



LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING (In-Person & VIRTUAL)

August 25, 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:

Chris Boyd (officer)
Ted Darcus (officer)
Jessica Gehman
Carlos Graupera
Jessica Edonick
Kenneth Hammel
Guy Kingree III
Colleen Wagner (officer)
Victor Ramos
James Rovito
Leonel Silva

Board members not present: Aida Ceara

Non-Voting Members:

Amy Ferg, Principal
Tracy Jones, Operations
Aidalis Lopez, Parent Representative to the Board
Steve Rally, HS Staff Representative/Secretary to the Board
Brittany Smith, MS Staff Representative to the Board

Minutes Recorder: S. Rally

4:07 pm Meeting called to order by C. Wagner, who commented that Board Member G. Kingree welcomed a baby. A few kind words and congratulations followed.

Approval of June Minutes

Motion requested by C. Wagner to approve minutes; T. Darcus motioned and C. Graupera seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

I. School Management (Amy Ferg, Tracy Jones, Nicole Garress, Emily Atwood)

Staff highlight: Olivia Gambler, HS English teacher (9th, 12th). A. Ferg gave a few words about Olivia being a great team member.

2021-22 Reopening (A. Ferg)

- First Day - August 18, 2021
- Enrollment
 - Day 1: 205
 - Current: 198
- Daily Attendance: 84-92%

Comments:

- C. Wagner asked what changed since last month and A. Ferg responded that it was the final push at the end of summer.
- C. Graupera asked if it was partly due to a flow from cyber to LAPCS and A. Ferg responded that it was not the case right now but maybe we will see that at some point.
- J. Gehman asked if we provide information for Covid testing for families and A. Ferg responded that we are providing that information for each of the testing resources, which are all free.
- A. Ferg Explained that there is a virtual plan in place and that the work is online.
- V. Ramos suggested pure virtual days to test and A. Ferg said we should just so we can practice.
- A. Lopez asked if chromebook distribution will be addressed and A. Ferg responded that it was part of the plan.
- L. Silva commented that we saw the urgency and was pleasantly surprised about the numbers.

Policy Review (A. Ferg)

- Tuition Reimbursement Changes
 - 12 credits at \$1000 max per credit
 - \$500 for fees
 - Added Non-teaching staff
 - No reimbursement for tuition paid for with grants or scholarships

- Anti-Hazing
 - Bullying is a part of policy on page 4 - to protect scholars from further hazing, bullying, harassment, etc
 - Anti-Bullying Policy works with the Anti-Hazing Policy
- Scholar Handbook
 - Added PBIS
 - Added Restorative Justice
 - Updated Dress Code

Covid-19 Updates (Tracy Jones)

- Cases vs Exposure
 - Internal - One staff case prior to 8/18 start;
 - External - Eleven scholar exposure cases from in-house positives
- School Procedures
 - Mask required in all spaces
 - Restricted eating in classrooms
 - Reduced large gatherings and altered class sizes
- Community Reminders
 - Scholar Self-Screenings at home
 - Encouraging staff to stay home if experiencing symptoms (staff has been complying)
 - Clinic is offering shots

Operations/Finance (Tracy Jones)

- Enrollment- Hispanic Heritage Festival Success
 - 6/30 - 194; 7/28 - 187; 8/25 - 198
 - 21-22 Goal - 225
- Finance
 - 6/30/21 F/S Audit
 - Field work scheduled for week of 8/30
- 21/22
 - ESSER II/III
 - Fundraiser - Golf Classic / Extra Give

Technology

- Scholar - Device Provided to Scholars 8/23
- Staff - Window Updates

Comments:

- Tracy Jones further explained that the extension of the Federal rent moratorium and attending the Hispanic Heritage festival were both helpful with enrollment numbers, along with the efforts of our enrollment coordinator.
- C. Wagner inquired about the distribution of the replacement numbers and T. Jones explained that the numbers are a bit heavier in the high school and that there is some concern about the 7th and 8th grade numbers going down.
- V. Ramos asked about any change in special needs numbers and T. Jones reported that we stand at about 40% and we need to evaluate

with the student services department (will know more in October once evaluations are fully completed).

- V. Ramos followed up by asking if we can meet those needs and A. Ferg explained that a fourth special education teacher was hired.
- A. Lopez reported that the sponsorships are growing slowly for the golf outing, but hopeful that we will have final numbers by September 1st.

II. Reports, information and Discussion Items

- Finance Committee (Ted Darcus)
 - Addressing the water issues in the basement
Comments: Gutters could be the source, but T. Jones stated that they were addressed when the roof was replaced, so there may be another source. This is being investigated.
- Planning and Development (Colleen Wagner)
 - Extragive enrollment last year featured staff as champions and T. Jones explained how staff buy-in was key.
 - Hispanic Heritage month -- bucket drummers to represent LAPCS to the public.
 - T. Jones further explained that LAPCS is trying to use media to promote the school (possible mixer with staff, Board Members and donors).
 - We need to welcome more community members to see what we offer.
 - More presence in the building from Board Members with a calendar of dates being discussed.
 - V. Ramos asked if dates were secured and C. Wagner stated that was forthcoming.

- Governance Committee (Colleen Wagner)

Action items

Anti-Hazing Policy

- Comments: A. Ferg explained the Anti-Hazing and Anti Bullying policies work together (hazing would be the initial cause).
- V. Ramos motioned to review the Anti-Hazing policy electronically as an addendum to Scholar Handbook; C. Graupera seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Tuition Reimbursement Policy

- Detailed under Policy Review above.
- Comments: J. Gehman clarified the terms of service after program completion as 12 months.
- V. Ramos added that the tuition reimbursement program ensures at least four years of service (depending on program) and would be a “thank you” to the dedication of the staff.
- V. Ramos motioned; J. Gehman seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Scholar Handbook

- V. Ramos motioned to accept the Scholar Handbook with the Sports and Activity Addendum; C. Graupera seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Staffing

- A. Ferg reported that LAPCS is fully staffed.
 - New hires: T. Darcus motioned for approval of new hires; C. Graupera seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
 - Resignation: C. Graupera motioned to accept resignation of employee; L. Silva seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
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- New Business (Colleen Wagner)
 - T. Darcus mentioned that Jerry Johnson is being recognized with the Kerchner Award and this is an opportunity to support Jerry and to promote the school. TV. Ramos suggested two Tables should be purchased for the event.
 - A. Lopez expressed concerns about school provided lunches from other parents -- scholars are not always eating them. T. Jones explained the process and nutritional guidelines required by the state, but he will monitor the complaints.
 - L. Silva stated that the Academic Excellence Committee is in the process of making changes and is hoping to have updates next month.
 - Public Comment (none)
 - Reminders: Board Member Forms: Look for emails from S. Rally.

IV. Adjournment :

5:12 pm meeting was adjourned by C. Wagner.

Note: Anti-hazing policy was improved via email vote after the meeting.