



## **LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 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), Jessica Gehman, Leonel Silva, Gloria Nyutu-Blackman, Carlos Graupera, Victor Ramos, James Rovito, Guy Kingree

**Voting Members Not Present:** Ted Darcus (officer), Carlos Graupera

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

**Minutes Recorder:** Steve Rally

#### **AGENDA:**

**I. Call to Order / Roll Call:** 4:04 by C. Boyd

**II. Approval of August Minutes:** G. Kingree motioned, G. Nyutu-Blackman second; approved unanimously.

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

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

Staff Highlight: Sean Kennedy, Systems Administrator & ESports Coach

- S. Kennedy gave a brief presentation on his time at LAPCS.  
Comments: C. Boyd asked how the Board can support the eSports program and S. Kennedy expressed interest in having eSports jerseys and decals.

J. Gehman said that the school could apply for a grant through her employer and will provide application information.

Community Partner: Design Data, Mark Hutchinson

- Explained role as a partner with LAPCS



- **Comments:**
  - C Boyd asked about other vertical markets that Design Data is involved with and the answer was that the top is nonprofits.
  - C. Boyd asked about the steps for the Board to help support staff and scholars with technology and it was stated that the number one priority was the one to one technology and, going forward, we are moving forward with looking into changing infrastructure and IT security with the Cloud.
  - M. Simms asked about the concern about the life of a Chromebook and the answer was that it depends on how they are handled. End life is about 3-4 years due to licensing, but the bigger issue is how scholars handle the chromebooks. Scholars need to take ownership and take care of the chromebooks. Balance of repairable or just replaceable.
  - C. Boyd asked how the Board could support Design Data with the answer as the progressive scholar buy-in with the organization.
  
- **Scholar Enrollment for 2022-2023: 203**
  - Waiting list - 6th Grade (6), 8th Grade (6), 9th Grade (1), 11th Grade (2)

Comments: G. Kingree asked what the fully enrolled number of scholars and A. Ferg answered that 205 is what the budget is based on.
  
- **Staffing**
  - Fully Staffed!

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

Finance Report (J. Read)  
(See report in Board folder)

Action Items: Health Insurance Approval  
(See options in th Board folder)

- A. Lopez asked about changing employee contributions and A. Ferg explained that we could not increase the employee cost
- M. Simms asked what this plan has looked like in other organizations and the Omnivest representative stated that there was a savings of 15 to 20 percent, but that the timeframe should be at least three to four years for full implementation.
- J. Read said that we could be fined so we would have to come up with a procedure.
- V. Ramos: some institutions offer some employees incentives to opt out to save money.



- C. Boyd would like to explore this and create a risk log and vote virtually.
- It was decided to table the discussion for now and hold an e-vote.

**\*\*Unanimously approved 10/4/22 via electronic vote.**

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

- See the Board folder for Allocation of Safely and Security
- Board session planning for new Board members (fill two spots by the end of the year) and prefer a background with a financial education and passion for the community that we serve.

**Action Items:**

- Staff Handbook: G. Nyutu-Blackman made a motion; V. Ramos seconded; approved unanimously.
- Hires/Resignations hires: G. Kingree motioned; G. Nyutu-Blackman seconded; approved unanimously.

Note: creating a building committee to expand the building or purchase another.

**IV. Executive Session (if needed)**

**V. New Business**

- Golf outing: create interaction with the community.
- J. Read explained that we were invited back to the PA Charter School Conference, which is great exposure for the school and possible funding could result.

**VI. Public Comments**

- A. Lopez: PTO will work hard to get more parents involved for the future. C. Boyd suggested posting on social media and N. Garres added that we should hand out fliers at dismissal.
- M. Simms commented that he is thrilled and happy to be “at the table.”

**VII. Adjournment:** 5:09 C. Boyd

**Next Meeting: October 26, 2022**