



**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, December 6th at 4pm
339 North 63rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19139**

The meeting is called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Andrew Addis, Marianne Dean, Jim Diehl, Steve Kempf, Torch Lytle, Albert Oehrle, Sally Randolph, Noah Tennant, Matt Schuh, Steve Smith, Bill Thorkelson, Steven Ujifusa, Wally Zimolong

Board Members Excused: Joe Conwell, Isaac Ewell, Will Kontes, Patrick South, Wes Wyatt

Staff in Attendance: Ruth Gonzalez, Cassandra Ogbevire, Alexis Rylander, Colleen Smith, Kerry Woodward, Satoia Wright

Parent Representative in Attendance: Elaine Wells

Guests: Jessie Bean of Charter Choices

Agenda

I. Call to Order – *Bill Thorkelson*

Mr. Thorkelson calls the meeting to order. There is a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2017 board meeting, which is moved by Mr. Thorkelson and seconded by Mr. Oehrle. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Thorkelson then expresses condolences for the recent loss of Boys' Latin senior Jahsun Patton, with a memorial taking place this upcoming Sunday, December 10. Mr. Thorkelson adds that the board is working on their committee assignments, and is making progress.

Continuing, Mr. Thorkelson summarizes the next steps pertaining to Boys' Latin's transgender policy. Mr. Thorkelson reports that Dr. Tennant spoke with John Nagl from Haverford, and will consult with legal counsel.

Mr. Thorkelson states that both he and Dr. Tennant met with a prospective trustee, and have a few other prospects in the pipeline. Mr. Thorkelson then describes the side-by-side school visit to the board which occurred last week, where they toured the School of the Future and Boys' Latin.



II. CEO Report – *Noah Tennant*

Dr. Tennant begins by acknowledging Jahsun Patton, and expresses his sincerest condolences to his family for their loss. Dr. Tennant shares Jahsun's background, specifically how Jahsun found out that he had been accepted into college shortly before his passing. Dr. Tennant states that the leadership team got together at the high school to process his death, and many classmates participated. A candlelight vigil was organized, and a memorial service will be held this Sunday, December 10. Jahsun's family will accept a posthumous scholar athlete award on his behalf. Dr. Tennant notes the outpouring support coming from the community.

Dr. Tennant then announces that the School Reform Commission ("SRC") officially voted to disband, effective June of 2018. Dr. Tennant explains that the City will attempt to identify 13 individuals who will be charged with selecting 27 others for the new Philadelphia school board. Mayor Kenney will then select nine individuals from that group to become the new Philadelphia school board by March; these individuals will work with the SRC until it disbands in June. Dr. Tennant states that one of the requirements is that the new board members must be Philadelphia residents. Dr. Tennant explains that it is unclear if City Council will be involved in the process or who the current contenders are, but it will be important for Boys' Latin to closely monitor the process as it unfolds.

Dr. Tennant explains that the Charter School Office ("CSO") is trying to get resolutions passed by the SRC before it dissolves, including policies that would reduce certain autonomies for charter schools. A meeting will be held amongst charter leaders to discuss, as Policy 406 is to be voted on next week. A discussion follows on the autonomies Policy 406 would remove. Dr. Tennant announces that Mayor Kenney will visit Boys' Latin on January 10, 2018.

Dr. Tennant then directs the board's attention to the National Student Clearinghouse Report ("NSC Report"). Dr. Tennant is happy to report that the Class of 2017 has the highest first fall matriculation rates in the history of Boys' Latin. Dr. Tennant is excited to see what the entire first year matriculation number will be. Dr. Tennant then directs the board's attention to the supplement, which provides context to Boys' Latin's student numbers by comparing their achievements to citywide and special admission schools.

Dr. Tennant then explains that Boys' Latin's Right To Know Request for NSC Reports relating to each high school in the city were denied by the School District—the School District labeled these reports as proprietary and private.



Dr. Tennant concludes his presentation.

III. Board Committee Reports

a. Parent Liaison Report – *Elaine Wells*

Ms. Wells begins by describing how the Educational Opportunity Fund has been gaining notoriety by giving a voice to families who want to expand the quality of educational opportunities available for their students. Ms. Wells was asked to become a member of the advisory committee.

Ms. Wells concludes her presentation.

b. Finance – *Kerry Woodward, Will Kontes*

Ms. Woodward begins by acknowledging the entire finance committee for its work in their meeting the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Ms. Woodward explains that the committee is keeping a keen eye on enrollment and attrition, which are key drivers of school finances. Ms. Woodward states that the committee has been working with the Director of Enrollment to track enrollment/attrition more closely.

Ms. Woodward adds that there is a higher percentage of special education (“SPED”) students than what Boys’ Latin has budgeted for—historically, the school has averaged about 8-9 percent of SPED students but now the number is closer to 13 percent. Ms. Woodward explains that Boys’ Latin is reimbursed at a higher rate for these students, but there are additional costs associated with acquiring the materials and items needed to educate these students.

Ms. Woodward adds that we will receive a final per pupil revenue number from the City of Philadelphia in February. Additionally, the finance committee is refreshing the school’s finance controls and procedures. Ms. Woodward thanks Mr. Addis who helped review insurance and benefits for Boys’ Latin.

Ms. Woodward announces that Choice Academics has officially changed its name to Boys’ Latin Foundation, and moved 11 employees over to the Foundation. Mr. Thorkelson adds that one of the concerns of the committee is the protection of assets held in the Foundation, which was discussed with counsel.



A discussion follows on how Boys' Latin tracks attrition, and related costs. Dr. Tennant shares that Boys' Latin does request the reason why students are leaving, and states that 30-40 percent of students physically relocate themselves outside of Philadelphia. Ms. Woodward offers to circulate an attrition report to the board, with the goal of the report being to accurately project attrition in the future.

Ms. Woodward concludes her presentation.

c. Development – *Marianne Dean*

Ms. Dean directs the board to the Development Report, and notes that the numbers are becoming more significant as Boys' Latin grows. Ms. Dean states that Boys' Latin is currently in good shape. Ms. Dean encourages annual giving from the board. Ms. Dean then thanks Ms. Smith for her efforts in preparing the Decem Report, and Dr. Tennant for his annual giving letter.

Ms. Smith takes the board through commitments for the year, and how were tracking against the budgeted goal for the year. Ms. Smith reminds the board that the Decem Report was recently sent out, along with the targeted EITC mailing. Ms. Smith is hopeful the EITC mailing will be effective, as it is the first time the committee has undertaken a targeted outreach. Ms. Smith is happy to report Meridian Bank made a generous donation to Boys' Latin and presented a large check to the school today, which the students enjoyed watching.

Ms. Smith asks the board to note some key upcoming dates: the annual fundraising gala has been moved to Friday, April 27, 2018; college day and career day will remain the same. Ms. Smith urges the board to participate in these wonderful events, and to share these events with individuals in the board members' individual networks. A discussion follows on EITC and tax credits to businesses.

Ms. Smith explains that college day, formerly known as alumni day, is an event where Boys' Latin graduates come back to the school to give presentations on college life to current high school students. Ms. Dean notes it's a powerful day, as the returning students are honest and the current students are free to ask questions about college life, which is invaluable to high schoolers. Ms. Dean encourages the board to attend college day. Ms. Woodward adds that career day will be coed this year, and Ms. Smith asks the board to consider possible presenters.



Ms. Smith states that the April 27, 2018 fundraising gala will be at the Merion Golf Club, and the committee is looking forward to honoring Ms. Dean and Mr. Conwell for all of their hard work.

Ms. Dean concludes her presentation.

d. Academic – *Sally Randolph, Torch Lytle*

Ms. Randolph begins by stating that the committee has had two meetings to date, during which members discussed the standards used for comparing standardized test scores along with the proper ways to discuss them. Joel Witter, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and his committee met and came back to the academic committee to discuss teacher training, along with programs considered. Ms. Randolph notes a good portion of the training covers emotional intelligence, which includes the growth of students' character, time management, and other similar skills.

Dr. Lytle adds that the leadership team has been extraordinary and professional in their discourse around teaching and learning. Dr. Lytle assures the board that they should have great confidence in the leadership team. Mr. Thorkelson adds that the context here is the desire to see Boys' Latin students' test scores improve at both the middle school and high school levels via a collaborative effort, especially in areas like science.

Mr. Thorkelson notes that Mr. Conwell is not in attendance to present on behalf of the facilities committee. Mr. Thorkelson describes the goals for this year to the board, which include: (i) complete a survey of Boys' Latin facilities with the intent to identify any deficiencies and to ensure that the school is properly budgeting to keep facilities in good shape; and (ii) identify projects that are needed for the future and prioritize. Mr. Thorkelson adds that Mr. Kempf has also been involved in these conversations.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. for Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Randolph, Secretary