

**Academie Lafayette
Board of Director's Meeting
March 8, 2021
MINUTES**

Board Members President:

Jon Otto, President
Michael Bland, Vice President
Beth McCarthy
Michele Markham
Tanya Heinen
Gwen Poss
Marvin Lyman
Harriet Plowman

Board Members Absent:

Kelly Baker

Staff Present:

Elimane Mbengue, Head of School
Jacque Lane
Dr. Martza Paul
Jean Claude Diatta
Robyn King
Heather Royce
Carlos McClain

Guests:

Dana Cutler
Alonda Lona

Meeting Called to Order

Jon Otto, President, opened the March 8, 2021 Board meeting at 6:40 p.m. and welcomed the group to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Jon Otto, President, asked for a motion to approve the agenda presented.

Motion

Michele Markham moved to approve the agenda. Harriet Plowman seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

Approval of February Minutes

Jon Otto, President, requested approval of the February minutes

Motion

Gwen Poss moved to approve the February Board minutes. Michael Bland seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

PTO UPDATE – Alonda Lona

- EIP being planned.
- Tentative game night being planned.
- Continuing to raise funds.
- Next meeting is April 7, 2021.

Head of School Report – Elimane Mbengue

- Spring Break begins on March 15th
- Re-opening Committee met and decision made to vaccinate teachers in conjunction with Truman Med. Center beginning in late March with second dose in mid-April. Due to possible side effects, it is being discussed to hold on-line classes the day after the second dose vaccine is given to staff. Parents will be informed ASAP when decision is made.
- 6-9 grade students and teachers are tested for COVID on a weekly basis.
- Opening 4 days will be discussed.
- Staff vaccinations and new variant updates and reopening criteria discussed.
- Question raised on number of teachers willing to be tested.
- Question regarding whether or not any students or teachers have tested positive in 6th – 9th grades was raised and the response was NO.
- Program Update
 - March 3 – Parent-Teacher Conferences.
 - Survey parents for learning options after returning from Spring break.
 - Reading week at Oak, Book fair at Cherry in progress.
 - Hiring for 2021-2022 K-9 is ongoing.
 - Discussed how AL is helping struggling students.
 - Diversity and Inclusion continuing to be a focus in classrooms and school as a whole.
 - NWEA and MAP testing in April and May.
- School Technology
 - Most students have picked up their chromebooks for the 1 on 1 program and an additional day is scheduled for pick up by parents.
 - Erate has been posted for Federal Grant for tech hardware/software along with ongoing tech support for staff and students.
- Planning for 2021-2022 Staffing
 - Hiring needs presented and discussed as well as new positions. Budget for hiring of staff discussed.

Jon Otto asked for a motion to approve the FTE's for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion

Marvin Lyman moved to approve hiring of 7.5 FTE's for K-12 and administration for the upcoming school year. Harriet Plowman seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

Question

How many staff have been hired to date. Three – four have currently been signed.

Discussion

Admissions and Enrollment Update – Robyn King

- Open kindergarten seats available at Cherry 1 seat; Oak, 7 seats 1st grade open seats Cherry 1 and Oak 6.
- Lottery was held and notifications have been sent. 250 applicants qualified for Kindergarten lottery and there are 45 on the kindergarten waitlist. Discussion held regarding low waitlist number.
- Total enrollment breakdown provided. The number of intent to return 8th graders going into 9th grade was presented. Applicants for 10th grade also presented.
- Comparison of applications were provided.
- Community forum scheduled for Tues., March 9th.
- Pre-school open house scheduled for Thurs., March 25th.
- Pre-school graduation TBA.
- Mobile ads success rate discussed.
- Board gave kudos to Robyn for successful recruitment ventures.

Finance Report – Jacque Lane

Accounts Payables for February presented for review and approval. After discussion and a detail explanation of expenses, Jon Otto asked for a motion to approve.

Motion

Harriet Plowman moved to approve the February accounts payable and Marvin Lyman seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

- Additional building and maintenance costs as a result of COVID 19 presented and explanations provided.
- Budget info presented.
- DESE basic formula and Prop C payments presented and explained.
- Revenue Forecast presented and explanation given regarding being adjusted based on enrollment and basic formula.

- ADA as it pertains to actual budget presented and discussed.
- Revenue budget to actual presented and discussed.
- Revenue all sources Actual YTD and forecast compared. Lengthy discussion followed.
- Expenditures Budget to actual presented and discussed.
- Expenses – actual YTD and projected as they compare to budget
- Updated forecast with regards to revenue and expenses as well as YTD actual and projections presented and discussed.
- Finance updates presented.

Development Committee Update – Michele Markham

- Celia Liptak, new Development Director is on board and moving forward with current and new development plans.
- Onboarding in progress.
- Plan outline has been developed through next year.
- Initial gaps identified and requested.
- Monthly committee meeting agenda outlined.
- Donor Perfect meeting March 9th.
- Planning next annual fund email appeal.

Discussion regarding the campaign which still requires completion in regards to the Cherry Campus expansion and how the donations will be used.

Diversity Committee Report – Beth McCarthy

- Staff and admin. Diversity professional development continuing.
- Additional members being added to committee.
- Discussion being held to relaunch parent series discussion groups regarding diversity and inclusion.

Governance Committee Update – Beth McCarthy

Beth McCarthy stated that the MCPSA is asking that charter schools adopt a Policy regarding military children as follows:

“Approve an Interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children policy”

Motion

Marvin Lyman moved to accept and adopt the policy to “Approve an Interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children policy” and Harriet Plowman seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve

- Board parent-elect position being evaluated with regards to the election.

President’s Update – Jon Otto

- Fix the glitch continuing.
- Discussed a possible in person meeting for the future (to be held outside).

- Michael Bland brought up the possibility of broadening military policy to include all students who may need to be displaced or move for various reasons. Jon Otto suggested discussing with legal counsel and possibly putting it on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Question regarding how to improve attendance was mentioned in terms of how to promote better attendance.

Adjournment

Jon Otto, President, adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.