

Larchmont Charter Schools
MINUTES
Regularly Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting
815 N. El Centro Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038
May 11, 2011

OPEN SESSION

- The meeting was called to order at 6:38 P.M. by Danny Corwin, Chair.
- Names with “X” indicates present:

Board of Directors:			
Corwin, Danny (Chair)	X	Lara, Alicia	X
Cade, Carl	X	Lee, Susan	
Dragon, Kriste	X	Loeb, Gabi (Treas)	X
Francis, Marya (Sec)	X	Straub, Gene	X
Hutchinson, Rebecca	X	Wright, Richard	
Jaeger, Nicole	X	Young, Amber	X

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

- **Quorum:** Yes
1. **Public Comment-**
 - There was no public comment.
 2. **Approval of the April 5, 2011 Minutes**
 - Gene Straub motioned to approve the minutes with the condition that the words “to join the school” be omitted from Rick’s LCS Middle School update; Amber Young seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with the condition that the LCS Middle School update be changed.
 3. **School Updates**
 - **LCW**
 - Kristin Droege noted that LCW recently held a school concert at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, showcasing songs learned by each of the grades, a dance and a violin performance.
 - **LCS Middle School**
 - Rick Esquivel noted that middle school students are currently preparing for their school-wide rock concert, and that the art class is designing the backdrop, which will be auctioned at the upcoming Fiesta fundraiser in June.
 - LCS parents Holly Maples and Lisa Anderson updated the Board on Fiesta and asked for Board participation, by donating items for the auction, attending the event and/or purchasing raffle tickets.
 - **LCS Elementary School**
 - Dolores Patton stated that LCS Elementary School families are gearing up for Big Sunday, during which the school leaders, LCS families and community members will work on a variety of landscaping, beautification and classroom-update projects.
 4. **Finance**

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- Brian C. Johnson noted that all financials except for the new SB740 numbers are recommended by the Finance Committee.
 - Brian presented the Development Update; noting that LCS and LCW are well above their pledge goals.
 - Graham Dye presented the March 2011 Financials.
 - Gene Straub motioned to approve the March 2011 financials; Carl Cade seconded. The financials were approved unanimously.
 - Gabi Loeb and Brian presented the fundraising options; noting that revenues for LCS's Fiesta and LCW's Music Night fundraisers can be deferred for use during the 11-12 school year so that LCS and LCW have a cushion to help mitigate the effect of state-wide budget cuts.
- 5. Resolution for the Board of Directors to authorize school leaders to increase class sizes at their discretion to the following levels for the 2011-2012 school year:**
- LCS 6th-8th grades: up to 30
 - LCS 5th grade: up to 23
 - LCW K-3rd grades: up to 23
 - LCW 4-5th grades: up to 25
 - Carl motioned to approve the resolution to authorize school leaders to increase class sizes at their discretion to the above levels for the 2011-2012 school year; Gabi seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.
- 6. Student Achievement Update**
- LCS Middle School
 - Rick highlighted 6th and 7th grade student's tremendous progress in ELA and math comprehension since the last school update, noting that almost 60% of 6th and 7th grade students are at or above grade level in ELA compared to 45% in January. In math, almost 62% of 6th and 7th grade students are at or above grade level compared to 40% in January.
 - Rick stated that LCS Middle School continues to see a Latino achievement gap in math and ELA and is working to eliminate this gap.
 - LCS Elementary School
 - Dolores highlighted that LCS has almost met its year end goals in ELA and Math, citing that 72% of students are at or above grade level in ELA compared to the year-end goal of 84%. In math, almost 72% of students are at or above grade level, compared to the year-end goal of 83%.
 - Dolores noted that LCS Elementary is working to help teachers discuss mathematical concepts in a common language so that when students matriculate up, their teachers use similar examples and explanations to help them learn via a consistent, clearly articulated approach.
- 7. Facilities Update**
- Brian stated that LCW accepted LAUSD's offer of 6 teaching stations and 1 office at Selma Avenue Elementary School for the 2011-2012 year.
 - Brian noted that LCS Elementary was notified that the site owner, Hollygrove, intends to revoke 3 classrooms from the school's use and that he is currently negotiating the terms of the LCS Elementary lease with Hollygrove.
- 8. Public Comment**
- There were none.
- 9. Executive Director Comments**

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- Brian noted that the state recently revealed last year's CST results and that LCS scored among the top 10% of all schools in the state serving a similarly diverse population.
- Brian stated that the Larchmont Schools will no longer be participating in Public School Choice 3.0 in order to focus on long term sustainability for our existing schools and the development of the high school.

10. Board Chair Comments-

- Danny Corwin noted that the Board will arrange a second Brown Act training, an overview of how to read financial documents, and will review the Larchmont School's strategic plan over the summer months.

11. New Business- there was no new business.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 P.M.