

Board of Directors Meeting  
January 12, 2009  
**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Dave Cozad, President  
Mike Zeller, Vice President  
Kirk Farmer  
Brian Henderson  
Melissa Thomas  
Jane Alley  
Pam Gard  
Harriet Charno  
Herb Hardwick

Meeting called to order by Dave Cozad with introductions of board and staff present.

Dave Cozad then opened the meeting asking for questions, concerns, and comments from guests present. There were none.

**Board Update – Dave Cozad**

Dave Cozad stated that the Board proposed and approved that the board could increase the current number of board members from 9 to 12 if deemed necessary. He then introduced Steven Green, a possible candidate for an Academie Lafayette board seat. Mr. Green then gave a brief verbal vitae of himself.

**Parent Association Update – Annie Moren**

- Book Fair with Reading Reptile coming in February with dates to be announced with a book selection in French and English.
- Trash bag sale is in progress and the end date is Feb. 10. Mike Zeller informed the group that funds from the sale help fund the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip as well as field trips and other academic activities.
- Evening in Paris is a big fundraiser and plans are in the works for this year's big event.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved prior to the meeting. The minutes have been posted to the website.

**Principals Report – Eric Nelis**

Eric Nelis said that the first day back from break was a normal day and everyone, including the staff, seemed excited to be back in school.

He then asked Patrick Sprehe to give an update on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip. Patrick Sprehe mentioned that the students were planning to go to New Orleans. He also mentioned that he has been encouraging the students to work on organizing and funding their trip. They have raised approx. \$1,000 in bake sales, pizza parties, etc. to date.

### **Stanford Test Analysis – Eric Roskam**

Mr. Roskam gave a presentation on the results from the Stanford Test. He stated that students take two tests, MAP and Stanford and that the information gathered is evaluated to determine the progress of their studies and how we can help to improve the students levels in all subject areas tested. He proceeded with a lengthy explanation and discussion of how the scores are analyzed by the national scoring system and how we utilize these results to the advantage of our students. He did mention that our students do continue to score above average.

### **Finance Committee Report**

No report.

### **Development Committee Report – Rachael Gordon**

Approx. \$8,000 has come in to date. A meeting with the Hall Foundation is scheduled and our proposal to them is for \$300,000 which would cover after school programs including bussing. Dave Cozad asked how many students could be included in this amount if it is awarded. Eric Nelis then added that after discussion it is recommended that the student's teacher who would be more in tune with the areas in which they need improvement do the tutoring.

### **Human Resources**

No Report

### **Academic Committee Report**

No Report

### **Building Expansion Report – Kirk Farmer**

Kirk Farmer informed the group that we are currently looking at building on to this facility adding additional classrooms and a common area. He gave an explanation of how we are currently looking to finance this expansion. He did mention that due to the economic constraints, it has been difficult to obtain the funding as originally planned.

He mentioned that we are looking at other options including an off-site location. Dave Cozad then mentioned that we had a 5-year vision and explained that the first plan was to raise some of the dollars for expansion by fundraising and through outside financing. He also mentioned that our diversity is declining and our method of enrollment and recruitment needed to be changed and improvement in this area is in progress.

Kirk then explained that our current facility is constrained, i.e.. parking, accommodating parents at programs, and having space for the increase in students. He mentioned that an

off-site campus is an option and is being considered. He explained that it would need to be a former school and the discussion is to put kindergarteners in the off-site facility. He informed the group that the former B. Banneker School had been toured as a possible off-site location.

Jane Alley then asked that we consider whether or not we want to increase our total number of students and if so, to what number. A parent then asked why we want to expand to accommodate more students which would cause an overflow problem in the future.

Dave Cozad asked teachers if they felt that an off-site campus would be more beneficial to kindergartners. Ridley Thomas, kindergarten teacher, mentioned that he feels that the kindergartners benefit from being in a building with french speakers all day and older students which helps not only with language, but behavior. Debra Hussey, parent, also commented on how beneficial the experience is in the building with older students and that families also want their students in the same building with students in older grades.

A future kindergarten parent commented that she enrolled her child with the anticipation of being accepted into the school and is upset because of the lottery. Eric Nelis then explained that the lottery is required due to a state law in place for public schools when experiencing over enrollment (more students in any given grade than space allows). Open discussion followed.

Herb Hardwick informed the group present that we are actively working on a possible solution to our growth problem and asked for patience from the families.

A parent then mentioned that she felt that Academie Lafayette was providing misleading information to future parents regarding enrollment and acceptance and would rather have a trailer here to keep all students together rather than off campus. The question was raised as to how parents can help replicate what we currently have by adding an additional campus K-8. Another parent asked how the diversity of the school would be affected by the lottery and that diversity in the school was important to her. It was also mentioned that the entire community should be informed about the possible changes. Discussion followed at length.

Eric Nelis explained that it would be beneficial for kindergartners to have their own building and gave several advantages to an off-site campus (kindergarten center). He mentioned that we have a good plan for providing an excellent education to kindergartners off-site. Lengthy discussion continued.

Dave Cozad proposed that kindergarten classes be moved off-site and we accept all kindergartners enrolled for next year and evaluate how the year progresses to determine whether or not we should continue with two campuses.

Patrick Sprehe then read comments from the teachers regarding the expansion onto two campuses with regard to the division of students. The question of keeping the same

number of teachers was also discussed and Eric Nelis stated that the goal is to maintain the same number of teachers even though some may need to be moved around within the school.

Herb Hardwick then informed the group that the board would continue to discuss and evaluate numbers and work on bringing a recommendation back to the next board meeting. It was then suggested that information be disseminated throughout the Academie Lafayette community including families of current kindergartners enrolled for 2009.

It was then recommended that a motion be made regarding acceptance of kindergarten students for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

**Motion**

Herb Hardwick proposed that for next year Academie Lafayette will accept the 135 students who have enrolled prior to Dec. 15, 2008, provided that we can develop a facilities and a financial plan to accommodate them. The Academie Lafayette board will consider the possibility of operating a 2<sup>nd</sup> campus with a lease in favourable terms doing due diligence in indemnity and acceptable cost of having a second operation in place. Mike Zeller seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The Board unanimously approved.

Discussion followed and it was decided that sending a letter explaining the proposed plan followed by an open forum after a final plan has been developed, would be the most informative way to communicate with parents of kindergarten applicants.

Dave Cozad then moved to go into closed session to discuss real estate issues.

Roll call vote was taken.

Dave Cozad	Yes
Mike Zeller	Yes
Kirk Farmer	Yes
Brian Hendrickson	Yes
Melissa Thomas	Yes
Jane Alley	Yes
Herb Hardwick	Yes
Pam Gard	Yes
Harriet Charno	Yes

The open meeting was then adjourned and the Board went into closed session.

Respectfully submitted by,