



LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING

JANUARY 25, 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, Jessica Gehman, Leonel Silva, Carlos Graupera, Victor Ramos, James Rovito, Guy Kingree Leonel Silva

Administration and Non-Voting Members Present: Mark Simms, Amy Ferg, Jasson Read, Nicole Garress Steve Rally, Aidalis Lopez, Greg McGough, Scott Henry

Minutes Recorder: Steve Rally

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call: 4:06 by C. Wagner

- Reading of the mission/vision by C. Wagner

II. Approval of December Minutes (with minor revisions)

- T. Darcus motioned; G. Kingree seconded; approved unanimously

III. Reports and Action Items

A. Finance Committee (Ted Darcus, Treasurer)

- Audit Presentation by Scott Henry, Senior manager, who thanked those involved. There is copy of the audit in the Board folder
- Action Items: 2021-2022 Audit T. Darcus motioned, G. Nyutu-Blackman seconded, approved unanimously.

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

Updates:

- Scholar Enrollment for 2022-2023: 205
- Waiting list (28) - 6th Grade (10), 8th Grade (10), 9th Grade (5), 11th Grade (3)

Staffing

- 1 Resignation - Physical Education Teacher



Staff Highlight

- Irene Aco Cortes (enrollment coordinator)
 - Shared some things about herself and how she likes to provide service to the community.
 - C. Boyd asked how the Board can support her recruitment and enrollment efforts and she answered that we need to invest more into the website and spread the word about who we are.
 - Jasson read mentioned that she took her time to sit down with all of the parents to guide them in the application process

Mission, Vision, and Portrait of a Graduate

- Mark explained the LAPCS Mission/Vision rework and Portrait of a Graduate. Further explained to the Board how the community contributed (leadership, staff, and scholars) to both.
 - V. Ramos thanked the leadership team for developing the mission/vision from a community perspective and asked if these were core values.
 - A. Ferg replied that it was not necessarily the case, but that this is a conversation we can have.
 - A. Lopez asked if it would be used in the school or recruitment and if they will be posted.
 - M. Simms answered “yes” to all of the above and added that these were not force-fed. This was a collaboration and this is what should drive our work and parents should know that these are the things that we are going to impress upon scholars.
 - A. Ferg further explained the unveiling would be at the 25th Anniversary Gala and we would then have the graphics printed and it would be part of the branding.
 - Board members then offered feedback, such as rewording, adding the Portrait of Graduate as values, and that the Board should vote on them.

Extra give update on Board slideshow (J. Read)

Comments: J. Gehman asked if the stretch pool funds were used in the prior years and J. Read asked that they were and that number is determined by the number of donors and then added that we are learning from this year to do better in the future.

C. Wagner reminded the administration that Colleen that we should use the Board as resources.

Director of SEL (Ms. Nicole Garress)

- We are going for Tier 1 PBIS Recognition this year!
- Small Groups happening now:



- Project ME (Lead by Cobys)
- Positive action school (Lead by Compass Mark)
- Conflict resolution, social support, and self esteem small groups
- Fulton Bank is coming in to teach our scholars about savings accounts, credit and budgeting.

Comments: J Gehman asked about Junior Achievement and A. Ferg said she hasn't seen it at our level 6-12).

Upcoming Dates

- January 28, 2023 - Fundraiser at Christina Criollo's (Central Market)
 - T. Darcus asked if every sale was going towards the fundraiser and A. Lopez responded that it was.
 - M. Simms added that we should encourage people to express that they are at the fundraiser to support LAPCS and Christina's.
- 10am-3pm
- 20% of sales donated to PTO
- February 15, 2023 - Q3 PBIS Incentive
- February 13 & 15 - FAFSA days
- May 19, 2023 - Prom (Tentative)
- May 31, 2023 - Graduation at DoubleTree, 6:00pm

C. Governance Committee (Colleen Wagner, President)

Action Item: Staff Hire

- Resignation of PE teacher: C. Boyd motioned, J. Gehman seconded, approved unanimously.
- Hire of school psychologist (Lopez): V. Ramos motioned, G. Kingree seconded, approved unanimously.

IV. Executive Session: Held to discuss recharter. T. Darcus motioned to end the executive session; V. Ramos seconded; approved unanimously.

V. New Business: none

VI. Public Comments: A. Lopez said that January is national school board appreciation month and she said a few kind words about our Board members.

VII. Adjournment: 5:52pm

Next Meeting: February 22, 2023