

Meeting of the LAMB Board of Directors

5:30 PM, Via Zoom, 6th December 2021

Board Members Present: Alan Golding (Chair), Jennifer Carrier (Secretary), Brad Karrer (Treasurer), Akeem Anderson, ElShadey Bekele, Ericka Markman, Laura Slover, John Zakrajsek

Board Members Absent: John Sanchez

Staff Present: Greg Woodward, Brian Nielsen, Maria-Jose Carrasco, Cris Gajardo

Community Stakeholders and Others Present: Approximately a dozen community stakeholders were present, along with representatives from Compass and those providing interpretation services

Agenda

1. Alan called the meeting to order at approximately 5:36 pm, welcomed everyone, and gave a reminder about the interpretation services being provided. Roll call was taken to verify that a quorum was established.
2. Alan noted that the minutes from the October board meeting will be approved in January, and that Executive Director Charis Sharp was unable to make the meeting but Greg and Maria-Jose are here to answer questions and anything that can't be answered will be responded to by Monday and posted in ParentSquare.
3. Committee Reports and Action Items
 - a. Finance Committee
 - i. Brad discussed that the committee met recently to discuss the year-end financial statement audit, October financials, and a decision memorandum for staffing. The school continues to stand on sound financial footing.
 - ii. Brian noted that there will soon be an annual investor's call where no issues are expected as cash flow remains good.
 - iii. Brad discussed a plan to have a finance deep-dive during the January board meeting.
 - iv. Brad noted that LAMB will likely change auditors, as is best practice every few years.
 - b. Facilities/Operations Committee
 - i. Brad noted that the committee met last week, and reported that the 3rd floor is complete and a Certificate of Occupancy was obtained for the entire building. There are a few punchlist items to get through related to chiller maintenance, new boiler, kitchen equipment, grounds issues, and finishing up the roof.
 - ii. Brad discussed that the committee has decided to expand in scope to cover operations in general, of which facilities is only a part.
 - iii. The committee is currently considering a facility use policy.
 - c. Governance Committee
 - i. Alan discussed that the committee is focusing on board recruitment and there will shortly be a ParentSquare post calling for parents to apply to be on the board and on board committees. He noted that Education Board Partners would continue to screen prospective board members.

LAMB Board Minutes

December 6, 2021 [FINAL: Approved 1.31.22]

- ii. Alan discussed that committees are finalizing their charters, which will be presented at the January board meeting.
- iii. Alan noted that board officer elections would take place at the January board meeting as well.
- d. General Questions
 - i. Alan opened up the meeting for questions prior to the presentation by the School Performance Committee.
 - ii. Laura asked about the sense of morale at the school.
 - 1. Greg discussed that moral is strong, and they are in the process of obtaining data from the staff culture survey that they should have by the February board meeting. The weeks between Thanksgiving and winter break are being approached meaningfully. Student culture feels strong. Overall, there are definitely areas for improvement, but morale is good.
 - 2. Brian noted that the transition to the 3rd floor went well.
 - 3. Maria-Jose noted that around a third of the staff have taken the climate survey, and the feedback has been really positive.
 - iii. Ericka asked if there have been any findings from Kindred. Maria-Jose said that they are still at the recruitment phase with parents and staff.
 - iv. Akeem noted that the ED report discussed policies of the DC Charter Alliance, and discussed that he'd like to encourage DC Charter Alliance to be pro-active in defending DCPS as well.
 - v. Akeem asked about the at-risk preference for charter schools. Maria-Jose discussed that it has been thought about at the executive level and will be discussed further in the future with the community and the board. Akeem noted that it is important to make sure that at-risk students are at a place conducive to their success.
 - vi. Jen asked generally about when the board should weigh in regarding LAMB's advocacy with groups such as the DC Charter Alliance, and noted that board members are here to help LAMB in such efforts.

4. Presentation on Academic Data – School Performance Committee

- a. Laura introduced the members of the School Performance Committee, and congratulated Greg and his team, including Michelle, for putting the data dashboard together.
- b. Greg presented a PowerPoint titled “School Performance: Academic Data Presentation” (see attached).
- c. Following the presentation, Akeem noted that there is a large gap with LAMB at-risk kids compared to DCI at-risk kids and said he is concerned about that size of a gap. He also noted that Spanish proficiency within the school looks problematic. He asked what is happening in the 4th grade.
 - i. Greg discussed that the current hypothesis is that 4th grade has a significant ramp up in difficulty, and there is also quite a significant change in the program model. He also noted that the current 4th graders did not have a normal 3rd grade year due to Covid.
- d. Alan noted that he is looking for the school to lay out the focus on and sequencing of interventions. He also said that additional questions from the community and board members will be compiled and circulated. Alan also requested a longitudinal analysis of the school academic data. The data presented did not show the student progress as they were comparing

LAMB Board Minutes
December 6, 2021 [FINAL: Approved 1.31.22]

different sets of students (e.g., comparing 3rd grade this school year vs. 3rd grade last school year).

5. Adjournment of Public Session

- a. A motion was made to adjourn the public session and move into closed session. The motion was seconded approved unanimously. The public session adjourned at approximately 6:45pm.

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This is a true representation of the December 6, 2021 Meeting of the LAMB Board of Directors.



Jennifer L. Carrier
Secretary, LAMB Board of Directors