

Meeting of the LAMB Board of Directors

5:30 PM, Via Zoom, 25th April 2022

Board Members Present: Alan Golding (Chair), Jennifer Carrier (Secretary), Brad Karrer (Treasurer), Akeem Anderson, ElShadey Bekele, Darryl Clay, Amanda Cowley, Ericka Markman, Edward Palmieri, John Sanchez, Laura Slover, Nathan Warner, John Zakrajsek

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charis Sharp, Greg Woodward, Brian Nielsen, Maria-Jose Carrasco

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 gave a reminder about the interpretation services being provided, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:35 pm, and welcomed everyone.
2. Alan reminded everyone of the new practice of starting the meetings with a board member sharing reflections regarding why they are choosing board service. Amanda discussed how it is an extraordinary pleasure to join the board and be part of the mission. She discussed how touching and inspirational it has been seeing all the delighted children in the morning during school drop off.
3. Alan welcomed the four new board members -- Darryl Clay, Amanda Cowley, Edward Palmieri, and Nathan Warner. Roll call was taken to verify that a quorum was established.
4. Discussion and Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes
 - i. March 7, 2022 meeting
 - b. Moved by Ericka, seconded by Akeem, and approved unanimously.
5. Committee Reports and Action Items
 - a. Facilities Committee
 - i. Brad noted that the Operations Manager recently resigned and they are in the process of hiring a replacement. A traffic study was just finished, as well as a draft safety audit by a DCPCSB consultant.
 - b. Finance Committee
 - i. Brad discussed that the draft budget would take an additional month and will be discussed at the next board meeting. They are in the process of considering new auditors for the next financial audit.
 - ii. Brian noted that a forecasted outlook for the year was added to the 3.31 finances, and we are tracking close to budget overall.
 - c. Governance Committee
 - i. Alan noted the addition of four new board members. He discussed that the Governance Committee met to discuss committee membership. There is a lot of work to undertake

after the Compass engagement, and the thought is to try to plug parents into workstreams and committees. This is a shift from the plan as first posted.

d. School Performance Committee

- i. Akeem discussed a recent review of teacher retention, and how LAMB is in a good position for staffing. LAMB's attrition this year will be around 12% for a number of reasons such as immigration status, and the attrition rate at DC schools is around 25%.
- ii. Akeem discussed that LAMB is hiring a number of great candidates for open roles, some of whom can be filled into multiple spots. Charis noted that LAMB has never been in a position this strong in terms of retention and candidates for hire. Employment letters have been out to staff. Jen asked what has been different this year. Charis discussed that Greg has been in continual conversations with teachers, and jobs were posted earlier than usual – back in December.
- iii. Equitable Access Preference
 1. Charis included in the pre-read Board materials a Decision Memorandum regarding the Equitable Access Preference
 2. Charis presented a slideshow (attached) regarding the Equitable Access Preference, and discussed her request for approval for LAMB to apply to use the Equitable Access Preference either in next year's lottery or the year after.
 3. A number of questions were asked by community members and board members, primarily around current resources to support students at risk, ELL students, and those in SPED. Akeem discussed that, thanks to Greg, he has seen a lot of academic data broken down by subgroups, and the subgroups have been achieving above or at the same pace of all student groups. He noted that the changes and shifts Greg and his team have put in place seem to be working, and he wants to get us to a place where Greg has the capacity to be in the classrooms observing and giving feedback. Akeem discussed that if we are able to make sure the subgroups are able to achieve at a high-quality rate, that helps all kids. And strategies put in place to help those subgroups will benefit all kids.
 4. **VOTE:** The approval for LAMB to apply for the Equitable Access Preference was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

e. ED Report

- i. Charis presented a slideshow regarding the updated COVID plan for Spring 2022 (attached). She noted this is a draft presentation for staff and will ultimately include input from the board meeting.
- ii. Some questions were asked by board and community members. For example, Jen asked why masks will not be optional in primary classrooms if the relevant metrics are met. Charis discussed that about half of the children in the primary classrooms are not vaccinated, and therefore attendance would be more of an issue if there were positive cases and no masking. A community member asked if LAMB has been in touch with some public schools that have dropped the mask mandate, and Charis said that DCPS does not collaborate with charter schools, and there has not been a meeting of charter leaders about the topic since Spring Break. Laura asked if the leadership was feeling good about this direction, and Charis responded that they want to get back to normal but want everyone to be safe.

LAMB Board Minutes

April 25, 2022 [FINAL: Approved 5.23.22]

6. Adjournment of Public Session

- a. A motion was made by Akeem, and seconded by Laura, to adjourn the public session and move into Closed Session. The motion was seconded approved unanimously. The public session adjourned at approximately 6:30pm.

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This is a true representation of the April 25, 2022 Meeting of the LAMB Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JLC', is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary.

Jennifer L. Carrier
Secretary, LAMB Board of Directors