

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
BOYS' LATIN OF PHILADELPHIA CHARTER SCHOOL**

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Charles T. Brooks, Marianne Dean, David Hardy, Torch Lytle, Sally Randolph, Patrick South, Matthew Schuh, Bill Thorkelson, Wes Wyatt

Board Members Joined by Phone: Isaac Ewell, Steve Smith, Cliff Thomas, Dick Williams

Board Members Excused: Mark Alderman, Joe Conwell, Steve Kempf, Will Kontes, Janice Murdoch, Albert Oehrle

Staff in Attendance: Ruth Gonzalez, Jaskiran Kaur, Nicholas Pascale, Kerry Woodward, Mike Whisman, Joel Witter

Parent Representative in Attendance: Elaine Wells

Guests: Jenna Smalley, Kleinbard LLC

I. Call to Order: *Marianne Dean*

Ms. Dean called the meeting to order.

There was a motion to accept the minutes of the February 3, 2016 meeting, which was moved by Mr. Wyatt and seconded by Mr. Lytle. The motion passed unanimously.

II. CEO Report: *David Hardy*

Mr. Hardy begins with a presentation which demonstrates Boys' Latin students' college matriculation rates. Last year, Boys' Latin's matriculation rate was 84 percent, which landed the school in fifth place in Philadelphia. Mr. Hardy emphasizes that Boys' Latin is the only school on that list that is not special admission. Mr. Hardy adds that out of West Philadelphia high schools, Boys' Latin is number one.

Moving on to college admissions, Mr. Hardy displays the schools where students have been accepted, along with universities students have attended in the past. Some of these colleges include University of Maryland—Baltimore County, Penn, Temple, Howard, Duke, Northeastern, Ursinus and Swarthmore. Mr. Hardy states that 77 percent of the Class of 2016 has been accepted to college, a number that is expected to continue to rise. Only nine students have not applied to college, though three plan to join the military and one plans to work. Mr. Hardy concluded his presentation.

### III. School and Operations Report: Joel Witter

Mr. Witter begins with a presentation entitled “Boys’ Latin Mid-Year Data Review,” which demonstrates the growth of Boys’ Latin students on standardized tests. Mr. Witter states that Boys’ Latin is invested in and values growth, and Boys’ Latin’s Middle School is number one in growth in the City of Philadelphia. Mr. Witter begins with six graders, and describes this as an “investment year,” in which students come from various educational backgrounds and need time to adjust to the school’s culture. Mr. Witter describes that in both subjects of math and reading, sixth graders tend to perform below grade level when they arrive at Boys’ Latin: the average reading scores when students enter the school are in the 29<sup>th</sup> percentile and the average math scores are in the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile. Mr. Witter states that significant growth has been measured in a half year’s time.

Moving on to seventh graders, Mr. Witter explains the goal for reading is to be at the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile, and at the 31<sup>st</sup> percentile in math. For eighth graders, the class has already displayed a half year’s worth of growth in reading, and almost a full year’s worth of growth in math. Mr. Witter states that Boys’ Latin is excited about the growth observed, and knows Boys’ Latin students are capable of even more.

A discussion follows on the obstacles and challenges middle school students face that affect standardized testing.

Next discussing the High School, Mr. Witter states that good things are happening. In terms of the Keystone Algebra I exam, the class of 2016 has grown each year: their goal was to reach 25 percent proficiency, and they are on track to achieve that goal. Mr. Witter believes the students are also on track to achieve their goal in Literature, which is 75 percent. Mr. Witter describes the main struggle students have is in Biology, as students must take the skills they learn in both math and ready then apply it to new content. Boys’ Latin is outperforming where it was last year in terms of Keystone Biology scores, and are working to be on par or better than the state average of 35 percent.

Mr. Hardy adds that for the Literature Keystone, Boys’ Latin only has one student who is Below Basic category.

Mr. Witter concludes his presentation.

Dr. Kaur, a science teacher at Boys’ Latin, then gives the Board on a presentation on encouraging critical and scientific thinking amongst her students. Dr. Kaur demonstrates a virtual lab where students can predict a patient’s blood type in an Emergency Room setting. Dr. Kaur also takes Boys’ Latin students to a science lab at the Community College of Philadelphia, about eight students at a time six times per year. Dr. Kaur shows a video of one of those groups of students engaging in a lab project and then returns as leaders to their classrooms at Boys’ Latin.

Dr. Kaur concludes her presentation.

IV. Board Committee Reports

a. Finance: *Bill Thorkelson*

Mr. Thorkelson begins his presentation by directing the Board to the balance sheet in the Financial Results packet, which is broken down into three periods. Mr. Thorkelson states that the current ratio from June of last year has declined, and the cash reserves are down due to the ongoing middle school project. Continuing, Mr. Thorkelson describes that accounts payables went up, then came down again, which is a function of delaying payments relative to budgetary issues at the state level.

Mr. Thorkelson then describes some key information that has had a negative impact on Boy's Latin: the school is reimbursed by the Philadelphia School District based on the prior year's District spending. The school was recently notified of a per pupil revenue decrease and Mr. Thorkelson describes the impact on Boys' Latin, that the school is running on a break-even projection based on old revenue numbers. Using the revised numbers, the school will run a deficit of \$285,000. Mr. Thorkelson states that Boys' Latin will look at what expenses can be reduced, since the school has to make up this deficit by June 30, 2016, and reimbursements from the City of Philadelphia may be reduced again.

Mr. Thorkelson and Mr. Williams discuss an option to make up the deficit by suspending work on the Middle School facility project, particularly the conversion of the church to a gymnasium.

A discussion follows on various ways Boys' Latin could handle this budget issue.

Mr. Thorkelson concludes his presentation.

b. Governance: *Albert Oehrle*

Mr. Williams begins his presentation with a Governance issue update on creating terms and limits for board members. Mr. Williams spoke with several Board members individually about setting terms, and states that he and Mr. Oehrle will come back next meeting with guidelines for Board terms. Mr. Williams would like the Board to be cognizant to the fact that they are looking at two-to-three year terms, and that the Board needs to be aggressive in getting new members involved.

Mr. Williams concludes his presentation.

c. Development: *Marianne Dean, Kerry Woodward*

Ms. Dean begins her presentation by stating that fundraising for Boys' Latin has almost reached its budget.

Mr. Williams expressed his gratitude towards Ms. Dean for all the hard work she has done despite budgetary obstacles, and Ms. Dean thanked Ms. Woodward for her continued efforts and patience.

Ms. Dean concludes the presentation.

d. Strategic Planning: *Bill Thorkelson*

Mr. Thorkelson begins with an update that Boys' Latin is within four to six weeks of wrapping up the Bloom & Associates strategic planning process. Mr. Thorkelson states that interviews have been conducted with constituency groups, and the school has to complete the Decision Rights segment before completion of the program. Mr. Thorkelson describes that the strategic planners have a good sense for what they will come back and recommend to Boys' Latin in terms of foundational activities. Mr. Thorkelson states that Boys' Latin will update their mission and vision statements. Mr. Thorkelson believes strategic planning has been fruitful, as the planners have advised Boys' Latin that the school is doing well, and advised them to focus on doing what it does well even better.

Mr. Thorkelson concludes his presentation.

*With there being no new business, and no Executive Session needed, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Sally Randolph, Secretary