



## **LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

#### **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), Gloria Nyutu-Blackman, Leonel Silva

**Voting Members Not Present:** Jessica Gehman, Carlos Graupera, James Rovito, Guy Kingree, Victor Ramos

**Administration, Non-Voting Members and Guests Present:** Mark Simms, Amy Ferg, Jasson Read, Nicole Garress, Gabriella Wertheim, Aidalis Lopez, Greg McGough

Minutes Recorder: Emily Marks; edited by Steve Rally

#### **AGENDA:**

##### **I. Call to Order / Roll Call**

- Called to order at 4:06 by C. Wagner
- Mission & Vision revisited & recited by C. Wagner

##### **II. Approval of January Minutes**

- Approval later by e-vote due to lack of quorum

##### **III. Reports and Action Items**

**A. School Management** (Mr. Mark Simms, CEO & Mr. Jasson Read, Director of School Finance & Operations)

- Recognized Ms. Marks's work with curriculum alignment and thanked her for taking notes in Mr. Rally's stead.

Updates

- Scholar Enrollment for 2022-2023: 205 **(206 as of 2/21/2023)**
  - Waiting list (29) - 6th Grade (9), 8th Grade (9), 9th Grade (8), 11th Grade



- (3) 12th grade
  - 2023-2024 Intent to Return and Application Now Open (02/06/2023)
    - 39 Intent to Returns completed
    - 9 New Scholar Applications
- Staffing
  - 1 Resignation - Biology Teacher
  - 2 Staff Moves - Physical Education Teacher & Paraprofessional
  - 1 Hire - Biology Teacher

Comments: Biology teacher cannot be approved because of quorum but will be approved next board meeting.

Question: C. Wagner asked about scholars being put in a queue in the waiting list before we hear back from existing scholars. M. Simms clarified that that was the case and our current scholars get first call on spots for next year.

Staff Highlight: Gabriella Wertheim, Supervisor of Scholar Services

- Years at LAPCS: 3
- Favorite Part of Working at LAPCS: Special Education and the freedom to create supports

G. Wertheim handed out the Special Education newsletters to all board members during her presentation and showed a trailer of a short film she is creating with both Special Ed scholars and teachers.

Portrait of a Graduate (see Board packet)

Mr. Simms presented a new image based off of Board feedback from the last board meeting.

Comments: L. Silva commented that he appreciated the definitions as words can be defined differently by different groups of people and that it was clear what it means to be a scholar here at LAPCS.

Mission/Vision (see Board packet)

M. Simms presented a slide that highlighted the edits from Board feedback. C. Wagner thanked the team for the edits.

**PTO: Presented by Ms. Adalis Lopez**

Goal: To establish a LAPCS PTO committee that will enhance the educational experiences of scholars and strengthen the relationship between home and school.



- Meets the first Monday of each month at 5PM
- Established Bylaws
- Recruiting new members and officers
- Hold Fundraisers
  - First Fundraiser - 1/28/23 at Christina's Criollos raised \$160
  - A. Lopez explained that she could not open an account without meeting minutes or official board recognition to confirm it is a valid account
  - This account would be passed on to the new PTO president after A. Lopez's scholar graduates

#### Upcoming Dates

- March 6, 2023 @ 5:00pm - PTO Meeting
- March 7, 2023 @ 6:30pm - SDOL Board Meeting - Recharter Presentation
- March 21, 2023 @ 7:00pm - SDOL Board Meeting - Recharter Vote
- March 22, 2023 @ 4:00pm - Board Meeting
- May 5, 2023 - Hispanic Heritage Night (Barnstormers)
- May 19, 2023 - Prom
- May 31, 2023 @ 6:00pm - Graduation at DoubleTree

#### Comments:

- C. Wagner asked about checks and balances with signed checks in the new PTO by-laws. A. Lopez explained that it will require two out of three required signatures to cash a check.
- J. Read asked if PTO funds would be a separate line item or completely separate from school finances. Ian Croggan from Omninvest replied that the PTO would be a separate entity.
- M. Simms asked Eric from Omninvest if the PTO wanted to make a donation to the school, would that be able to be a separate line item, and Ian Croggan from Omninvest again replied that that is correct.
- A. Lopez passed out a summary of fundraisers that has happened so far during the school year and explained that that is going to act as a form for accountability.
- L. Silva summarized that Ms. Lopez wants a letter from the board that approves an account but that it is a separate account, and Ms. Lopez affirmed that this was correct.
- C. Wagner said that an email could be sent out for approval, and then asked Ms. Lopez how soon she needed approval, and A. Lopez said within the next two weeks, so before the next board meeting. C. Wagner then asked if the newly written bi-laws were reviewed by legal counsel, but A. Lopez said that that question needed to be reviewed by A. Ferg and that the same question stood for



the Booster Club bylaws.

**B. Finance Committee** (Ted Darcus, Treasurer)

- Finance meeting was 2/21/2023 via Zoom where the audit was discussed and confirmed the number of special education scholars versus general education scholars.
- Discussed the gala and the prices associated with the event
- Omnivest and J. Read will be working on the 2023/2024 budget and looking for that to returned by April.
- Discussion of potential excess funds and how to use that money as investments; Mr. Simms is going to be working with Omnivest and Fulton Bank to do short-term investment.
  
- T. Darcus asked if Omnivest had anything to share about numbers:
  - In the month, there was ESSR revenue
  - \$9,000 in IDA money
  - Pointed out a focus on line-items comparisons against budget
  - \$98,000 loss, looking for ESSR funds to fill in the gap
- J. Read and M. Simms clarified that there aren't excess funds but that this is a discussion about how to invest excessive funds for a few months to keep them liquid if those funds exist.
- L. Silva asked if there was ever a discussion about an endowment and J. Read responded that that was a discussion that could be had and to make it an agenda item for the Finance Committee.

**C. Personnel Committee** (Christopher Boyd, Vice President)

Action Item: Staff Hire/Moves/Resignation

C. Boyd explained that M. Simms did go over all highlights and that an e-vote needed to be sent because of quorum

**D. Governance Committee** (Colleen Wagner, President)

Action Item: Mission/Vision/Portrait of a Graduate  
Union Health Addendum to MOU

Comments: C. Wagner updated everyone on the addendum to have a certified school nurse that A. Ferg already approved and thanked everyone for sending out the "Save the Dates" for the gala.

**IV. Executive Session**

- Recharter presentation to voting members



**V. New Business**

- None

**VI. Public Comments**

- None

**VII. Adjournment**

- Adjourned at 5:13 PM by C. Wagner

**Next Meeting: March 22, 2023**