



LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 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: Colleen Wagner (officer), Chris Boyd (officer), Ted Darcus (officer), Jessica Gehman, Leonel Silva, Carlos Graupera, Victor Ramos, James Rovito, Guy Kingree

Voting Members Not Present: Gloria Nyutu-Blackman, Carlos Graupera

Administration and Non-Voting Members Present: Mark Simms, Amy Ferg, Jasson Read, Steve Rally, Nicole Garress, Aidalis Lopez, Representatives from Omnivest.

Minutes Recorder: Emily Marks, Steve Rally (editor)

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call (4:03) Mark's first official meeting, Luis from SDOL came in person and was greeted by the board

II. Approval of August (should say "September" on the agenda as noted by C. Wagner)

Minutes: L. Silva motioned, T. Darcus seconded; approved unanimously

III. Reports and Action Items

A. School Management (Mr. Mark Simms, Mrs. Amy Ferg, Principal & Mr. Jasson Read, Director of School Finance & Operations)

- M. Simms read the mission and vision statement from the agenda and said that all agendas for Board meetings should circle back to the mission and vision
- M. Simms gave updates:
 - Staff wore Pink Lancaster shirts to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness
 - J. Read set up a meeting with People's Bank and the meeting was productive and that this is a good community partnership and resource for ways to secure funding
 - M. Simms noted that on Nov. 14th he would be meeting with Pedro Rivera from Thaddeus Stevens College and on the 22nd, he is meeting with Karen Wynn, Director of Curriculum & Instruction in SDOL to



- maintain collaboration and extend programs.
 - M. Simms explained that he is doing individual interviews (also called “conversations”) with staff members to get feedback from the team and that that information will be shared back to the team in order to identify areas of growth and improvement. He says he will report information back to leadership and then eventually faculty.
 - M. Simms had the leadership team in attendance introduce themselves
- A. Ferg Reported scholar enrollment is 203 and how many are on the waiting list
 - Amy mentioned the “wishlist” of a school psychologist and a fourth special education teacher
 - A. Ferg revealed a new policy manual, which entails checking current policies against other PA school policy manuals and changing and updating on an as-needed basis. The goal is to have the manual ready for Board approval by January 2023 and that this is to ensure consistency now and for future leadership
 - M. Simms added that this is necessary for litigation: if something happens and there is not an updated policy, it may become a legal issue.
 - A. Ferg additionally added that there is a shared Executive GoogleDrive so that all information is in one place and shared so that one person does not have control of all the information and policies.
 - ExtraGive
 - J. read explained the focus is reaching out to past donors via email and postal mail
 - Flyers will be sent home to scholars and to past donors. A social media blast will be done using sponsored ads (aiming to spend \$50 - 75 dollars on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn).
 - There will be a staff challenge: the five leaders will divide the staff into five teams and the goal is that the teams will compete to raise the most money
 - A. Lopez encouraged parent communication to mention that the donation minimum changed to \$10 and also asked how the scholars were being asked to participate; J. Raed responded that there will be a video that will include two scholars
 - L. Silva suggested tracking data of alumni who graduated and how many scholar families donate
 - CWagner reminded the team that there will be a \$500 Ken Hammel scholarship out of donations and also volunteered to write personal notes with post cards being sent out for Extra Give
 - L. Silva also mentioned that incentives do work for people, so he encouraged the team to consider that. Colleen reminded the board that they are aiming for 100% board participation
 - J. Read mentioned that the logo (created by our own Jason Cavell) is not out yet because it will be approved by the Board first.



- A. Ferg reminded the board that this is LAPCS's 25th anniversary
 - The gala to celebrate the anniversary will be held in March and will be a kick-off for a fundraiser
 - There is a gala committee that will search for venues and partners and community leaders will be invited, community leaders will be invited.
 - The date of the gala is connected to the timing of our re-charter.
 - L. Silva asked how large this event would be and J. Read postulated 175 at the least

- Upcoming Dates from A. Ferg: Nov. 16th Bard meeting moved up a week because of the holiday, November 18th is the Extraordinary Give.

- Staff Highlight: Nicole Garress, Director of SEL (all notes and events on slide deck)

- L. Silva added that a professor from F&M does research on levels of belongingness, and suggested LAPCS connects with him
- A. Ferg added that Ms. Rodriguez started the scholar of the month and reviewed each scholar on the slide deck
 - Mark noted that this was his first scholar assembly and mentioned he was impressed with scholar behavior and communal support the scholars showed when the scholars of the month were announced
- A. Ferg also mentioned that the SEL team is recognizing attendance monthly and recognizing honor roll
- C. Boyd recognized N. Garress for completing her principal certification and that this is part of the tuition reimbursement program
- C. Wagner commended M. Simms for his strong first 30 days and interviewing the staff
 - C. Boyd explained to M. Simms about the built in survey software that he can use

Community Partner: Madison DeWispelaere, who is the CEO - Obsidian Media Haus

- Canceled, but the slide was still shared and L. Silva mentioned that she did a great job with the leadership team headshots and mentioned that her company could be used for marketing in the future

B. Finance Committee (Ted Darcus, Treasurer)

- Finance Report: Meeting was held on 10/18/22
 - Omnivest, J. Read and M. Simms were present where scholar enrollment and open-enrollment for the health plan was discussed
 - Nov. 1st will begin cleaning services meetings, discussion about the van (already had board approval but team was looking to purchase), and annual audit is in progress



C. Governance Committee (Colleen Wagner, President)

- C. Wagner mentioned that most things discussed on the governance committee were discussed in general business and asked for support looking for two new Board members to be brought on by the end of fiscal year.
- C. Wagner told Board members that a survey will be sent out to do a skills set survey and mentioned she will again pass around by-laws
- Recharter - thanked team for working with SDOL
- C. Wagner reminded the Board that having vendors at meetings would keep relationships healthy and explained that board members will be asked to participate with this

IV. Executive Session (if needed)

V. New Business

- M. Simms asked if the members joining from Omnivest wanted to add to the discussion, but they declined, explaining that all questions were answered to this point.

VI. Public Comments

First PTO Meeting - November 7th at 5 PM

- N. Garress asked for a handout to be sent home and A. Lopez said she would translate it
- A. Lopez mentioned that a parent signed up to be part of PTO at Technology night
- C. Wagner asked that Ms. Lopez provides a PTO schedule to the Board
- Ms. Lopez mentioned having the two dually-enrolled scholars at Thaddeus present to the Board in some way

VII. Adjournment

C. Wagner adjourned at 4:55 PM

Next Meeting: November 16, 2022