

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

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

The Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: David Hardy, Marianne N. Dean, Bill Thorkelson, Mark Alderman, Jay Bird, Charles T. Brooks, Joe Conwell, Isaac Ewell, Steve Kempf, Keith Leaphart, Janice Murdoch, Albert Oehrle, Sally Randolph, Dr. Priscilla Sands, Matthew Schuh, Kerry Woodward, Wes Wyatt

Board Members Excused: Ann Baruch, Mike Coslov, Steve Smith, Dick Williams, Dawn Chavous,

Staff in Attendance: Ruth Gonzalez, Amy Guidi, Dr. Noah Tennant, Mike Whisman

Parent Representative in Attendance: Elaine Wells

Guests: Jenna Smalley of 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 4, 2015 meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

II. CEO Report: *David Hardy*

Mr. Hardy began by stating that there was good news and bad news, the bad news being that college enrollment numbers have dropped from eighty-four (84) in 2013 to seventy-seven (77) in 2014 (2014 being Boys' Latin's biggest class ever). However this number is still higher than another other school in Philadelphia in terms of African American males. Continuing, Mr. Hardy stated that the application for Girls' Latin was rejected, and the board is still deciding whether to appeal, which could get expensive, versus reapplying.

Mr. Hardy then discussed the good news, which includes gaining one-hundred (100) seats for the Boys' Latin Middle School and participating in the Obama program "My Brother's Keeper." Mr. Hardy gave board shout-outs to Mr. Williams, Ms. Dean, Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Coslov for participating in the West Palm Beach Charter School Fundraiser. Mr. Hardy added that Career Day was a success, and thanked the board for their involvement.

Mr. Hardy announced that one student in the graduating class of 2015 received a full ride to Drexel as a Drexel Liberty Scholar and that so far, eight-two (82%) percent of the class have been admitted into college.

Continuing, Mr. Hardy stated that the high school basketball team's season ended with a loss to Imhotep, but they still won one playoff game this season. The track team has been having a good year: the Speedsters have not yet lost a race and are expected to be contenders at the Penn Relays later this month. Mr. Hardy added that the baseball team is currently undefeated, and that Boys' Latin was one out of ten schools picked to participate in A.J. Raju's Germination Project.

In terms of college graduation, Mr. Hardy stated that the city average of high school graduates who go on to graduate college is ten (10%) percent whereas Boys' Latin's numbers are in between fifteen and seventeen (15-17%) percent. Mr. Hardy expects these numbers to improve.

When asked why these numbers remain low, Mr. Hardy believes immaturity leads to students failing to complete a four-year program. Mr. Hardy believes in trying to encourage students to attend a program where they believe they can excel, catch them early so they know what to improve upon (i.e. GPA) and he does not believe financial aid is the greatest burden.

Mr. Hardy noted that eight-five (85%) percent of Boys' Latin students attend a four-year college versus community college, and wants to push more students towards Temple University. Mr. Hardy disagrees with the notion that graduates need to leave town, and cited the Clearing House Report which states that sixty-five (65%) of students stay in Pennsylvania.

Returning to Girls' Latin, Mr. Hardy believes the reason their application was rejected revolved around test scores.

Mr. Hardy concluded his presentation.

III. School and Operations Report: *Dr. Noah Tennant*

Dr. Tennant began by listing Boys' Latin student accomplishments: a junior, Zachary Berry, advanced to the district tournament for wrestling, freshmen won Best Advocate and Best Witness at the Mock Trial, one student's poem "The American Negro" was published by *Poetry Nation*, three students received basketball recognition and one student, Michael Crawford, will be traveling to Rome for the Living Latin Program.

Dr. Tennant then addressed standardized testing at Boys' Latin. Dr. Tennant noted that standardized testing is the metric valued the most by the City, though it is not what Boys' Latin values the most. Dr. Tennant directed the Board's attention to literature outlining the school's plans for improving standardized testing in 2015 in twelve steps. Dr. Tennant stated the goal was to build a team, increase bandwidth and help students improve without neglecting other values. The next round of testing begins in May.

Mr. Witter then gave a Power Point presentation on Boys' Latin's progress in the Keystone exams. Mr. Witter explained the breakdown of the Keystone into three categories: algebra, biology and literature, with a passing score of 1500. Mr. Witter stated that Boys' Latin began in 2012 with an average of 1440, and as of winter 2014 the juniors and seniors have posted the highest average to date. Mr. Witter concluded his presentation.

Mr. Hardy noted that Boys' Latin students do well in the literature portion of the exam, as each student takes two English classes per year. Mr. Hardy believes that math is where the work is needed the most in the classroom, and once algebra scores improve then the science will follow.

Mr. Hardy added that test scores are crucial for new charters and expansion, as the school district looks to scores like the Keystones to evaluate how Boys' Latin is doing.

Dr. Tennant concluded his presentation.

IV. Board Committee Reports

Before Committee Reports, Amy Williams introduced Sylvia Bastian to the Board, who will take over for her beginning May 1, 2015 while she is on leave. Development then began first.

a. Development: *Marianne Dean, Steve Smith, Amy Guidi*

Ms. Dean began by directing the Board's attention to the Development Report Summary. Ms. Dean stated that Boys' Latin is in good shape, and noted Board participation to be at eight-one (81%) percent. Ms. Dean stated that of the total amount received since July 1, 2014, forty percent is from grants and nineteen percent is private donors. Ms. Dean stated the Annual Appeal has doubled from last year, and expects the Old Bags Night Out numbers to rise.

Ms. Williams added that Boys' Latin still anticipates another thirty to forty thousand (\$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00) dollars to come.

Ms. Dean continued by stating that Ken Downing from Neiman Marcus is interested in visiting Boys' Latin High School after the Old Bags Night Out event, as he is committed to education.

Ms. Dean thanked the Board and Ms. Williams for the success of Career Day, in keeping it organized and professional. Ms. Dean also noted the success of the West Palm Beach Fundraiser, in which Boys' Latin received seven-thousand five-hundred (\$7,500.00) dollars from random donors.

Ms. Dean concluded her presentation

b. Finance: *Bill Thorkelson, Kerry Woodward, Wes Wyatt, Mike Whisman*

Mr. Thorkelson began his presentation by stating that Boys' Latin is in great shape as revenue is strong. Mr. Thorkelson noted the ratio of operating cash to revenue is quite high.

Continuing, Mr. Thorkelson stated an issue for Boys' Latin is that enrollment is down and therefore reimbursement from the School District is down, which is significant from the financial impact perspective.

Currently, Boys' Latin has a surplus of roughly five-hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) dollars. Mr. Thorkelson stated that fundraising made enormous contributions, and there is the potential for payback to the School District for Special Education.

In terms of creating next year's budget, Mr. Hardy stated that Boys' Latin is approaching the new budget with a transition in mind: giving Dr. Tenant all the tools needed for students to be successful. Mr. Hardy would like to focus on state testing, which he believes will increase vigor in schools while retaining more students, and maintain a "no excuses" attitude.

Mr. Thorkelson added that by comparison, Lower Merion spends twenty-six thousand (\$26,000.00) dollars per student per year, the School District spends anywhere between thirteen to fourteen thousand (\$13,000.00 to \$14,000.00) dollars per student per year, and Boys' Latin spends around eleven thousand (\$11,000.00) dollars per student per year.

Dr. Tenant outlined an idea to increase bandwidth by building a team to support teachers and students, namely by expanding the Middle School. Dr. Tenant believes in giving school leaders the opportunities to work with first and second year teachers to offer guidance and feedback to challenge one another pedagogically.

Mr. Thorkelson concluded his presentation.

c. **Facilities:** *Joe Conwell*

Mr. Conwell began by stating that the Board still needs to vote on the Middle School Project, but that could not be done at this meeting. There will be a telephonic meeting in roughly one month. Mr. Conwell added that the project is going well and that expectations have been met on all matters with no negative surprises.

Mr. Conwell continued by expressing his excitement for the new building, with everything going per plan. Mr. Conwell stated that any delay with the vote will not prevent Boys' Latin from occupying the building for September.

Mr. Conwell concluded his presentation.

d. **Governance:** *Albert Oehrle*

Mr. Oehrle began by describing a new By-Law he has been discussing with Mr. Williams which would set forth what is expected of Trustees in terms of service and length of terms.

Mr. Oehrle described the idea for a Trustee to serve two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. A head of a committee could stay on longer. Mr. Williams suggested three (3) consecutive three (3) terms via telephone. Mr. Oehrle will draw up the

new By-Law and circulate it before the next Board of Directors meeting, where it will be voted on.

Mr. Oehrle concluded his presentation.

With there being no new business, the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 5:42 p.m.