

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

The Meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m.

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

Board Members Excused: Ann Baruch, Jay Bird, Mike Coslov, 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 Bell & Brecker LLP

I. Call to Order: *Dick Williams*

Mr. Williams called the meeting to order. *The Executive Session was held first to discuss a personnel matter.*

Following the Executive Session, there was a motion to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

II. CEO Report: *David Hardy*

Mr. Hardy began by stating that the high school students have taken on a serious tone. Report cards have been printed and will be distributed, with good grades across the board. Mr. Hardy noted that while the freshman have been more of a challenge, the seniors have been proactive in preparing for applying to colleges by drafting essays and looking up information on potential colleges independently. One student has been accepted to Mansfield State and another to Ohio University.

Mr. Hardy continued by stating that the middle school will be revamped by moving the Assistant Principal from the high school to the middle school.

In terms of extracurricular activities, Mr. Hardy noted that students have been tracking sound waves from space with the radio telescope. He added that teachers will begin training at a product development workshop at 20th and Washington, where they will work with industrial saws, circuitry boards and 3-D printers so that students can eventually work on these machines for projects such as building additional telescopes.

Continuing, Mr. Hardy stated that students will start to develop queen bees, and will make honey and lip balm to sell from the bee hives they manage themselves. Mr. Hardy then discussed the fall play, *The Cost of War*, which will be performed from December 10-13, 2014, which depicts the effects of war on various individuals. Mr. Hardy went on to note that the Boys' Latin football team finished their season 6-5 after winning their final three games, including the Thanksgiving game, and the coach, Mike Rufo, retired.

Mr. Hardy then discussed how Boys' Latin has been in the process of restructuring the curriculum for more success on state tests. The high school building will be shut down completely to clean during the holidays, and that on Thursday Dr. Tennant will make a public presentation at a hearing for Girls' Latin.

Mr. Williams added that the Girls' Latin proposal would be defended at this hearing. The proposal includes the potential number of students at Girls' Latin: 650 students in the high school and 400 students at two (2) different middle schools. Mr. Williams noted that the facility at 58th and Woodward was listed as the building on the proposal, but they are still in the process of locating recently vacated buildings.

Mr. Hardy concluded his presentation.

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

Dr. Tennant began by stating that Boys' Latin is currently in the process of restructuring the Keystones. Dr. Tennant noted that he is unsatisfied with where the scores currently are: in terms of the SPP ranking, they are too close to the bottom. Dr. Tennant stated the reasons for this are that Boys' Latin has not emphasized state testing, rather college matriculation, along with a switch to Common Core making previous benchmarks invalid.

Mr. Joel Witter gave a PowerPoint presentation on Boys' Latin students' Keystone results by class, and how to improve them. The Keystone is broken down into three (3) scores: Algebra, Biology and Literature. Mr. Witter noted that across the board, Boys' Latin students did better than African American students but did not score as well as the School District of Philadelphia. Continuing, by comparison, Boy's Latin students did better than the neighborhood students, and the class of 2015 scored higher than the class of 2016.

Mr. Witter outlined four (4) areas for improvement to include a Common Core transition, having teachers re-write their benchmarks, adding incentive programs for students which could include honors pins, trips to six flags or honors sweaters, and finally professional development where teachers would sit down at a meeting to review data and edit their curriculum to include a more comprehensive approach to preparing for the Keystones.

Mr. Witter noted that students do respond to incentive programs, for example a 70 percent student across the board improved to a B+ after teachers relayed how important testing is in the long run. Mr. Witter added that students once saw the standardized testing as separate,

but are now taking them more seriously as they realize they are connected to their overall success.

Mr. Witter concluded his presentation.

Dr. Tennant concluded his presentation.

IV. **Board Committee Reports**

a. **Finance:** *Bill Thorkelson, Wes Wyatt, Mike Whisman*

Mr. Thorkelson began by directing the Board members to the October 2014 Financial Statements, noting that Boys' Latin is in good shape. He stated that the balance is strong, along with receivables, and is projecting a small surplus at the end of the year of roughly \$90,000.00. Mr. Thorkelson added that the first draft of the audit report was received today, and will be reviewed by the end of the month.

Mr. Thorkelson concluded his presentation.

b. **Facilities:** *Joe Conwell*

There was no facilities presentation.

c. **Governance:** *Albert Oehrle*

There was no governance presentation.

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

Ms. Dean began by directing the Board members to the Development Report Summary, stating that they are in good shape. Ms. Dean thanked Amy Williams as the bulk of the money came from grants she obtained.

Ms. Dean continued by stating that they are doing well in terms of private donations, as roughly \$120,000.00 in pledges are expected by the end of the year, and board participation is at 47 percent. Mr. Williams added that Board participation must be at 100 percent.

Ms. Dean then discussed the upcoming Neiman Marcus event, which includes four (4) co-chairs, who will meet next Friday. Ms. Williams added that Neiman Marcus has a red carpet shopping area where 10 percent of the merchandise sales goes to Boys' Latin until Christmas.

Mr. Williams noted the upcoming cocktail event, which is the number three fundraiser for the school, is currently to be decided but slated to occur sometime this winter. The reception is to thank donors for their contributions to Boys' Latin.

Amy Williams reminded the board that Career Day is set for March 11, 2015, and she is currently looking for potential male speakers. Ms. Williams remarked that it is a meaningful day for the students as the speakers make a real impact and motivate students. Currently they have a chef and financial advisor signed up. Mr. Williams added that Boys' Latin is looking for a variety of speakers from various career fields, such as hospital administrators, who can demonstrate the scope of jobs for someone who graduates college with a business degree.

Mr. Hardy stated that the staff Christmas party will take place December 17, 2014 at the Helium comedy club. In addition, Mr. Hardy announced the graduation speaker would be Wes Moore, a Roads scholar from Baltimore and author of the book *The Other Wes Moore*.

With there being no new business, the meeting concluded at 5:16 p.m.