



LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING (In-Person & VIRTUAL)

September 29, 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
Kenneth Hammel
Guy Kingree III
Colleen Wagner (officer)
Victor Ramos
Leonel Silva

Voting Members Absent:

Jessica Edonick
James Rovito

Non-Voting Members:

Emily Atwood, Director of Student Services
Amy Ferg, Principal
Tracy Jones, Operations
Aidalis Lopez, Parent Representative to the Board
Steve Rally, HS Staff Representative/Secretary to the Board (Absent)
Brittany Smith, MS Staff Representative to the Board (Absent)

Minutes Recorder: Emily Marks

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Time: 4:02 PM by C. Wagner

II. Approval of August Minutes

Comments:

- K. Hammel - why does the extension of the eviction moratorium support enrollment?
 - Mr. Jones answered that it wasn't the building rent but the federal rent moratorium
 - Minutes changed to reflect federal moratorium
 - C. Wagner started, T. Darcus moved, L. Silva seconded, unanimously Approved

III. Reports and Action Items

Action Item:

- Sports Branding
- Jerry Johnson presented and shared with the support of Jeo Ramos

Comments:

- J. Gehman asked if the scholars approved of the logo
- Mr. Hammel told us that the A came from three interlocking hands, so it makes sense that the lions were a group of three
- Mr. Hammel asked if the logo went through a trademark and plagiarism process
 - Mr. Ramos answered that the company did that for us
- Guy Kingree asked when we could start making purchases
 - Jerry Johnson said mockups are due next week
- Mr. Johnson explained that the store will be linked to the website
- Mr. Hammel made sure to point out that this is sports branding and not logo branding for the entire school
- Mrs. Lopez brought up that Varsity jackets were empty last year and that that could affect school pride and that the new paw print logo would look great on jackets
- Mrs. Wagner made the motion, Ken Hammel moved, and Carlos Graupera seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously
- Colleen Wagner thanked Jerry Johnson and Jeo Ramos for their work

A. School Management (Mrs. Amy Ferg & Mr. Tracy Jones)

Virtual Options

Comments:

- Colleen Wagner asked when scholars grades will be checked since online scholars are only checking in thirty minutes with a teacher that might not even be theirs
 - Amy Ferg explained the grade check-ins on Monday and the “At Risk” report being run by admin
- Jessica Gehman asked if scholars who are going virtual are ones threatening to leave.
 - A. Ferg explained scholars are encouraged to attend in-person but virtual scholars are of health or health problems that put them at risk
- Colleen Wagner asked how sports are affected by virtual choices
 - A. Ferg explained that if they are quarantining, they couldn’t play anyways
- C. Boyd asked how many scholars were lost because we didn’t have virtual initially
 - T. Jones answered that it was only 7
 - C. Boyd expanded that we could reach out to families who left other schools that were not offering virtual choices
 - Tracy Jones explained that that would require consultation with the district
 - Colleen Wagner asked if that could be used for recruiting
 - Tracy Jones explained that that might interfere with the bi-laws because our virtual option is only for quarantine, we are not a virtual charter school
- Jessica Gehman asked what the classroom looks like with a hybrid model
 - Ken Hammel asked if sound equipment could be upgraded for hybrid
 - Amy Ferg explained that Tracy Jones is interacting with persons for that technology, but there is a shortage of tech because of the times
 - Chris Boyd pointed out that some kids may never come back to school, but we still want them to come to us
- Leo Silva asked what tech our scholars have available to them if Chromebooks are ineffective
 - Amy Ferg pointed out that it might not be a Chromebook issue but an internet connectivity issue and that our social worker is working with families
- Chris Boyd brought up that certain WiFis are free
 - Amy Ferg brought up that it costs money for the first two months
 - Chris Boyd asked if we could pay for it for our 5 scholars
 - Ms. Lopez explained the process from the parent perspective
 - Amy Ferg pointed out that we just got a homeless grant and that that might be able to be used for personal hotspots

Personnel

- Leo Silva asked why teachers left
- Ms. Lopez asked if there were exit interviews done with the teachers that resigned
 - Tracy Jones explained what he learned from them
- Leo Silva asked where job descriptions are posted
 - LinkedIn and Jeo Ramos is putting them on the website
 - Amy Ferg searches PA Educator (teacher-based system)
- Chris Boyd asked what specific teacher recommendations we were looking at
- Ms. Lopez asked if we reached out to Millersville

- Encouraged to use Victor Ramos as an employee
- Leo Silva proposed posting on handshake to hire recent college graduates and create a fellowship program
 - Ensures people will stay three years minimum
- Colleen Wagner asked if there is a dashboard on the website and has the press reached out
 - Tracy Jones explained that PDE just released a portal for reporting and that the clinic will help with the dashboard if we're in compliance and that the press has contacted us and we have answered questions regarding exposure and positive cases
- Leo Silva asked if it's possible to order rapid COVID tests and hold them here for teachers to test themselves and if that would help the absences
 - Tracy Jones said the clinic is not able to test because of only having one room
 - Tracy Jones explained that teachers go to the clinic that is three miles away for rapid test through our partnership with Union Health
- Carlos Graupera brought up that flu season is coming and causing symptoms
- Ms. Lopez asked if we make quarantine choices or if doctors can be seen so scholars don't need to quarantine
 - Mr. Jones explained the new quarantining procedures as given by PDE

- Ms. Lopez shared re funding sources: if anyone contributes to the United Way, if you contribute more than \$100, those donations can be allocated to La Academia by request

Golf Outing

Comments:

- Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Lopez and Chris for their attendance and support
- Mr. Hammel asked for a financial bottom line
- Ms. Lopez did not have one yet, but explained that all deposits were brought back except the United Way because they wanted an invoice
- J. Gehman brought up that the 50/50 winner donated back \$65 of winnings to the school
- Colleen Wagner explained that someone who attended the Golf Outing shared about the event in the city on a Zoom call
- Mr. Hammel shared a feedback template to Mr. Johnson to get feedback
- Ms. Lopez shared some feedback from the event that she recorded
- C. Wagner asked for that feedback to be shared to the PR Committee
- Joey asked in the chat if the date is set for next year
 - Ms. Lopez shared the last Monday is September is the date for next year
- Will start advertising much earlier than last year

Comprehensive Plan Presentation

- Change “students” to “scholars”
- Colleen Wagner: What is the plan to update the board on growth?
- Colleen Wagner asked when is the assessment schedule deadline?
- IU13 rep commented that she has hired all the content experts
- Leo Silva asked about quantitative vs. qualitative goals
- Emily Marks commented that the presentation was shared to the board to their LAPCS emails for their review and that she is available for questions via email or next board meeting

B. Finance Committee (Ted Darcus)

- Finance Report
- Audit Update
- Action Items:
 - Insurance Renewal
 - Comments:
 - Colleen Wagner pointed out that the link did not have the information
 - Tracy Jones explained that the spreadsheets are in the folder but Colleen Wagner wasn't sure if it shouldn't be confirmed without all the information
 - The finance committee explained that they had all the information and were ready to move forward

C. Planning and Development Committee (Kenneth Hammel)

- ExtraGive

Comments:

- Ken Hammel reminded the board that they need to attend events from the email he sent out on September 7th

D. Governance Committee (Colleen Wagner)

- Strategic Planning
 - Ken Hammel made a motion to accept resignations, Leo Silva seconded, and motion passed unanimously
 - Ken Hammel made a motion to accept hires, Chris Boyd seconded, and motion passed unanimously
 - Ken Hammel didn't understand the sentence under Goal 3 personnel
 - Mis-wrote “scholars” when “staff” was meant
 - Deferred the document to be discussed next meeting

IV. Executive Session

- Personnel Matter & Insurance Approval

V. New Business

- Colleen Wagner thanked Leo Silva for heading the Academic Excellence committee and he shared the dates for the committee meetings
- Ted Darcus shared he had a \$250 sponsorship check from the Golf Outing

VI. Public Comments

- **Comments:**
 - Emily Marks thanked Colleen Wagner and Ms. Lopez for attending Literacy Night and shared the October book passing out

VII. Adjournment

Time: 6:01 PM