

**Académie Lafayette
Board of Director's Meeting
May 10, 2021**

MINUTES

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Tanja Heinen

Staff Present:

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

Guests

Dana Cutler, Legal Counsel

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Jon Otto, President.

Approval of Agenda

Jon Otto, President asked for approval of agenda with amendment being made.
Agenda Revision: Move "Item 9 to Item 5 position on the agenda.

Motion

Michael Bland moved to approve agenda as amended. Harriet Plowman seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

Stakeholder Comments

Jamie Anderson spoke regarding children wearing masks and expressed her concerns. The following statement was given.

- Research about kids wearing masks indicates that children 12 and under should not be masked due to health, mental and other issues that can occur. Asking that AL lift mask mandate.

Approval of Minutes

Jon Otto, President, asked for approval of April minutes.

Motion

Gwen Poss moved to approve April minutes as presented. Michele Markham seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

PTO Update – Sarah Clark

- May 28 – field day
- Back to school picnic planned for next year.
- Family Feud activity as a family event being planned.
- New Belongings Committee has been established. This committee will help new parents become better oriented to the school.
- Posting open PTO position for next school year.
- EIP being planned for next school year.

Finance Committee Report – Jacqu Lane

- April accounts payable reviewed and payments explained with regards to: transportation, food service, Covid testing and chrome book purchases were presented with explanations.

Motion

Harriet Plowman moved to accept the April accounts payables as presented. Marvin Lyman seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

- DESE Basic Formula & Prop C payments and adjusted monthly payments presented.
- Revenue Budget to Actual explained.
- Expenditures Budget to Actual discussed.
- Summary of Expenditures budget to actual to include revenue and expenses provided in detail.
- Finance Updates reviewed to include preliminary budget, summer school and enrollment. Forecast: based on current information and assumptions of payments, amount of payment updated to \$8,500 per pupil.
- Current projections discussed and explanations provided.

Development Committee Report – Celia Laptak

- Working to create and develop the development calendar for 2020-2021 school year.
- Developing materials content that will address confidence and positivity for AL.

- Meeting with Foundation partners and identifying opportunities as well as supporting AL's struggles and achievements.

Governance Committee Report – Beth McCarthy

- Nomination of Board officers for 2021-2023. Proposed officers Beth McCarthy, Pres.; Michael Bland, VP. Recommendation is that Michele Markham be nominated for Secretary position. Discussion regarding proposed nominations. Decided that nominations will remain open until next board meeting.
- Update on board terms and parent-election provided and discussed.
- Open board positions discussed and board members were asked for recommendations of potential candidates for board seats.
- Parent-elect candidates discussed.
- Board Retreat planned for June 26. Discussion followed.
- Suggestion made to hold retreat and possibly hold July board meeting in person. Discussion followed.
- Tentative agenda for retreat shared and explanation of items to be discussed and projected outcome of the agenda items and plans to focus on particular areas noted indicating proposed final planned outcome.

Diversity Committee Report – Kelly Baker

- Two parent series discussions were presented in April. One presentation was on the KC Star's article.
- Teachers from each building have joined the committee.
- Committee priorities have been defined:
 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) in the classroom
 - Engaging the broader community and families in DEI work
 - Exploring a survey tool
 - Follow up with admin. to see how racial bias is handled in the classrooms.
 - How to support transgender students" in the school

Head of School Report – Elimane Mbengue

Robyn King presented enrollment updates.

- Student Enrollment and Demographics presented.
- 2021-2022 enrollment numbers for each campus provided.
- Returning 9th & 10th grade student numbers reported. Discussion.
- 1st pre-K graduation is Sunday, June 13th 12 noon at Emmanuel Family Child and Development Center.
- Panelist: The Impact of Covid 19 on Education.

Mr. Mbengue provided the following comments:

- More students re opting to come into the building in person.
- Children's Mercy will do a risk-mitigation walk through of each campus.
- Plans to offer online option if DESE allows.

- School Culture update: - School Council met to interview parent-elect candidates for board position.
- The board election is being held from May 7 – May 12th
- 8th grade graduation will be held at Scottish Rite Temple on May 27, at 6:00 p.m.
- MAP testing going well with on-line students being tested on Wednesdays.
- NWEA results communicated to 3rd & 4th grade parents.
- NWEA testing begins for 1st & 2nd grades.
- Working with K-2 teachers to develop a student support plan and student promotion process.
- Hiring for 2021-22 for K-9 is ongoing.
- New teachers from abroad - hiring process discussed.
- Ed Fuel: Quality Recruitment Seminar – SchoolSmart KC is funding the partnership with Ed Fuel to assist with recruitment, hiring, onboarding and staffing.
- Teacher Recognition for each campus presented. All Kindergarten teachers at Oak & Cherry campuses; Catherine Gatera/Oak; Cheikh Niang/Oak; Mamadou/Armour; Liz Seely/Armour.
- Jon Otto suggested spotlighting a teacher at each board meeting.

President's Report – Jon Otto

- MSPSA Update – Legislative “Fix the Glitch” bill has partially passed through the Senate (House Bill 137 and Senate Bill 55). Explanation of Bills provided.
- MO Charter School Conference in Columbia on Oct. 6 & 7th.
- Comment made regarding method of teaching Black History being discussed in Legislation
- Building Committee will report at next meeting.
- First track team meet was held last Friday.

With no further business, Jon Otto adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.