

**MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 23, 2022**

**La Academia Partnership Charter School
Board of Trustees**

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, Chris Boyd (officer), Ted Darcus (officer), Jessica Gehman, Carlos Graupera, Guy Kingree III, Colleen Wagner (officer)

Voting Members Not Present

Victor Ramos, James Rovito, Leonel Silva

Administration and Non-Voting Members Present

Amy Ferg, Tracy Jones, Nicole Garress, Joey Bertrand, Aidalis Lopez, Steve Rally

Minutes recorder: Steve Rally

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call: 4:05 by C. Wagner

II. Approval of February Minutes

With suggested edits (fixing attendance and specifying recharter time-frame), C. Boyd moved; C. Graupera seconded, approved unanimously.

III. Reports and Action Items

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

- A. Ferg explained upcoming field trips and resignations.
- Families are being called 190 out of 194 are planning to return (verbally)
- Intent to return form with staff was sent out
- Master schedule has been put together

Comments:

- C. Graupera asked about low enrollment and A. Ferg explained that some withdrawals are cyber school related but many are also housing issues.

C. Boyd asked how we are handling this and A. Ferg explained by community outreach by office staff.

- A. Lopez asked how many graduates for 2022 and N. Garress responded 18.

Covid update

- Masking optional

N. Garress explained the opportunities for scholars

- Upcoming dates ABC Construction etc.
- Suggested we do something for teacher appreciation week
- Prom: May 7, 7pm
- Graduation: June 2 (DoubleTree at 6pm)
- Senior FT coming up (date TBD)

Comments:

- J. Gehman suggested branching out to other colleges and N. Garress explained how we have gone further out, but now we are limited and focused where scholars are interested.
- J. Gehman then suggested we look into where scholars go to college and A. Ferg expressed how tracking alumni is important.

B. Finance Committee (Ted Darcus, Treasurer)

- Finance Report, 2022-2023 Budget Planning
- Met 3/22 with no voting as the budget is due next month and we are working through the process.
- No contracts to vote on, but the vendor for food is looking more positive, so perhaps we keep the vendor with improvements.
- Enrollment is a bit low.
- Looking at the staff budget financially in order to retain and recruit staff.
- Despite the current surplus, we cannot rely on that in the future.

C. Governance Committee (Colleen Wagner, President)

- Action Item: Staff Resignation
 - Resignation of Social Media and Marketing Coordinator T. Darcus moved; C. Graupera seconded; motion approved unanimously.
- Action item: 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan
 - Looking at improvement plan (in packet)
 - Committed (in packet)

Comments:

- J. Gehman what does teaching the whole student mean and A. Ferg stated that it was more than academics, but social and emotional health.
- C. Wagner stated that tactical timelines and measurements will be implemented once approved.
- Board, committee, leadership, staff are all tied into meetings to make sure action steps are moving forward.
- T. Darcus makes motion; C. Boyd seconded; unanimously approved.

IV. New Business

- C. Graupera states that the SDoL is freezing dual language, maybe this is an opportunity for us.
- A. Ferg explained that LAPCS could run into the same issue with teaching staff as SDoL, as it depends on certifications.
- C. Wagner asked if we could find out which SDoL teachers are certified and in what subject or if there were possible retirees willing to join LAPCS.
- C. Biyd stated that the strategic plan find our niche (bringing Spanish speaking teachers).
- A. Lopez asked if we were locked into this area or are we advertising for teachers in other areas in PA and A. Ferg explained that we use Indeed and PA Educator for recruitment.
- T. Jones clarified that it was the dual immersion program that was discontinued and that is realigning the district. He also stated that SDoL is looking at the buildings being not at capacity due to the ease of transferring between schools within the district from the changing of zones (some of our own scholars are that way). He further explained that this could put us at odds with the SDoL as a part of this process. G. Nyutu-Blackman explained the boundaries change is based on adjusting policy 206, which would allow switching between zones could possibly be implemented by SDoL.

V. Public Comments

- A. Lopez said that she appreciates all of the work put into dual enrollment.
- T. Darcus explained that this could be our Niche (dual enrollment).
- A. Ferg expressed the importance of early enrollment and dual enrollment (direct transfer of credits).
- A. Lopez said she was trying to get the PTO involved so parents are more involved.
- Colleen: Thaddeus Stevens is going for the scholars to be workforce ready.
- N. Garress explained that there are now four colleges involved in the program
- T. Jones expressed gratitude to C. Graupera's SACA connections help to provide these opportunities for scholars.

Important Board link:

- Statement of Financial Interest Forms (due May 1st): [Online](#) or [Printed](#) (please send to Steve Rally via email at srally@lapcs.org or in-person).

VI. Adjournment: 4:44 by C. Wagner

Next Meeting: April 27, 2022