

**Larchmont Charter School & Larchmont Charter School—West Hollywood
MINUTES May 28, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
815 N El Centro Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90038**

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 8:07 AM by Danny Corwin, Chair.
- Names with “X” indicates present:

Board of Directors:			
Corwin, Danny (Chair)	X	Francis, Marya (Sec)	X
Straub, Gene	X	Loeb, Gabi (Treas)	X
Boylston, Heather (founding parent)	X	Wright, Richard	X
Cade, Carl	X	Young, Amber	
Dragon, Kriste	X		

Larchmont Schools & ExED Staff with special guests:			
Droege, Kristin (Principal)	X	Wagner, Carrie (ExED)	
Johnson, Brian (Ex Dir)	X	Joe Meza (ExED)	
Patton, Dolores (Principal)	X	Winnen, Margaret (Busi Manager)	X
Danielson, Chava (Architect)	X	Joshua Mogin (lawyer)	X

- Fourteen members of the public were in attendance.
- **Quorum:** Yes
- Danny Corwin thanked everyone for coming and gave an overview of the Brown Act for the members of the public.

1. Review of Executive Director Facilities Proposal

- Brian C. Johnson gave a background on the process taken to secure adequate space for Larchmont Schools for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Brian C. Johnson explained that he and Larchmont Schools stakeholders interviewed current and previous occupants and the Board visited and walked through the Immanuel Presbyterian campus to assess whether the space was sufficient for Larchmont Schools.
- Brian C. Johnson reviewed the details of the proposal with the Board.
- The Board discussed the lease components:
 - Larchmont Schools is responsible for all repairs other than structural such as the roof.
- Brian C. Johnson explained to the Board that the current 5th and 6th graders’ cost will increase on a per pupil basis by moving to Immanuel Presbyterian, while cost for the current K-1 grades at St. Ambrose will decrease as a result of the move to Hollygrove.
- Brian C. Johnson anticipates that the move will cost \$3,500.
- Brian C. Johnson stated that LCS will begin the 2010-2011 school year with grades 6th and 7th and that 8th grade will fit in the 2011-2012 school year.
- Brian C. Johnson confirmed that the building is safe for students and the changes that need to be made are general maintenance and aesthetic.
- Brian C. Johnson reviewed the proposed changes that will occur at Hollygrove, stating the following:

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- In order to obtain NE cottages, LCS will give up space in cottage #2, which is not permitted for classroom use.
 - There is an option to put more administrative space on the second floor of Hollygrove's building.
- Brian C. Johnson shared with the Board that LCW will move from Rosewood to St. Ambrose, with an increase to \$16,000 in rent. The increase in rent will be affordable because LCW will save in consolidated staff. The goal is to make the operational cost neutral.
- Kriste Dragon asked if we could hold onto Rosewood as an option for the 2011-2012 school year. Brian C. Johnson stated that he would look into this option.
- Brian C. Johnson shared with the Board that in this multi-year search for school space, Immanuel Presbyterian is the best option because the space is already permitted for school, which is a process that takes a lot of time and money. Johnson also shared his excitement that this will be the first school year where Larchmont Schools are together and settled.
- Brian C. Johnson confirmed with the Board that funds will be spent on cleaning up the space and beatifying it.

2. Public Comment

- Joel Lipman, parent, asked why Selma wasn't a possibility.
- A parent of a fifth grader asked what the effect will be on curriculum if only one teacher is continuing at the middle school and the rest are new. LCS needs a leader who gets constructivism. Thank you for securing outdoor space.
- Juliette Yager, parent, asked if the building is up to earthquake safety and code. The public park one block away is not a park, it is a memorial. She is concerned about the isolation of the classes.
- A parent is concerned about burned out volunteers. LCS needs a lot of parents present on campus in the beginning to help with the transition.
- Nancy Pincus, parent, asked about the traffic.
- A parent asked why St. Ambrose was not considered as a middle school space.
- Tracy Carness, LCS teacher, stated that the kids are ready and excited about their own campus. She stated that the space has nooks and crannies, just like Hollygrove. She also stated that the current students will help new students navigate constructivism with kindness and she has no doubt they will learn LCS' language quickly. Carness thanked Dolores Patton for finding good teachers who are willing to work hard under constructivism.
- Lawrin Goulston Salazar, parent, asked if the kids will have lockers, how many new students there will be, and if the food pantry was separate from the school.
- Sondi Sepenuk, parent, asked about parking and about the surrounding areas.
- A parent thanked the Board for their hard work, asked for a tour and asked the Board to address the staffing issue at Immanuel Presbyterian and how it will be policed.
- France Hoge, parent, shared with the Board that parents are committed and excited to raise money for the school to ensure a beautiful middle school space.

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- Danny Corwin thanked all the members of the public for their comments. He stated that the process has been quite quick, but he is inspired by the level of support, enthusiasm, questioning, engagement, and positivity that has helped the Board make it work.

3. Discussion and Action on Facilities Proposal

- Brian C. Johnson shared with the Board that the timing of the decision is tight.
- Brian C. Johnson stated that Selma was not an option because Los Feliz Charter secured it; St. Ambrose was not an option for a middle school space because it is not permitted for grades above 4th; West Hollywood permitting process is very slow and there are not enough classrooms to make St. Ambrose grades K-8.
- Brian C. Johnson confirmed that Immanuel Presbyterian meets the earthquake building code. He also shared with the Board that the outdoor basketball court on the roof has a fence and is safe and LCS will have access to the theatre space.
- Brian C. Johnson shared that parking will always be an issue, but site leadership will look at a staggered start time with other nearby school.
- Brian C. Johnson stated that the Board has known about the Immanuel Presbyterian staffing issue since the first meeting, the staff member does not have keys or access to classroom space and is not allowed on campus between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM Monday through Friday when school is in session. Brian C. Johnson stated that LCS will work with School Psychologist, Michelle Spadier to help train the community. Brian C. Johnson assured the Board and members of the public that LCS leadership will be transparent about managing the situation.
- Brian C. Johnson stated that there will be two classes each of 6th and 7th graders, 28 students in each class.
- Dolores Patton assured the Board that after many interviews, she is certain and excited about the people who are filling positions at the middle school. She assured the Board that LCS is not giving up with our constructivism model by taking this space.
- Gene Straub asked about timing. Brian C. Johnson shared that Immanuel Presbyterian has a draft lease and is awaiting LCS' signature.
- Gene Straub thanked Brian C. Johnson for engaging stakeholders and for his time and effort to seize the space opportunities. Straub also thanked Johnson for spending time and energy on fundraising and holding true to our mission.
- Carl Cade motioned to move forward with signing the Immanuel Presbyterian lease for three years, to make Hollygrove grades K-5 for LCS and to make St. Ambrose K-3 for LCW. Richard Wright seconded the motion, the Board voted unanimously in approval.
- Gene Straub motioned to direct Brian C. Johnson to find a financially viable option to keep Proposition 39 space, Heather Boylston seconded, the Board voted unanimously in approval, Kriste Dragon abstained.

4. Closing— The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 A.M.