

**Fiscal Policies
of
Larchmont Schools**

Last updated: November 2013

INTRODUCTION.....	4
Definitions of terms used in this document	4
Overview	5
Annual Financial Audit Process	5
Good Faith Bid Process	6
PURCHASING	7
Purchasing Policy	7
Proper Documentation	7
Approval Process	8
Credit Card Policy.....	8
Petty Cash.....	9
Leases	9
Contracts	9
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.....	11
Accounts Payable Proper Documentation	11
Invoices	11
Reimbursements	11
Bank Check Authorization	11
Hand Bank Checks	12
Bank Reconciliation	13
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE: DEPOSITS.....	14
Account Receivable Proper Documentation	14
Deposit Back Up	14
Lock Box Policy	14
Cash Receipts (Cash and Checks).....	15
Returned Check Policy.....	16
Personnel.....	16
PAYROLL.....	18
Timesheets.....	18
Overtime	18
Payroll Processing.....	19
Payroll Taxes and Filings.....	19
Record Keeping	20
EXPENSES	21
Reimbursements	21
Expense Reports	21
Travel	21
Governing Board Expenses.....	22
Telephone Usage	22
FINANCE.....	23
Basis of Accounting	23
Financial Reporting	23
Loans	23
Financial Institutions	23

Retention of Records	24
Budgeting Process	24
RESERVES, INSURANCE, LIABILITIES, ASSETS, TAXES	25
Funds Balance Reserve	25
Insurance	25
Parking Lot Liability	25
Asset Inventory	26
Capitalization and Depreciation	26
Disposal of Surplus Property & Equipment and Donations	27
Property Acquired with Federal Grant Funds	27
Use of School Assets/Funds	27
Taxes	27
Appendix A: Employee Acknowledgement of Credit Card Use	29
Appendix B: Petty Cash Agreement	30

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Larchmont Schools' fiscal policies is to outline internal control policies that provide Larchmont Schools with the foundation to properly safeguard its assets, implement and monitor internal policies, ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, and produce timely and accurate financial reports. Additionally, as a publicly supported entity, Larchmont Schools has a responsibility to ensure the public's confidence in the integrity of the school's activities.

It is the intent of these fiscal policies to implement both the letter and spirit of all applicable State and Federal regulations regarding the expenditure of, and accounting for, public funds. These fiscal policies may need to be modified as Larchmont Schools develops and regulations change. The Board of Directors ("Governing Board") approves the fiscal policies annually.

Definitions of terms used in this document

Larchmont Schools is the legal entity that operates Larchmont Charter School. For the purposes of this document, it may be referred to as "the School."

The Board of Directors ("Governing Board" or "Board") is the managing entity of all of Larchmont Schools' activities and affairs, as outlined in Larchmont Schools' bylaws.

School Leader is defined as Head of School (K-8 or 9-12).

School Site Administrator is defined as the site Dean or, in their absence, School Leader.

Payroll Manager is the employee assigned by the Director of Human Capital to process payroll.

School Site Office Staff is defined as an administrative position or team, assigned specific responsibilities related to fiscal policies by the Executive Director, School Leader or Network Support team. Depending on the campus, this may be an Office Clerk, Office Manager or Business Manager.

Accounting Back Office is defined as, the contracted financial support services company.

Finance Committee is an approved standing committee of the Board of Directors.

Network Support is central services group of Larchmont Schools, supporting compliance, human resources, payroll, benefits, employee clearances, facilities, information technology, accounts payable, development, communications and finance.

Overview

The Governing Board of the School has reviewed and adopted the following policies to ensure the most effective use of the funds of the School to support the mission and to ensure that the funds are budgeted, accounted for, expended, and maintained appropriately.

The Governing Board formulates financial policies, delegates administration of the policies to the Executive Director and reviews operations and activities on a regular basis.

The Executive Director has responsibility for all operations and activities related to financial management.

Financial duties and responsibilities must be segregated so that no one employee has sole control over cash receipts, disbursements, payrolls, and reconciliation of bank accounts.

The School intends to comply with all restrictions and regulations for the funds it receives.

All documentation related to financial matters will be completed by computer, word processor, typewriter, or in ink.

The Governing Board will commission an annual financial audit by an independent third party auditor who will report directly to them. The Governing Board will approve the final audit report, and a copy will be provided to the charter-granting agency. Any audit exceptions and/or deficiencies will be resolved to the satisfaction of the Governing Board and the charter-granting agency.

The Governing Board can appoint someone else to perform the Executive Director's responsibilities in the case of his/her absence.

Annual Financial Audit Process

The Governing Board will appoint an audit committee by January 1 to select an auditor by March 1 prior to year-end (June 30th).

Any persons with expenditure authorization or recording responsibilities within the school may not serve on the committee.

The committee will annually contract for the services of an independent certified public accountant to perform an annual fiscal audit. The contracted independent certified public accountant cannot perform the annual fiscal audit for more than five consecutive years without rotating the audit partner every five years.

The audit shall include, but not be limited to:

- An audit of the accuracy of the financial statements
- An audit of the attendance accounting and revenue accuracy practices
- An audit of the internal control practices

Good Faith Bid Process

For all purchasing, including contracts, at or over \$5,000, or lesser amount if required by funding entity, must include documentation of a good faith effort to secure the lowest possible cost for comparable goods or services. The School will solicit price quotes from a minimum of three prospective vendors. The price quotes must be in writing, and must include the name and phone number of the agency providing the quote with specific details of the service(s) or item(s) quoted for purchase. Price quotes and selection justification must be retained with the original agreement for a record retention period of three (3) years.

PURCHASING

Purchasing Policy

All purchases under \$10,000 must be approved by a School Leader and all expenses at or over \$10,000 must be approved by the Executive Director. See section below on proper documentation.

The School Leaders and/or Executive Director may authorize expenditures. Consistent with the Good Faith Bid Process, the Executive Director must sign related contracts within the approved budget. The Executive Director must review all expenditures. This will be done via approval of a monthly check register which lists all checks written during a set period of time and includes check #, payee, date, and amount. The Executive Director must approve all expenditures at or over \$10,000, per the June 1, 2010 Board meeting resolution. The Board must approve all unbudgeted and/or non-recurring expenditures at or over \$25,000. All recurring purchases at or above \$25,000 must be approved by the Board.

In the event that the Board has approved an annual contract in the budget for a vendor and the School will pay the vendor(s) throughout the year, the Executive Director will approve the expense(s). Example: Board approved health and welfare program expenses.

- The School Site Administrator must approve all school site purchases below \$500.
- Purchase order forms, authorizing the purchase of items at or above \$500, must be approved by the School Leader.
- Purchase order forms, authorizing the purchase at or over \$10,000.00, must be approved by the Executive Director.

Proper Documentation

All financial records are maintained by Network Support in chronological order, organized by fiscal year.

The following documentation must be on file for all approved purchases:

- Approved purchase order form (while not required for purchases under \$100, it is recommended that Purchase Orders be completed for all purchases.)
- Proof that the purchased was made (original sales receipt from store, online order summary or invoice from the vendor)
- Proof that the item is received (packing slips(s) if mailed)

Approval Process

When approving purchases, the School Site Administrator, School Leader and/or Executive Director must:

- Determine if the expenditure is budgeted.
- Determine if funds are currently available for expenditures (i.e. cash flow).
- Determine if the expenditure is allowable under the appropriate revenue source.
- Determine if the expenditure is appropriate and consistent with the School's vision and mission, approved charter, school policies and procedures, and any related laws or applicable regulations.
- Determine if the price is competitive and prudent. See above section on good faith bid process.

All purchases made for the School are to be pre-approved, according to the appropriate authority and with proper documentation. See section above on proper documentation.

Individuals who use personal funds to make unauthorized purchases will not be reimbursed. Authorized purchases will be promptly reimbursed by a bank check upon receipt of appropriate documentation of the purchase. See above section on proper documentation.

Credit Card Policy

The Executive Director may authorize an individual to have and/or use a school credit card to make an authorized purchase on behalf of the School, consistent with this credit card policy.

The school card must be kept either with the person whose name is on the card or under locked supervision in the School Leader and/or Executive Director's office.

- Credit cards will bear the names of both Larchmont Schools and the cardholder's name.
- Credit cards will be Board approved.
- Debit cards are not allowed.
- A credit card is a last resort form of payment when the check system is inappropriate.
- Credit card holder abides by and signs the credit card acknowledgment form (Appendix A)

Petty Cash

In the event that petty cash is necessary to issue, the petty cash policy must be followed. All petty cash requests must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director. A Petty Cash Agreement (Appendix B) must be signed by the recipient of the cash and the School Leader requesting the petty cash.

Terms of acceptance of petty cash include:

- Recipient will be held responsible as “custodian” for any funds not used or improperly accounted for.
- If any purchases are made, a receipt or invoice must be obtained.
- If any items are shipped, recipient must remit copies of the packing slips.
- If any of the above documentation is missing recipient will be held responsible for either obtaining replacement copies, or remitting funds in the amount of the purchase price for the missing item.
- All funds not spent upon completion of the event must be immediately remitted to the business manager for deposit within 48 business hours.
- No more than \$1,000 will be issued in petty cash without additional support as required by the Executive Director.

Leases

All lease agreements will be evidenced by a lease or sublease agreement approved by the Governing Board and signed by the Executive Director. The agreement will identify all the terms and conditions of the lease.

Contracts

The School Leader must approve all spending from \$500 up to \$9,999. The Executive Director must approve all spending at or over \$10,000, per the June 1, 2010 Board meeting resolution. The Board must approve all non-recurring or unbudgeted spending at or over \$25,000.

Consideration will be made of in-house capabilities to accomplish services before contracting for them.

Network Support will keep and maintain a contract file evidencing the competitive bids obtained (if any) and the justification of need for any contracts at or over \$5,000. See above section on good faith bid process.

Competitive bids will be obtained where required by law or otherwise deemed appropriate and in the best interests of the school.

Written contracts clearly defining work to be performed will be maintained for all contract service providers (i.e. consultants, independent contractors, subcontractors).

Contract service providers must show proof of being licensed and bonded, if applicable.

Adequate liability insurance and worker's compensation coverage must be provided by the contract service providers or the School during the life of the contract. This must be approved by the Director of Operations and Compliance. The Executive Director or Director of Operations and Compliance may also require that contract service providers list the school as an additional insured.

Network Support must keep an up-to-date and valid vendor file for all vendors. This may include, but is not limited to, a résumé, W-9, proof of insurance(s), clearance of a negative TB test and finger printing with the Department of Justice, or any other NCLB compliance regulation.

If the contract service provider is a sole proprietor or a partnership (including LP, and LLP), Network Support will obtain a W-9 from the contract service provider and any health or safety clearances deemed necessary prior to submitting any requests for payments to the accounting back office.

Based on the amount of the contract, the Governing Board, the Executive Director or School Leader will approve proposed contracts and modifications in writing.

Contract service providers will be paid in accordance with approved contracts as work is performed.

The Executive Director will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the contracts are fulfilled.

Potential conflicts of interest will be disclosed upfront, and the Executive Director and/or Member(s) of the Governing Board with the conflict will excuse themselves from discussions and from voting on the contract.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts Payable Proper Documentation

Invoices

The following supporting documentation must be submitted in order for invoices to be approved for payment:

- Approved purchase order form
- Proof that the purchased was made (original receipt from store/online order summary or invoice from the vendor)
- Proof that the item is received (packing slips(s) if mailed)
- W-9 for new vendors and contract if applicable

Reimbursements

All approved reimbursements in excess of \$50 must have the same documentation for purchasing (see above), as well as a reimbursement form with an itemized list of expenses and the individual's current contact information.

Bank Check Authorization

All original invoices with complete supporting documentation (see above) will immediately be forwarded to the School Leader and/or Executive Director for approval. The Executive Director must approve all school site expenditures at or above \$10,000. In the event that the Executive Director is unavailable, the Treasurer, Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Board may approve expenditures upon the recommendation of staff.

The School Site Office Staff or Network Support will review each invoice, attach all supporting documentation, and verify that the specified services and/or goods were received. When receiving tangible goods from a vendor, the person designated to receive deliveries should trace the merchandise to the packing list, note any discrepancies, notify the vendor and AP Manager and attach all supporting documentation.

The School Leader and/or Executive Director will approve all invoices by initialing a stamp check authorization on a paper invoice or via the online purchasing system and completing the required information, including noting the specific budget line item that is to be charged for the specified expenditures. The invoice and supporting documentation will be sent to the accounting back office on a weekly basis (Network Support should be aware of invoice due dates to avoid late payments). The accounting back office will then process the invoices with sufficient supporting documentation.

Vendors and suppliers are paid as their payment terms require, taking advantage of any discounts offered.

The Executive Director may authorize the accounting back office to pay recurring expenses (e.g. utilities) without further signature on the invoice when dollar amounts fall within a predetermined range by completing a recurring expense form or noting vendors/expenses as such in the online purchasing system. A list of the vendors and the dollar range for each vendor must be provided to the accounting back office in writing and updated on an as-needed, but no less than annual, basis.

Any two of the following – Executive Director, Chairperson of the Board, Vice-Chairperson of the Board or Treasurer – may co-sign checks in excess of \$25,000 for all non-recurring items. See section below on Financial Institutions.

In the event that the Executive Director is unavailable to provide direction or authorization as outlined above, the Treasurer, Chairperson of the Governing Board or Vice-Chair of the Governing Board may fulfill the duties of Executive Director upon the recommendation of staff.

The accounting back office will record the check transaction(s) into the appropriate check register and in the general ledger.

The accounting back office will distribute the checks and vouchers as follows:

- Original – mailed or delivered to payee
- Duplicate or voucher – filed by accounting back office.
- Voided checks will have VOID written in ink or stamped void. The original check will be attached to the duplicate and forwarded to the accounting back office that will attach any other related documentation as appropriate.

Hand Bank Checks

The Executive Director will be responsible for all hand bank checks and will keep them secured under lock and key.

When there is a need to generate a hand bank check, the Executive Director will send appropriate approved documentation to the accounting back office. This documentation includes a copy of the completed hand bank check, check stub, and approved hand bank check recap.

Any two of the following – Executive Director, Chairperson of the Board, Vice-Chairperson of the Board or Treasurer – may co-sign checks in excess of \$25,000 for all non-recurring items.

Any two Board-approved school bank account signers may sign bank checks within established limitations. See section below on Financial Institutions.

Checks may not be written to "cash" or "bearer". The accounting back office will record the check transaction(s) into the appropriate check register and in the general ledger.

Bank Reconciliation

Bank statements will be received at the office of Network Support and be securely e-mailed to the accounting back office. When appropriate, the accounting back office may download e-statements from the School's online banking system(s).

Any discrepancies regarding the paid checks or any checks over six (6) months will be researched and if applicable deleted from the accounting system. An accounting back office accountant will prepare the bank reconciliation, verifying the bank statements and facilitating any necessary reconciliation.

The accounting back office accountant will compare the reconciled bank balance to the cash in the bank account and to the general ledger, immediately reporting any material discrepancies to the accounting back office point assigned to the School and the Executive Director.

The accounting back office accountant will prepare a monthly summary report to be approved by the accounting back office point assigned to the school.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE: DEPOSITS

Account Receivable Proper Documentation

Documentation will be maintained for accounts receivable and forwarded to the accounting back office. See above section on proper documentation.

- All checks and cash received by the school must be recorded with budget code identified.
- All bank deposit slips must be forwarded to the accounting back office within one week of bank deposit.
- Copies of checks and all supporting documentation must be kept on file at school office in a locked cabinet and forwarded to the accounting back office weekly.
- Supporting paperwork for grants must be kept on file at school office in a locked cabinet and forwarded to Executive Director and accounting back office within one week of receiving.
- All credit card funds must be reconciled monthly to ensure all online funds are processed accurately and coded properly to the budget.
- Accounts receivable will be recorded by the accounting back office in the general ledger and collected on a timely basis.

Deposit Back Up

The following supporting documentation must be submitted with all deposits to the accounting back office:

- Deposit log with each payment itemized and coded accurately
- Deposit recap approved by School Leader/Executive Director
- Original bank deposit slip
- Copies of all checks and payment/donation documentation

Lock Box Policy

- Lock boxes are kept locked and secured at school site front office desk locations 100% of the time.
- Funds in lock box are recorded & verified weekly by two staff members.
- Cash & checks are recorded accurately to budget code.
- Supporting paperwork for any funds is submitted to the accounting back office.
- Lock box forms are available 100% of the time for parents to complete.

Cash Receipts (Cash and Checks)

For each fundraising or other event in which cash or checks will be collected, a Volunteer Coordinator will be designated, who will support the School Site Office Staff in collecting and tracking all cash and checks for the purpose of the fundraising activity.

- The Volunteer Coordinator will sign a confidentiality agreement with the school.
- The Volunteer Coordinator will record each transaction in a deposit log on campus, under the supervision of the School Site Office Staff, weekly until a majority of funds for the designated activity have been collected.
- All cash received must have a corresponding receipt copy; original receipt must be given to person making a payment or donation. Receipt will list the amount, date, and reason for the payment or donation.
- Receipts for checks will be distributed to all donors who donate \$250 or more to the School.
- Receipts for cash will be distributed for each cash transaction at the time of sale. Record will be kept on file in school site office.
- For weekend events, the cash, checks, deposit log, and deposit summary must be given to the School Site Office Staff by the end of the next school day, who will immediately put the funds in a secure, locked location.
- Both the Volunteer Coordinator and the School Site Office Staff will count the deposit and verify the amount of the funds in writing.
- Cash/checks dropped off at the school office will be placed directly into a lock box by the person dropping off the cash/checks.
- All cash received must have a corresponding receipt copy; original receipt must be given to person making a payment or donation. Receipt will list the amount, date, and reason for the payment or donation.
- All funds are deposited into the lock box in a sealed envelope, along with any notes, forms, or other descriptions of how the funds are to be used.
- The School Site Office Staff and one other staff member will jointly open the lock box to verify the cash/check amounts, and sign off on the amounts received.
- The lock box will be emptied at least once per week, corresponding to days when deposits are made and twice weekly during periods of heavy collections.
- Mail received at the school must be opened in the presence of at least two office staff members.
- School Site Office Staff must place all cash and checks in the lock box with all supporting documentation.
- All invoices must be date stamped with the date the school receives it.

- Once a week, School Site Office Staff will document cash or checks received in the lock box. All back up documentation, should be sent to the accounting back office with the weekly mailing of accounts payable.
- All checks will be immediately endorsed with the school deposit stamp, containing the following information: "For Deposit Only; Larchmont Charter School; Bank Name; Bank Account Number, Date Received by the School."
- A deposit recap will be completed by Network Support or School Site Office Staff and approved by the School Leader and/or Executive Director for deposit. The deposit recap will be duplicated and documentation for all receipts (copy of check, letter, etc.) will be attached to the duplicate deposit recap.
- Deposits totaling greater than \$2,000 will be deposited within 24 hours by the designated school employee. Deposits totaling less than \$2,000 will be made weekly by the designated school employee. All cash will be immediately put into a lock box.
- The duplicate deposit slip and deposit receipt from the bank will be attached to the deposit documentation and forwarded to the accounting back office to be filed and recorded weekly.

Returned Check Policy

A returned-check processing fee may be charged for checks returned as non-sufficient funds (NSF).

In the event that a second NSF check is received for any individual, in addition to the processing fee, the individual will lose check-writing privileges. Payment of the NSF check, the processing fee and any subsequent payment(s) by that individual must be made by money order or certified check.

If unsuccessful in collecting funds owed, the school may initiate appropriate collection and/or legal action at the discretion of the Executive Director and/or Governing Board.

Personnel

Once the School Leader or Executive Director has extended an approved offer to an employee, the Director of Human Capital will be responsible for all new employees completing or providing the following documentation and placing documentation in employee's personnel file:

- Form W4
- I-9 with copies of sufficient identification
- Employee agreement signed by school and employee

- Valid TB test results showing a negative reading
- Approved live scan finger printing
- Proof of necessary credentials, licenses or other required document(s)

The Director of Human Capital is responsible for securing, organizing and maintaining all individual employee personnel records.

An employee's hiring is not effective until the above documentation is collected and verified.

A payroll budget will be developed during budget process by the accounting back office, the Executive Director, School Leaders and Director of Human Capital. The accounting back office will notify the Executive Director and Board of any variances to the payroll budget throughout the year.

PAYROLL

Timesheets

All hourly employees will be responsible for completing a timesheet including requests for time off. The employee and the appropriate Supervisor will sign the completed timesheet. Time sheets may be completed electronically utilizing an approved time and attendance system.

The Payroll Manager will collect and file all completed and Supervisor approved time sheets on the last working day of the designated payroll period.

If an employee is unexpectedly absent and therefore prevented from working the last day of the pay period or turning in the timesheet (such as an employee calling in sick), the employee is responsible for notifying their Supervisor or for making other arrangements for the time sheet to be submitted. However, the employee must still complete and submit the approved timesheet upon return.

Overtime

Advanced approval in writing by the authorized Supervisor is required for employee's compensatory time and overtime.

Any hours worked in excess of an employee's regular work schedule must be pre-approved by the Supervisor, unless it is prompted by an emergency. Unapproved overtime will be paid although repeated instances of unapproved overtime may be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Overtime will not be granted on a routine basis and is reserved for extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances. If a Supervisor identifies a recurring need for overtime in any given position, the Supervisor should immediately consult with the Director of Human Capital and the Executive Director for further guidance.

For employees subject to overtime, all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday or forty (40) hours in one workweek shall be treated as overtime. The workday begins at 12:01 a.m. and ends at midnight twenty-four (24) hours later. Workweeks begin each Sunday at 12:01 a.m. Compensation for hours in excess of forty (40) for the workweek or in excess of eight (8) and not more than twelve (12) for the workday, and for the first eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day in one workweek, shall be paid at a rate of one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Compensation for hours in excess of twelve (12) in one workday and an excess of eight (8) on the seventh consecutive workday of the workweek shall be paid at double the regular rate of pay.

Payment for overtime is computed based on actual time worked. Only those hours that are actually worked are added together to determine an employee's overtime pay. For more information regarding overtime rates, employees should contact the Director of Human Capital.

Payroll Processing

Hourly employees must sign timesheets to verify appropriate hours worked, record absences and verify compensation rates if working in more than one capacity during the pay period. Supervisors will utilize time sheets to monitor number of hours worked versus hours budgeted. The Payroll Manager or School Leader will approve these time sheets. All hours worked must be reported on the employee's time sheet, including any overtime hours. The Director of Human Capital or the Payroll Manager will submit a summary report of timesheets to the accounting back office.

The Payroll Manager or Director of Human Capital will provide the designated school employee with any payroll-related information such as sick leave, vacation pay, and/or any other unpaid time.

Substitute Teachers must log hours and sign their time sheets. The Site Office Staff will maintain a log of Teacher absences and the respective Substitutes who work for them. The Site Office Staff will verify that the Substitutes log their hours worked. This log will be verified routinely by the Payroll Manager or Director of Human Capital.

The Director of Human Capital will notify the accounting back office of all authorizations for approved stipends.

The accounting back office will prepare the payroll worksheet based on the summary report from the designated school employee.

The payroll checks (if applicable) will be delivered to Employees. The Payroll Manager or the Director of Human Capital will document receipt of the paychecks and review the payroll checks prior to distribution, reporting any and all discrepancies to accounting back office.

Payroll Taxes and Filings

The payroll processor at the accounting back office will prepare payroll check summaries, tax and withholding summaries, and other payroll tracking summaries.

The payroll processor at the accounting back office will prepare the state and federal quarterly and annual payroll tax forms, review the forms with the Executive Director, and submit the forms to the respective agencies.

Record Keeping

The designated School Site Office Staff Member and the Payroll Manager will maintain written records of all full time employees' use of sick leave, vacation pay, and any other unpaid time.

The Supervisor is responsible for monitoring employees' time off, both usage and accrual. The Supervisor will immediately notify the Director of Human Capital if an employee exceeds the accrued sick leave or vacation pay, or has any other unpaid absences.

Records will be reconciled when requested by the employee. Each employee must maintain personal contemporaneous records.

EXPENSES

Reimbursements

See above section on proper documentation. Proper documentation must be submitted within ninety (90) days of purchase date in order to be reimbursed. Approved reimbursements will be processed and mailed to the recipient within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the reimbursement documentation. All purchases under \$10,000 must be approved by a School Leader, all expenses \$10,000 or over must be approved by the Executive Director and all expenses over \$25,000 must also be approved by the Chairperson of the Board, Vice-Chairperson of the Board or Treasurer of the Governing Board.

Expense Reports

Employees will be reimbursed for expenditures within fifteen (15) days of presentation of appropriate documentation. See above for proper documentation for reimbursements.

Employees will complete expense reports monthly, as necessary, to be submitted to the accounting back office following approval by School Leader and/or Executive Director.

Receipts or other appropriate documentation will be required for all expenses over five (5) dollars to be reimbursed.

The employee and the School Leader and/or Executive Director must sign expense and reimbursement reports.

The Executive Director's expense reports must be approved by a member of the board and always be submitted to the accounting back office for processing and payment.

Travel

Employees will be reimbursed for mileage at the government-mandated rate for the distance traveled, less the distance from the employee's residence to the school site for each direction traveled. For incidental travel, mileage will only be reimbursed if the one-way mileage exceeds ten (10) miles.

Parking fees and tolls paid are reimbursable if supported by proper documentation and approval. See Proper Documentation for Reimbursements.

For proper reimbursement of all approved travel, a completed reimbursement form must be submitted within one month after the travel date, supported by invoices, if applicable.

The School Leader and/or Executive Director must pre-approve all out of town travel.

Employees will be reimbursed for overnight stays at hotels/motels when pre-approved by an administrator and the event is more than fifty (50) miles from either the employee's residence or the school site. Hotel rates should be negotiated at the lowest level possible, including the corporate, nonprofit or government rate if offered, and the lowest rate available. Employees will be reimbursed at the established per diem rate for any breakfast, lunch, or dinner that is not included as part of the related event.

Travel advances require written approval from the School Leader and/or Executive Director, and require receipts for all advanced funds.

After the trip, the employee must enter all of the appropriate information on an expense report and submit it to the School Leader and/or the Executive Director for approval and then on to Operations / AP manager for filing.

If the advance exceeds the amount of the receipts, the employee will pay the difference immediately in the form of a check.

If the advance is less than the amount of the receipts, the difference will be reimbursed to the employee in accordance with the expense report.

Governing Board Expenses

The individual incurring authorized expenses while carrying out the duties of the school will complete and sign an expense report.

The Executive Director will approve and sign the expense report, and submit it to the accounting back office for payment.

Telephone Usage

Employees will not make personal long distance calls on School telephones without prior approval from a Supervisor.

Employees will reimburse the School for all personal telephone calls.

Business use of telephones or cell phones shall be reimbursed.

FINANCE

Basis of Accounting

The School will maintain its accounting records and related financial reports on the accrual basis of accounting and will adhere to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the preparation of its financial statements and reports.

Financial Reporting

In consultation with the Executive Director, the accounting back office will prepare the annual financial budget for approval by the Finance Committee and the Governing Board.

The accounting back office will submit a monthly balance sheet and monthly revenue and expense summaries to the Executive Director including a review of the discretionary accounts and any line items that are substantially over or under budget (\$5,000 or +/- 10% of established budget, whichever is greater). The report will be reviewed at the scheduled board meeting and action will be taken, if appropriate.

The accounting back office will provide the School Leaders and/or Executive Director and/or Governing Board with additional financial reports, as needed.

Loans

The Executive Director and the Governing Board will approve all loans from third parties. In the case of a long-term loan, approval may also be required from the charter-granting agency in accordance with the terms of the charter petition and/or other lenders in accordance with the loan documents.

Once approved, a promissory note will be prepared and signed by the Executive Director before funds are borrowed.

Employee loans are not allowed.

Financial Institutions

All funds will be maintained at a high quality financial institution that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

All funds will be maintained or invested in high quality, short maturity, and liquid funds.

Physical evidence will be maintained on-site for all financial institution transactions.

The Executive Director and/or the Governing Board will be authorized to open and close school bank accounts.

The Governing Board will approve, in advance, the list of authorized signers on the school bank accounts.

Any two approved school bank account signers may sign bank checks within limitations established herein.

Retention of Records

Financial records, such as transaction ledgers, canceled/duplicate checks, attendance and entitlement records, payroll records, and any other necessary fiscal documentation will be retained for a minimum of seven (7) years. At the discretion of the Governing Board or Executive Director, certain documentation may be maintained for a longer period of time.

The accounting back office will retain records at their site for a minimum of three (3) years or through the expiration of the contract with the School, whichever is earlier; after which, the remaining years will be the responsibility of the School.

Financial records will be shredded at the end of their retention period.

Appropriate back-up copies of electronic and paper documentation, including financial and attendance accounting data, will be regularly prepared and stored in a secure off-site location, separate from the school.

Budgeting Process

The School (Executive Director, Leaders, and School Site Council as required), in partnership with the accounting back office, prepares an annual operating budget of revenues and expenses, a cash flow projection, and a capital budget. These budgets and projection are reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors, at the June monthly meeting and modified, as necessary, for approval prior to the first day of the following fiscal year (July 1).

Monthly financial statements displaying budget vs. actual results are prepared by the accounting back office and reviewed by the Schools Leaders and Executive Director. Pending any necessary changes, the monthly financials will be presented to the Finance Committee at its monthly meeting and to the Board of Directors as prescribed by the Board bylaws.

RESERVES, INSURANCE, LIABILITIES, ASSETS, TAXES

Funds Balance Reserve

A funds balance reserve of the total unrestricted General Funds revenues will be maintained, the amount of which will be determined by the Governing Board, and which is sufficient to meet any contractual reserve amounts or debt coverage covenants.

The accounting back office will provide the Executive Director with balance sheets on a monthly basis. It is the responsibility of the Executive Director and the Governance Board to understand the school's cash situation. It is the responsibility of the Executive Director to prioritize payments as needed. The School Leader and/or Executive Director have responsibility for all operations and activities related to financial management.

Insurance

The Network Support Office will maintain the files of insurance policies, including an up-to-date copy of all certificates of insurance, insurance policies and procedures, and related claim forms.

The Executive Director and Finance Committee will review all insurance policies on an annual basis, prior to renewal.

Insurance will include general liability, worker's compensation, student accident, professional liability, and directors' and officers' coverage (also called school board miscellaneous liability). Supplementary coverage will cover the after-hours and weekend activities. Coverage will be in line with the limits listed in the school's approved charter petition.

Parking Lot Liability

Parking lot-related incidents are not covered under any insurance policy. The School assumes no liability for damage to cars:

- Parked in the parking lot during school hours
- Parked in the parking lot after school hours
- The only exception to this policy will be when a student is observed by an adult accidentally causing damage to a vehicle while engaged in a school activity, such as physical education equipment breaking a window (e.g. a ball).

Otherwise, liability is as follows:

- If a student willfully causes damage (i.e. not an accident as described above), the student's parent or guardian is responsible.
- If a parent or other visitor causes damage, that individual is responsible.
- If an employee causes damage, the employee is responsible.
- If an unknown person causes damage and there is no witness, the affected individual would determine if they have applicable coverage through his/her individual insurance policies.

Asset Inventory

An asset is defined as any item, purchased or donated, with a value of \$1,000 or more and with a useful life of more than one year.

The accounting back office and Network Support will maintain receipts for all purchased assets.

Network Support will maintain an inventory or log of all assets. The log will include the original purchase price and date, a brief description, serial number(s), and other information appropriate for documenting assets.

Network Support will take a physical inventory of all assets within 90 days of the end of each fiscal year, indicating the condition and location of the asset.

The School Leader and/or Executive Director will immediately be notified of all cases of theft, loss, damage or destruction of assets.

Network Support will maintain written notification of plans for disposing of assets with a clear and complete description of the asset and the date of disposal.

Capitalization and Depreciation

The School will capitalize and depreciate all assets costing \$1,000 or more. All other purchases are charged to expense in the year incurred.

Capitalized assets are recorded at cost and depreciated under the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives which can range from:

Leasehold Improvement – Lease term or five years, whichever is greater

- Equipment – 3 years
- Furniture – 5 years

Repair and maintenance costs, which do not extend the useful lives of the assets, are charged to expense. The cost of assets sold or retired and related

amounts of accumulated depreciation are eliminated from the asset accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is included in the earnings in the year.

Disposal of Surplus Property & Equipment and Donations

Surplus property & equipment shall mean property that is no longer in use, is damaged beyond repair, or that the School feels will have no future value to the School's program, and that is declared to be surplus property by the Board. If the School wishes to dispose of equipment or other surplus property, the Board shall declare the property surplus and shall direct the staff on the actual means of disposal of the property, such as sale, donation, or destruction and disposal.

If the School wishes to sell equipment or other surplus property, the Board shall direct the staff by giving specific guidance regarding the manner in which such property is to be sold.

If the School wishes to donate equipment or other surplus property, the Board shall declare the property surplus and authorize the donation. Requirements for potential donee organizations shall include: (1) the donee organization is fully independent of the School, with none of the School's Board members or key personnel involved in the donee organization; and (2) the donee organization shall be a non-profit or governmental entity related to education. In addition, the School shall secure a receipt from the donee organization for the donated property, and shall remove the asset from the School's books and record the donation as required by state and federal audit guidelines.

Property Acquired with Federal Grant Funds

If the property in question cost \$5,000 or more at the time of acquisition and was acquired with federal grant funds, the School shall notify the federal contract administrator prior to donating or disposing of such property as provided above.

Use of School Assets/Funds

No employee may use any property, equipment, material or supplies of the School for personal use without the prior approval of the School Leader and/or Executive Director. Use of school funds for personal use is prohibited. Violation of this policy shall result in discipline up to and including dismissal or removal, including from the Board.

Taxes

The accounting back office will maintain a schedule of required filing due dates for:

- IRS Form W-2 - Wage and Tax Statement.
- IRS Form W-3 - Transmittal of Income and Tax Statements.
- IRS Form 940 - Employer's Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return.
- IRS Form 941 - Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return for Federal Income Tax Withheld from Wages and FICA Taxes.
- IRS Form 1099 MISC (also 1099-DIV, 1099-INT, 1099-OID) - U.S. Annual Information Return for Recipients of Miscellaneous Income.
- IRS Form 990
- CA Form 990
- Quarterly and annual state(s) unemployment tax returns.

Appendix A: Employee Acknowledgement of Credit Card Use

I hereby confirm that I have been given a copy of the Larchmont Schools' credit card, the internal controls guide and the fiscal policies and procedures.

I understand that I must keep the credit card secure and on my physical person at all times. I understand the only persons authorized to use a school credit card are those issued in name to the following positions in the organization:

- Executive Director
- Director of Technology & Facilities
- Director of Special Education
- Head of K-8
- Head of 9-12
- Dean of Larchmont Charter School at Fairfax
- Dean of Larchmont Charter School at Hollygrove
- Dean of Larchmont Charter School at Selma
- Dean of Larchmont Charter School at LFP6-8
- Dean of Larchmont Charter School at LFP 9-12

I will not make copies of the credit card.

I understand that I am responsible for the monthly reconciliation of the card. I will receive a copy of the statement from Network Support. If the receipt is smaller than 8.5 x 11", I will tape to paper. The backup should be in the order that it is on the statement. I will scan packet with statement, POs, receipts, and packing slips and email packet to Network Support / AP manager by the 5th of every month. Then will place all originals in an envelope and place in mailbox for Network Support pickup.

As an employee of Larchmont Charter School, I commit to following all purchasing documentation and procedures set forth by the Board approved fiscal policies and procedures. I will notify the Operations Manager should I have any questions, issues or concerns with my school authorized credit card.

Employee Name:

Employee Signature

Date

Employee Title

Appendix B: Petty Cash Agreement

I agree that:

As the recipient of petty cash, I will be held responsible as "custodian" for any funds not used or improperly accounted for.

If any purchases are made, a receipt or invoice must be obtained.

If any items are shipped, I must remit copies of the packing slips.

If any of the above documentation is missing I will be held responsible for either obtaining replacement copies, or remitting funds in the amount of the purchase price for the missing item.

All funds not spent upon completion of the event must be immediately remitted to the Operations Manager for deposit within 48 business hours.

No more than \$1,000 will be issued in petty cash without additional support as required by the Executive Director.

Employee Name:

Employee Signature

Date

Employee Title

School Leader Name:

School Leader Signature

Date

School Leader Title