



LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 17, 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:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

4:02 called to order by C. Wagner.

Voting Members:

Chris Boyd (officer)
Carlos Graupera
Kenneth Hammel
Colleen Wagner (officer)
Victor Ramos
James Rovito

Voting Members Absent:

Ted Darcus (officer)
Jessica Gehman
Guy Kingree III
Leonel Silva

Non-Voting Members:

Emily Atwood, Director of Student Services
Amy Ferg, Principal
Nicole Garress, School Counselor
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: Steve Rally

II. Approval of October Minutes

Motion to approve (with comments regarding communication between Board President and Board Secretary ensuring accuracy) by C. Wagner; seconded by C. Boyd; minutes approved unanimously.

III. Reports and Action Items

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

- Enrollment: 198
- Vacancies:
 - HS Math Teacher (9/28)
 - ELD Teacher (10/28)
 - Special Education Teacher (11/17)
- Hires: Paraprofessional
- COVID-19
 - Confirmed Positive Cases
 - 0 cases since 10/27
 - Masking Mandate (lifted in state pending appeal)
 - Vaccine Approval

Comments:

- C. Boyd suggested incentivising students and staff to get vaccinations.
- K. Hammel said that since scholars are supposed to be vaccinated for other things the mask mandate should stay in place.
- C. Graupera suggested we use the same as SDoL (currently masks are mandated).
- A. Ferg reported no pushback from scholars over the mask mandate.
- K. Hammel perhaps a proof of vaccination requirement.
- C. Boyd expressed that we encourage the vaccination before removing the masks
- A. Ferg expressed the concern of how to know who is/isn't vaccinated.
- K. Hammel suggested we be strict with this very politicized issue.
- V. Ramos explained that the mask mandate at Millersville for now is on campus and will revisit after holiday break.
- C. Wagner said that we don't need to make the decision today.
- A. Lopez asked if we could send a survey out to parents.
- C. Wagner suggested that parents join us at Board meetings.
- C. Boyd expressed concern about keeping the mandate, because we don't

have the luxury of having thousands of kids and could impact enrollment, so we should consider all options.

- V. Ramos reiterated that we should stay in line with surrounding districts.

B. Finance Committee (Ted Darcus, Treasurer)

Action Item: Staff Stipends/thank you:

- A. Ferg explains how the \$28,000 bonus is based on service (length of time) and that it is from the ESSER fund.
- C. Boyd explained it was money given to K-12 organizations due to Covid and ranges from \$250 to \$1000.
- Leadership excused themselves (staff only).
- V. Ramos motioned; Jessica G seconded; motion unanimously approved.

Action item: 2020-2021 Financial Audit (Board folder)

- Motion to accept financial audit by V. Ramos and C. Boyd seconded; motion approved unanimously.

C. Planning and Development Committee (Kenneth Hammel)

- ExtraGive staff person for fundraising is on the agenda.
- Board members are encouraged to stop by for ExtraGive.
- Rocky Springs Center suggested for a staff outing.

D. Academic Excellence Committee (Leo Silva)

- C. Wagner announced that Leo Silva is chair of this committee
- J. Gehman explained that it was a good first meeting of establishing goals and measurements of academic success (in the development stages and estimated this to take one year).

E. Governance Committee (Colleen Wagner, President)

- Encouraging everyone to come down to ExtraGive
- Personal “thank you” letters will be sent out to donors.

Action Item: Transportation Policy Reviewed with Governance (for sports and extracurricular activities).

- Details in Board packet
- A. Lopez asked about a requirement of only staff and scholars, but no extra parents included.
- A clause will be added regarding approved chaperones. With that addition, there was a motion to approve the Transportation Policy by K. Hammel; V. Ramos seconded; motion approved unanimously

Action Item: School Vehicle Driver Policy (guidelines for the driver)

- A. Ferg explained we looked at the Lancaster and Philadelphia School Boards and applied to employees and only specific for one contracted year.
- Relying on the background check and a Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) completed annually. With the MVR as an addition, C. Boyd made a motion; V. Ramos seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Action Item: Hires/Resignations

- Jessica Edonick resigned from the Board. Motion by C. Wagner; K Hammel

- seconded; motion approved unanimously.
- Paraprofessional position. C. Wagner motioned; K. Hammel seconded; motion approved unanimously.
 - Resignation of Special education teacher. C. Wagner motioned; K. Hammel seconded; motion approved unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

V. New Business

K. Hammel explained that 40% of SDoL money comes from tax dollars, but that does not get trickled down to charter schools. Marketing expenses are excluded from this amount. Recommends that the governance committee revisit this and check with an attorney, because LAPCS does not get the correct amount of money per student. A. Ferg explained the success of the College and Career Fair, which was held in the building

VI. Public Comments

E. Marks: discussed the Board Game Day and how PBL is standards based, while scholars met the proficiency of the AP standards at 74 percent. Scholars will be presenting their games at ExtraGive at 8:30 to 11:30am.

VII. Adjournment

5:54 Meeting adjourned by C. Wagner.

Next Meeting: December 15, 2021

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