

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

Wednesday, December 7, 2016  
343 North 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19139

*The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m.*

Board Members in Attendance: Marianne Dean, Dick Williams, Jim Diehl, David Hardy, Steve Kempf, Albert Oehrle, Sally Randolph, Matthew Schuh, Steve Smith, Bill Thorkelson

Board Members Joined by Phone: Joe Conwell, Wes Wyatt, Will Kontes, Cliff Thomas

Board Members Excused: Janice Murdoch, Torch Lytle, Isaac Ewell, Patrick South

Staff in Attendance: Noah Tennant, Ruth Gonzalez, Kerry Woodward, Mike Whisman, Joel Witter, Colleen Smith, Nicholas Pascale, Mario Dattilo

Parent Representative in Attendance: Elaine Wells

Guests: Jenna Smalley, Kleinbard LLC

I. Call to Order: *Marianne Dean, Dick Williams*

Ms. Dean called the meeting to order. Pending a correction to the spelling of Mr. Pascale's name, there is a motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2016 meeting, which is moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Thorkelson. The motion passes unanimously.

II. Deputy CEO Report: *Noah Tennant*

Dr. Tennant begins by wishing the board a happy holidays from Boys' Latin. Dr. Tennant announces that Alumni Day will take place on January 13, 2017. Dr. Tennant explains that Boys' Latin is rebranding the event, and it will look different than what it has been in the past. The event is now called College Day. Students will rotate with different speakers from various age ranges to hear about the Boys' Latin experience from all perspectives. Dr. Tennant states that the event is a valuable experience for the students, and several board members have attended in the past. Dr. Tennant adds that freshman and sophomore students will meet with Boys' Latin teachers, current seniors, and Alumni to learn about different types of colleges, college applications, and the college experience, whereas juniors and seniors will speak with Boys' Latin alumni returning from college about the application process, what college years look like, and what they wish they had known before entering college. Dr. Tennant states that the event will run from 8:00 am to noon, and will close with an alumni basketball game at 1:15 pm.

Continuing, Dr. Tennant discusses the site visit from the Charter School Office as part of Boys' Latin's charter renewal process. Dr. Tennant explains that a team from the Charter

School Office came to the school on November 18, 2016, and shared a variety of both positive and constructive feedback, and overall walked away impressed with the school. The Charter School Office believes that Boys' Latin displayed evidence of rigor in its AP courses, gave good academic ownership of the classroom to the students, was student-centered, contained excellent course work in the Financial Literacy class, noted students' pride in school and how students and teachers have outstanding relationships. Dr. Tennant explains that their more constructive feedback concerned the demographics of teachers to students, namely that Boys' Latin needs more teachers of color, and the enrollment process. Dr. Tennant states that Boys' Latin will get a complete report from the Charter School Office in February of 2017 detailing their findings.

A discussion follows regarding the makeup of the Charter School Office, and their feedback to Boys' Latin.

Mr. Hardy adds that *Dateline* filmed the recent student enrollment lottery at Boys' Latin by interviewing the families of hopeful students, and attempted to film the site visit from the Charter School Office. Mr. Hardy explains that there were only 50 spots available for this year's lottery, and 180 kids applied.

Dr. Tennant then explains that the current mission of Boys' Latin is to prepare boys for success both in college and beyond by focusing on brotherhood, character development and emotional intelligence. Dr. Tennant states that the first half of the focus is on college matriculation and the latter half on developing students into well-rounded men to navigate the world post-Boys' Latin. Dr. Tennant then introduces Mr. Pascale, who has provided excellent leadership to the students.

Mr. Pascale begins a presentation entitled "Measure of a Man," which further details the mission of Boys' Latin for its students. Mr. Pascale explains the importance of academics, helping students get into college, as well as developing students' social intelligence, core values and integrity. Mr. Pascale states that there was a summit on November 16, 2016 which was dedicated to the Measure of a Man philosophy. Students sat in on five different panels, where Mr. Ewell spoke about social media branding and language and Ms. Wells lent her voice on a mother's panel. Ms. Wells added that her favorite question from the students concerned how she convinced her son to attend an all-boy school, which was a challenge.

Mr. Pascale and Dr. Tennant conclude their presentations.

### III. Board Committee Reports

#### a. Finance: *Bill Thorkelson*

Mr. Thorkelson begins by directing the board to the financial literature provided, which shows Boys' Latin's statements through October 31, 2016, a shorter period of time. Mr. Thorkelson states that there are some variances, and thanks Ms. Woodward for her hard work in the Finance Committee meetings. Mr. Thorkelson explains that Boys' Latin had to balance faculty to meet the needs of the students in the special

education program. Mr. Thorkelson then describes the challenges that Boys' Latin has faced with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant: Boys' Latin must spend the money first, which is subsequently reimbursed to the school. Mr. Thorkelson explains that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant money is still working its way through the system.

Continuing, Mr. Thorkelson states that there is an item for new building expenditures related to the middle school project. Mr. Thorkelson explains that at this point, Boys' Latin is running a deficit, which is expected to turn into a positive number by the year's end. Mr. Thorkelson states that Boys' Latin will be in compliance with its loan covenant.

A discussion follows on the challenges associated with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant, and how realistic it is that Boys' Latin will continue to pursue this grant in the future.

Mr. Thorkelson concludes his presentation.

b. Facilities: *Joe Conwell, Mike Whisman*

Mr. Whisman begins by describing the first of two leases to be approved by the board tonight. Mr. Whisman states that the first amended lease relates to the middle school, and only two items will be changed: the entity name will be corrected and the rent will be adjusted to the final Meridian loan.

A discussion then follows on the two entity names, and why Boys' Latin rents the space versus buying. Ms. Woodward assures the board that there no nefarious practices are in place.

There is a motion to approve the amendment to the Boys' Latin Middle School lease, which is moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Oehrle. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Whisman then moves on to the lease for the high school. Mr. Oehrle directs the board to paragraph 22, concerning who to contact in case of a breach. Mr. Oehrle suggests the lease be corrected to name Dr. Tennant as the contact person with the high school address.

There is a motion to approve the lease subject to this change, which is moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Thorkelson. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Whisman concludes his presentation.

c. Governance: *Albert Oehrle*

Mr. Oehrle states that there are no governance updates for the meeting tonight.

Mr. Oehrle concludes his presentation.

d. Strategic Planning: *Bill Thorkelson*

Mr. Thorkelson begins by directing the board to the strategic planning review in the literature provided. Mr. Thorkelson summarizes how Boys' Latin hired Bloom & Associates to work with the school to refine its mission, and that Bloom delivered their final report this past spring. Mr. Thorkelson states that the committee will take the Bloom report along with areas of consideration and concern highlighted from various groups, and will set up another iteration of planning to determine where Boys' Latin wants to be in the next five to ten years.

Ms. Woodward then displays a strategic planning presentation to the board, which Mr. Thorkelson walks everyone through. Mr. Thorkelson explains that the purpose of strategic planning is to redo the school's mission and vision statement. Mr. Thorkelson describes those bigger-picture ideas as growing the Boys' Latin brand in the community by opening more schools, including the potential for Girls' Latin.

Mr. Williams describes the potential for Boys' Latin down the road if the environment for funding changes with upcoming changes in administration following the election, specifically on the education level. Mr. Hardy adds that the school will be able to see what the future will look like after the new administration gets rolling in a year's time.

A discussion follows on the challenges Boy's Latin faces with its revenue model.

Mr. Thorkelson states that the highlight of working with Bloom & Associates was that Boys' Latin was able to come together around a strategic plan that the school believes in, that plan will be implemented and tremendous progress will be made.

Mr. Thorkelson concludes his presentation.

e. Charter Renewal: *Cliff Thomas*

Mr. Thomas begins by stating that Boys' Latin is in good shape, and all documentation for the upcoming charter renewal was submitted on time. Mr. Thomas states that the site visit went well, and the Charter School Office seemed overall impressed with the school. Mr. Thomas notes that the Charter School Office named some areas for improvement, including instruction in the Latin classrooms. Mr. Thomas adds that the Keystone scores are a feather in the cap approaching renewal. Mr. Thomas states that another meeting with the Charter School Office will take place this upcoming Friday. Mr. Thomas has one area of concern, which is whether Boys' Latin positive matriculation rates will be given fair weight in the face of renewal.

A discussion follows on Boys' Latin's request for 100 additional seats for the high school, which Dr. Tennant explains that the school will pursue that request further in 2017.

Mr. Thomas concludes his presentation.

f. Development: *Marianne Dean*

Ms. Dean begins by reviewing Boys' Latin's contributions, and states that the annual giving letter turned out wonderfully, and was just distributed. Ms. Dean states that the school hopes to take in an additional \$100,000 by February of 2017. Ms. Dean then thanks Mr. Kempf for his generous donation, and thanks Ms. Smith and Ms. Woodward for all their hard work on the committee.

Continuing, Ms. Dean notes that the annual fundraising event will take place on April 27, 2016 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, and will honor Messrs. Hardy and Williams for their years of hard work and dedication to Boys' Latin. Ms. Deans describes that there is a committee of forty people for the event, including past honorees, co-chairs and former board members. Ms. Dean adds that there will be a patrons party this upcoming March of 2017 in Palm Beach, Florida.

Ms. Woodward explains that Boys' Latin is going to increase levels of sponsorship for the fundraising event, with \$50,000 being the platinum level, or highest level. Ms. Woodward states that contributions will be consolidated, and the committee will start focusing on sponsorship targets.

Ms. Dean concludes her presentation.

*With there being no new business, and no Executive Session needed, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Sally Randolph, Secretary