



LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING

JUNE 22, 2022

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.

Voting Members Present: Gloria Nyutu-Blackman, Carlos Graupera, Victor Ramos, Colleen Wagner (officer), Chris Boyd (officer), Ted Darcus (officer), James Rovito, Leonel Silva

Voting Members Not Present: Jessica Gehman, Guy Kingree

Administration and Non-Voting Members Present: Amy Ferg, Aidalis Lopez, Jasson Read, Steve Rally

Guests: Emily Marks

Minutes Recorder: Steve Rally

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call: 4:03 C. Wagner

II. Approval of May Minutes: Motion to approve by C. Graupera, T. Darcus seconded; approved unanimously.

III. Reports and Action Items

A. School Management (Mrs. Amy Ferg, Principal/CEO & Mr. Tracy Jones, CFOO)

- Retentions
 - 5 Scholar Retentions
 - Last year: 47
 - 19 Scholars require Summer School
 - Last year: 63
 - Staff Retainment: 95%

Comments: L. Silva asked if any retentions were juniors, but A. Ferg confirmed that no juniors were retained and gave a breakdown of retention by grade.

- Education Day with the Barnstormers: A. Ferg explained how the scholars experienced an amazing day with the Lancaster Barnstormers baseball team and how Tracy Jones went above and beyond to give our scholars a unique experience by arranging for them to meet the team and interact with them on the baseball field.
Comments: A. Lopez explained that the general manager of the Barnstormers expressed interest in our school (free tickets, etc.).
- Graduation: details of the event were shared.
- Scholar Registration
How well the digital registration is working was explained by A. Ferg.
Comments: C. Wagner asked if they were new or returning scholars and A. Ferg said that there was a mix.
- Vacancies (part time Health Teacher and a Special Education teacher)
Comments: C. Boyd asked if we could put any vacancies on LinkedIn and whether or not all need to be certified and A. Ferg mentioned that we are nearly fully staffed, and that we have achieved the level of certified teachers that is required; certification is preferred but not necessary. C. Wagner asked if we could pursue a partnership with a local company. A. Ferg will look into it.
- Upcoming dates
 - Wednesday, July 27, 4pm - Board Meeting
 - Change to July 20, 4pm?
 - August 2, 2022 - New Staff Orientation
 - August 15, 2022 - First Staff Day
 Comments: C. Wagner encouraged the other members of the Board to have an active presence.

B. Academic Excellence (L. Silva)

- L. Silva explained the purpose of the Academic Excellence Committee is with scholars graduating from high school and promoting college/trade schools for their future.
- Additionally: Decide how we would talk about academic excellence with the board and what metrics we were using to measure that; involve the board in individualized scholar plans for their personal academic excellence
- Emily explained the way the Board can help the future (explained in the slides regarding lexile levels for scholars)

Comments: C. Wagner why use Read 180 to achieve this and E. Marks explained some of the reasons, including widespread apathy among scholars.

G.Nyutu-Blackman asked what was used last year and M. Marks explained that we used "My Perspectives" by Savaas.

C. Wagner asked for more detail on the internships, etc. A. Lopez is unsure of the ability to have the use of tools (physical). A. Ferg said we could tie into college and career class.

C. Finance Committee (Ted Darcus, Treasurer)

Finance Report

- T. Jones: Welcomed Omnivest (See report in folder)
 - *decrease in general fund due to scholars exiting
 - *digital applications are on pace
 - *more recruitment
- Action Item: Design Data ReThink Contract: T. Darcus motioned, seconded by C. Graupera, approved unanimously.
- Cleaning Contract: motion by T. Darcus, seconded by C. Boyd, approved unanimously

Comments: C. Boyd mentioned the reduction of Design Data's work in house, due to Sean Kennedy's work as System Analyst.

Comments on how important Tracy Jones has been to this school.

D. Governance Committee (Colleen Wagner, President)

- Action Item: Staff Approvals: C. Graupera moved, G. Nyutu-Blackman seconded; approved unanimously with L. Silva abstaining, due to knowing one of the candidates
- Staff change of position: C. Graupera moved, G. Nyutu-Blackman seconded; approved unanimously
- Move July Meeting to July 20, 2022.

IV. Executive Session (Board went into executive session).

V. New Business (none)

VI. Public Comments: A. Lopez says that there is a request from parents to recognize the achievements of scholars like honor roll and attendance. Also some programs can offer free materials and opportunities to share with families.

VII. Adjournment: 6:12 by C. Wagner

Next Meeting: July 27, 2022