



LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING (In-Person, VIRTUAL)

June 23, 2021

OUR MISSION

A dynamic learning community sustained by partnerships, La Academia transforms today's learners into tomorrow's leaders through innovative instruction, comprehensive student supports, cultural competency, and work-based learning.

OUR VISION

Our students will be critical thinkers and global citizens, recognized by their commitment to lifelong learning and meaningful contributions to the world.

AGENDA:

Call to Order / Roll Call

Voting Members:

Aida Ceara, Board President
Colleen Wagner, Board Vice President
Chris Boyd, Board Secretary
Ted Darcus, Board Treasurer
Carlos Graupera, Board Member
Leonel Silva, Board Member
Guy Kingree III, Board Member
Kenneth Hammel, Board Member
Victor Ramos, Board Member
James Rovito, Board Member
Jessica Edonick, Board Member
Jessica Gehman, Board Member

Board members not present: all were present

Non-Voting Members:

Aidalis Lopez, Parent Representative to the Board
Steve Rally, HS Staff Representative/Secretary to the Board
Brittany Smith, MS Staff Representative to the Board
Robin Goodson, SDoL Representative to the Board
Pam McCarthy, IU13 Representative to the Board
Amy Ferg, Interim Principal

Guests: Nicole Garress, Lissette Colon, Clarina Rodriguez, Latisha Barnes, Kristen Graver, Abby Musser, Matt Cioffi, Ashley Rivera, Jodie Richardson

Minutes Recorder: Steve Rally

4:11 pm Meeting called to order (Aida Ceara)

Approval of May Minutes

Motion requested by Aida Ceara to approve minutes.

- Colleen Wagner requested the minutes reflect her attendance more accurately at the last meeting. Following the correction, Chris Boyd seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Swearing in of Board and Election of Officers (Jodie Richardson | Magisterial District Judge)

Board Elections & Recognition – A. Ceara welcomed Magisterial District Judge, Jodie Richardson, who asked the following new Trustees (Jessica Gehman, Jessica Endonick, Guy Kingree and Jame Rovito) to follow her lead and all were sworn in. Jodie Richardson then asked the following Trustee Officers to be sworn in. They were as follows: C. Boyd, C. T. Darcus and C. Wagner.

A. Ceara said a few words thanking everyone for the opportunity to serve, while C. Wagner gave her flowers and an award as an acknowledgment of Dr. Ceara's many distinguished years of service as president.

I. Executive Session (Aida Ceara)

Board members met in executive session to discuss personnel.

II. School Management (Amy Ferg, Tracy Jones, Nicole Garress)

1. Focus: Jacobo Alvarez: Math Teacher (Amy Ferg explained what an important part of LAPCS Jacobo has become)
2. 30/60/90 day plan
 - We are at the 90 day plan. A. Ferg shared plans and updated the Board in general on plan at the 90 day mark. Amy also explained how policies are being updated.
3. Summer Enrichment
 - 73 Scholars
 - Credit Recovery & Enrichment
 - Virtual Option available (15 scholars)
4. Looking Ahead 2021 to 2022
 - Pass Rate: 77%

- Summer Program began June 14, 2021
- Scholars requiring Summer School: 31% (63 scholars)
- Staff Closeout - June 7, 2021
- State of LAPCS

5. School Improvement Plan

- Year 3 of CSI
- Essential Practices: Student-Centered Supports and Continuous Improvement of Instruction
- Reopening Plan (for APR ESSER III Grant)
- Must be approved by the Board in July
- Chris Boyd asked about the culture surrounding the building since Tommy's departure and Steve Rally answered that it was seamless to both staff and students.

6. Graduation (Nicole Garrass)

- Class of 2021
- We had 19 out of 20 Seniors Graduate
- Thank you, Colleen, for your speech honoring Dr. Ceara and encouraging our seniors.
- We would also like to thank the Board Members who attended graduation: Colleen Wager, Ted Darcus, Chris Boyd, Leo Silva, Guy Kingree, and Jessica Gehman.
- Dr. Ceara asked if there was an announcement in the newspaper? Amy responded it was being sent in. Colleen Wagner asked about social media presence and it was reported that it was posted on Facebook.
- Leo Silva asked how large the class next year would be and Tracy Jones reported that it was approximately 20, but that could fluctuate depending on how the summer program goes.

7. Operations/finance (Tracy Jones)

- Operations
 - 2122 Health & Safety Plan - 7/30/21 Due Date
 - Health Clinic Construction Started
 - SACA Building Projects
 1. Courtyard Fence
 2. Building Connector
 - Health Clinic Permits
 - External Upgrades
 - School Landscaping
 - Chromebook Return - June 7 - 10
- SACA Building Projects
 - Fence
 - Building Connector
- Enrollment
 - 194 Application Returned
 - 225 Projected
- Finance
 - Budget 21/22
 - 6/30/21 F/S Audit (Colleen September?)

- Dr. Ceara reported that the audit will be discussed at the finance committee

8. Budget 21/22

- Baker Tilly Rollforward PY Numbers
- General Fund
 - Student Invoicing - Actuals
 - Pay Scale - Created
 - Expenditures - Inquiry
- Grant Funding
 - E-Grant Allocations
 - Outstanding Applications
 - Title Audits
 - 6/30/21 F/S Audit
- Fundraising
 - 3-5% based on review of similar non-profit structured educational institutions.
- Student Activities
 - Inquiry from department leads. Review of PY actuals and research of similarly structured educational institutions.
- Capital / Furniture Expenditures
 - Needs Assessment of current building

Budget Overview

- Projected Enrollment - Avg 205 (Targeted 225)
- General Fund
 - Revenues - \$4.8M
 - Student Invoicing - 94%
 - Expenditures - \$4.5M
 - Wages & Benefits - 53%
 - Building Operations - 26%
 - Instructional Operations - 17%
 - Student Activities - 4%
- Grants
 - Title I, II, IV Grants - \$134K
 - ESSER / CARES - \$362K
 - SIG - \$30K
 - IDEA - \$75K
- Other Sources/Fundraising
 - EITC - \$80K
 - Fundraising - \$125K (Goal) Collen: wanted to confirm the \$125K and Tracy confirmed

9. Mission Alignment/School Improvement

- Increase in student activities (Tracy: Student activities for various

sports)

- Recognizing the value of our staff
- Increase in direct academic supports and instructional resources
- Establishing fundraising
- Jessica Edonick asked if there is a plan for the budget if we don't hit the goal of student enrollment (225). Tracy Jones explained that there was for the goal of 225, but not for under 205 scholar minimum.
- Jessica Edonick asked if there are goals for the surplus. Tracy Jones explained that there is and it is being discussed with staff. Ted Darcus asked if there was a committee to discuss the surplus. Tracy Jones explained that the general fund is considered first, so the surplus is then strategically placed on various projects. Dr. Ceara stated that the board would be responsible, adding that the 205 minimum is to keep the building running and it is tied to attendance. She further explained that issues in the past with SDoL changes in the calculation for the student formula, required LAPCS to return money. Colleen Wagner asked for the percentage of SDoL students and Amy Ferg responded that about 76 percent currently and we continue to increase from surrounding districts. Jessica Edonick asked how the board can be helpful in fund raising strategies. The strategies discussed were to tap into board members' networks, using sponsorships and partnerships (such as the health clinic). It was stressed that Extra Give was not effective enough. This would help LAPCS with the goal of providing education to the scholars at pre-pandemic standards.
- Aida Ceara motioned to accept the budget, but Ted Darcus asked if there are action items before voting, therefore, it was suggested that the board e-vote to extend the budget approval time period. Jessica Edonick motioned the extension and Guy Kingree seconded. Motion to extend the budget approval via e-vote was approved.

IV. Reports, information and Discussion Items

- Finance Committee (Ted Darcus)
 - Action Items: 2021-2022 Budget, Vector Contract
 - Ted Darcus explained that Tracy Jones will present to the Finance Committee to discuss. He added that finances are in order, as Mr. Jones has been making sure things are moving smoothly for next school year.
 - Colleen Wagner asked about new cameras with a monthly contract and Tracy Jones explained that was the case. Ted Darcus reiterated that the cameras in place provided security and that it was good to increase and upgrade the security camera. Motion to accept the new cameras and contract was put forth by Dr. Ceara and Leo Silva seconded. Motion passed.
- Planning and Development (Kenneth Hammel)
 - nothing on agenda
 - Ted Darcus emphasized hiring a fundraising person and creating

a job description, along with providing data to the community.

- Governance Committee (Aida Ceara)
 - Action Items: School Improvement Plan (SIP): Dr. Ceara explained that the SIP aligned to the state standards and the use of PBIS was designed to support students. Jessica Gehman asked the why of SIP and PBIS. Amy Ferg explained that PBIS seems like the best behavior program to meet the needs of LAPCS students. Dr. Ceara mentioned that curriculum needs to be aligned to state.
 - Motion to approve the SIP and PBIS was requested by Dr. Ceara and Ken Hammel motioned, while it was seconded by Colleen Wagner. Motion approved.
 - Fundraising Policy: Booster Policy is financed between booster club and school. Tracy Jones explained that the booster club is specific to athletics, while fundraising is earmarked for academics.
 - Ted Darcus asked for a specific breakdown. Tracy explained that all funds are managed through the school account and allocated to specific programs and activities. The booster club accounts are independent from the school and managed elsewhere.
 - Jessica Edonick asked if LAPCS has a booster club and Tracy Jones confirmed this and explained that this club will be expanded as the school's athletics program expands. Adalias Lopez added that there are bylaws which are required and that we are but still developing the program. She also asked if food fundraisers were okay and Tracy Jones responded that they are as long as the marketing material is in our jurisdiction (like the school store).
 - Dr. Ceara asked for a motion to accept the booster club and fundraising. Motion by Ted Darcus and Leo Silva seconded. Motion approved.
 - Adalias Lopez: presented the athletic department fundraising plan by explaining that, in conjunction with Athletic Director Jerry Johnson, there was a creation of a golf outing for corporate sponsors. The club is actively looking for sponsors with registration fees designed to raise \$10,000. The goal is 80 golfers to participate. \$30,000 was the maximum amount to be raised.
 - Colleen Wagner asked about charges to the school and Adalias responded that there is a \$1000 hold fee, adding that it might be a good opportunity to network with sponsors and the scholars. Ted Darcus inquired about how the board can support and Adalias responded that sharing with the network is helpful. Leo Silva asked if the golf outing was taking place on a day off from school and it was explained that it was not, but if students were to participate they must meet academic success standards to be eligible. Tracy Jones explained that it was possible to raise up to \$30,000 if we have 106 golfers and/or

organizations. Dr. Ceara asked for a motion to approve the golf outing fundraiser. Chris Boyd set the motion, while Guy Kingree seconded. Motion approved.

- New Business (none reported)
- Public Comment (none reported)
- Reminders: Statement of Financial Interest (Aida)

V. Adjournment :

5:53pm meeting was adjourned by Aida Ceara.

Upcoming Dates:

- Parent Meeting July 12th
- Next Board Meeting: July 28th, 2021, 4-5 pm

VI. After meeting:

The 2021-2022 Budget was approved unanimously via e-vote on June 29, 2021.