

Larchmont Charter Schools
MINUTES
Regularly Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting
815 N. El Centro Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038
December 7, 2010

OPEN SESSION

- The meeting was called to order at 6:07 P.M. by Danny Corwin, Chair.
- Names with “X” indicates present:

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

Larchmont Schools & ExED Staff:			
Brian C. Johnson (Executive Director)	X	Kristin Droege (LCW Principal)	X
Dolores Patton (LCS – Head of Elementary School)	X	Rick Esquivel (LCS – Head of Middle School)	X
Joe Meza (ExED)	X	Rebecca Bailey (Deve. Associate)	X
Myra Salinas (Assist Principal)	X		

- **Quorum:** Yes

1. Closed Session for Personnel Discussion no items to report

2. Approval of the November 2, 2010 Minutes

- Gene Straub motioned to approve the minutes; Heather Boylston seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Finance

- Joe Meza presented the October 2010 Financials to the Board.
- Brian stated that LCS experienced difficulty last year in creating an accurate afterschool budget and that consequently, they are receiving fewer funds than expected but also will spend less on after school staff.
- Carl Cade inquired as to the status of LCS grant and fundraising activities.
- Brian stated that revenue from both grants and fundraising is up at LCS and that the LCW Pledge Drive is already exceeding its goals.
- Kriste Dragon and Carl requested that the Dashboard documents be built in a way to be as transparent and descriptive as possible.
- Joe stated that the net income at both schools are higher than what was initially budgeted.
- Joe commented that due to the delay in state payments, cash is tight at the end of the school year.
- Brian noted that there were no major shifts in the LCW expenses except for utilities.

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- Gene Straub motioned to approve the October 2010 financials; Carl Cade seconded. The financials were approved unanimously.

4. Approve 2009-2010 Audit

- Brian reminded the Board that the audit is reflective of LCS, LCW and CAO.
- Richard Wright, from the Board audit committee, recommended the audit be approved by the board
- Carl motioned to approve the 2009-2010 Audit; Heather seconded. The audit was adopted unanimously.

5. Student Achievement Update

- Brian reminded the Board that this information is diagnostic data that reflects students' starting points at the beginning of the year and not reflective of any teaching yet.
- Brian commented that the math diagnostics are not consistently giving meaningful information on where students are at the beginning of the year and heads of school are working with teachers to help refine math diagnostic assessments.
- Brian noted that each Head of School worked with teachers to develop a plan to focus instruction in order to best meet the needs of their students.
- Kriste asked if there is a general sense of success in helping to guide the curriculum to meet students' educational needs.
- Brian noted that there is a sense of success and that the school leaders are continuing to work with teachers to develop and follow their instructional plans.

6. Diversity & Enrollment Update – Review Student Recruitment Plans

- Brian stated that LCS and LCW lottery numbers are up and the lottery pools are more diverse than this point last year due to the hard work of school leaders and parents.

7. High School Discussion

- Brian C. Johnson presented information on the availability of high school options within a twenty mile radius of the LCS Elementary School with a similar mission to Larchmont Charter Schools . He shared with the board that there were nearly 50,000 8th graders in public school in LAUSD and only 1,963 9th grade openings in high performing high schools., of those only 15 were available at diverse high schools within a 20 mile radius of Hollywood
- Brian noted that the cost of not opening a high school would be about \$70,000 per year in order to provide the necessary resources to help middle school students find appropriate high school options.
- Carl shared that the Board believes establishing a high school is important and asked how the Board can help community stakeholders to share this belief.
- Danny noted that Larchmont Charter Schools is constantly moving and developing and that this can lead to some level of discomfort.
- Marya Francis asked what the funding needs of a high school would be and inquired about a high school budget.
- Brian said that initial budgets for a K-12 material revision are all net income positive but that he would come back to the Board in January with a three year plan that covered high school growth and central administrative office needs.
- Brian presented the risks and opportunities with submitting a separate charter petition or materially revising the current LCS petition to go K-12. Board members felt the risk of

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not being able to guarantee our 8th graders the ability to matriculate to 9th grade (which is what submitting a separate charter would bring about) was greater than the opportunity to secure start up funding (which is what is lost by going for a material revision). Board members strongly encouraged Brian to seek a material revision instead of going for a separate charter.

8. School Updates

- LCW
 - Kristin Droege noted that LCW continues to focus on learning about community in the classroom.
 - Kristin Droege stated that the Principal's Council has taken a leadership role in helping her to develop a school recruitment plan and that they have internalized and upheld the school mission as representatives of the parent community.
- LCS Middle School
 - Rick Esquivel commented that his focus has been to be as available as possible to the school community in order to continue facilitating the transition from an elementary- only school to an elementary and middle school.
 - Rick Esquivel stated that he is excited to host the December 8th 5th grade Open House as part of their efforts towards establishing a strong school community.
- LCS Elementary School
 - Dolores Patton stated that the elementary school is preparing for this weekend's upcoming World's Fair, which showcases over twenty different cultures, and that the school also enjoyed a performance by Paradigm Brass at the previous Friday's Morning Sing.

9. Governance

- Danny Corwin nominated Alicia Lara to the Board, citing that she is a distinct leader in the Los Angeles community.
- Alicia Lara's nomination will be voted on by the Board at the January meeting.

10. Public Comment

- LCW parent Kimberly Canter expressed strong excitement about the possibility of establishing a high school. She indicated that from her experience as a parent at LCW, establishing a high school was always the plan.
- LCS parent Francis Hoge expressed concern about maintaining diversity at the high school level. She reminded the Board of parents' unique and individual outlooks on establishing a high school and asked that these opinions be respected.

11. Executive Director Comments- there were none.

12. Board Chair Comments- there were none.

13. New Business –

14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.