terms on the Board of Trustees. T. Darcus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

T. Darcus reminded these are younger board members that have what we are looking for which is what we need.

IV. New Business - No New Business

V. Public Comment - No public comments

VI. Adjournment - C. Wagner adjourned the meeting at 4:58pm.