

Académie Lafayette  
Board of Director's Meeting  
August 9, 2021

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Beth McCarthy, President  
Michael Bland, Vice President  
Kelly Baker  
Michele Markham  
Harriett Plowman  
Jon Otto  
Gwen Poss  
Dr. Jennifer Goldman  
Marvin Lyman  
Jon Otto

**Staff Present:**

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

**Guests Present:**

Alonda Lona  
Katie Rouse  
Kevin Klinkenberg

**Meeting Opened**

Meeting opened at 6:31 p.m. by Beth McCarthy, President.

**Approval of Agenda**

Beth McCarthy, President, asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

***Motion***

Jon Otto approved minutes pending modification to Amendment A. Harriet Plowman seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

### **Stakeholder Comments**

Beth McCarthy asked for stakeholder comments. Kevin Klinkenberg requested to speak regarding COVID Policies.

- Disagrees with policy of masking young children.

### **Approval of July Minutes**

Beth McCarthy asked for a motion to approve the July minutes.

### ***Motion***

Harriett Plowman moved to approve the July minutes as presented. Kelly Baker seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

### **PTO Report – Alonda Lona**

- Tentative PTO Board Meeting scheduled for the end of August.
- September all school PTO meeting scheduled.
- Plans to promote excitement within the school community regarding back to school.

### **Bellwether Update – Katie Rouse**

Ms. Rouse gave a detailed presentation of the organizational structure and team sustainability plan. She stated that she had met with administration and some staff regarding how to refine our organization structure to increase effectiveness and sustainability. The purpose will be to discuss and provide recommendations and benchmarks from the current review.

Comparisons were made across the board with other charter schools in KCMO and in other cities/states.

Details of how to better support and elevate models to improve team responsibilities and reporting structures provided.

Recommendations for improvement were provided.

Mr. Mbengue explained why this assessment was performed. KC School Smart allocated funds to allow for this review by Bellwether.

Board President provided comments on importance of the evaluation.

Discussion followed.

### **Finance Report – Jacque Lane**

- DESE payments, KCPS
- Actual YTD and projections
- Federal Program update
- CSP grant update
- Finance Comm. review of Capital Accounts
- eRate – motion requested to approve the discounted erate
- Accounts payable for July presented for review and approval

***Motion***

Harriett Plowman moved to approve accounts payable for July. Michele Markham seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

Finance items presented and discussed:

- Enrollment budget to actuals
- DESE basic formula and Prop C
- Revenue budget to actuals
- Expenditures budget to actuals
- Revenue and Expenditures presented and detailed description of each item provided.
- Forecast, budget and Variance update
- e/Rate discount explained as well as how eRate would help in specific purchases and services.

***Motion***

Harriett Plowman moved to approve the discounted eRate total for up to \$95,000 to purchase needed WiFi switches, routers and threat protection for all campuses. Jon Otto seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

Other Finance Update presented:

- Budget: Amendments for increased ADA and federal carryover
- Summer School
- June final totals accurate; coding ESSER and Title changes
- Capital needs summary
- ESSER II Expense for window upgrades at Oak
- ESSER III meeting requirements for community input into budget

**Development Report – Celia Liptak**

- Structured the Development Comm. with sub-committees to assist on a better focus of particular tasks.
- Executing the fundraising efforts for this year’s annual raffle.
- Development Committee tentative calendar presented.
- Development fundraising report for 2020-21 presented.

**Governance Report – Michele Markham**

- Board training was discussed.

- Identifying new charter sponsor (discussion held with UCM about possible affiliation after the end of the sponsorship).
- H-1B meeting planned with Immigration Attorney regarding sponsors involvement with visas.
- Policy approval: DESE local compliance.  
Discussion followed regarding potential sponsors.

***Motion***

Marvin Lyman moved to approve DESE local compliance. Harriett Plowman seconded. Board **VOTED** to approve.

Beth McCarthy mentioned that the Board of Director’s would receive information on expected annual commitments.

**Head of School Report – Elimane Mbengue**

- Recognized staff for successful summer school.
- Recognized high school team for work done during the summer months.
- Recognized Title I Coordinator.

**Enrollment Report – Robyn King**

- Incoming enrollment numbers presented as well as the waitlist numbers.
- Overall district demographics and demographics for each campus presented.

**Summer School Enrollment and Attendance**

- Total enrollment – Cherry 383; Oak 399; and Armour 134
- Summer school ADA presented.
- Summer school COVID-19 report provided.

**New Hires**

- New hires from US France, Belgium, Mali, Senegal.
- Teachers from Belgium have received their visas without delay.
- Teachers from France are still waiting for visa appointments – letters have been sent to American Consulate to request assistance with scheduling appointments.
- The French Consul General in Chicago has been helping with visa appointments.
- New teacher orientation has been taking place. Discussion followed.
- 2021-22 hiring priorities discussed.
- Full time opening for in-person learning instructor
- Physical safety and social emotional needs for students addressed.
- Academic needs are being addressed.
- Providing academic support to all struggling students.

**Facilities and Equipment**

- Starting time changes: Oak and Cherry 8:15 and Armour 8:00 am.
- Additional desks ordered due to social distancing.

- Working on getting all phases of new school year in place.
- Federal eRate approved.

**Covid-19 Plan and key points presented and discussed**

- Learning Models
- Masks
- Quarantine
- In-cohort transmission procedure presented
- Lunch plan
- Online learning options by grade level presented

***Motion***

Motion made to approve the Special Education Local Compliance Plan. Board VOTED to approve.

**Diversity Committee Update – Kelly Baker**

Committee has not met, but plan on meeting next week. Discussed how to track the goals of the committee and report that information back to the board.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Beth McCarthy, President.