

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

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

The Meeting was called to order at 4:14 p.m.

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

Board Members Excused: Ann Baruch, 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, Dr. David Bungard

I. Call to Order: *Dick Williams*

Mr. Williams called the meeting to order, and welcomed Ms. Wells as the Parent Representative to the Board.

There was a motion to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

II. CEO Report: *David Hardy*

Mr. Hardy gave a general overview of the student body as of the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. Boys' Latin has 760 students altogether, broken down into 480 upper classmen and 280 in the middle school. The sixth graders are assimilating smoothly after a productive orientation where they got acquainted with fellow students and faculty. The high school students have taken on a serious tone as they are prepared and ready to work.

Continuing, Mr. Hardy stated that Boys' Latin is in the second year of the middle school where a single-gender consultant, Dr. James, remarked at how impressed she was with the quality of the students. Additionally, Back to School night was well attended by the parents.

Mr. Hardy noted that the School District released their college enrollment numbers, and Boys' Latin stands at an 84 percent matriculation rate, making Boys' Latin number three behind Central and Masterman In addition, Mr. Hardy stated that Boys' Latin was approved for the 21st Century Grant which would provide \$400,000.00 each year over a span of three (3) years.

Mr. Hardy then discussed a member of the English Faculty, Randy Ribay, sophomore writing instructor, who is also a published author. Boys' Latin will display a signed copy of his anthology to further motivate and inspire students.

Returning to the single-gender consultant, Mr. Hardy stated that the school is still waiting for Dr. James' reports. Those reports would detail what is currently working within the school, and what needs to be more effective. Mr. Hardy noted that the school can benefit from her pedagogy expertise.

Mr. Hardy then outlined three (3) goals for Boys' Latin in 2014, which would make Boys' Latin a bigger player in Charter Education:

1. Find a facility for the middle school, as they need more space;
2. Apply for two (2) more middle schools; and
3. Girls' Latin to take effect

Mr. Williams noted that Charter Applications open November 15, and he plans to "go all in" and apply for anything the Board might be interested in, namely the expansion into a second and third middle school and a Girls' Latin, which would be grades six through twelve.

Mr. Williams discussed the high matriculation rate in the high school. The goal would be to have 600-650 students versus a 500 student school, which would take some of the pressure off. Mr. Williams continued by stating that Boys' Latin is already in a favorable position with the school district, and will apply for a PSP grant.

Mr. Williams outlined a three-step plan:

1. Apply for the grant;
2. Develop a strategic plan that outlines what Boys' Latin wants to look like; and
3. Triangulate the financials that determines what Boys' Latin can afford to look like.

Mr. Williams deemed Mr. Hardy in charge of the applications.

Mr. Conwell asked about the strategy regarding developing Girls' Latin. Mr. Williams answered by stating that a Girls' Latin middle school and high school would be developed similarly to BL, beginning with 6th and 9th grades, respectively.

Mr. Hardy added that he wants to implement a heavy math and science curriculum (a high performance curriculum) in Girls' Latin, as the goal is to have these young women go on to medical school and law school by offering a better education.

Ms. Randolph noted that further research needs to be completed to get a read as to where girls really are, regarding dropout rates and pregnancy.

Mr. Hardy concluded his presentation.

The Executive Session was moved to the end of the Board Meeting by Mr. Williams.

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

Dr. Tennant began by stating that as of mid-August, Boys' Latin welcomed 19 new faculty members, seven (7) in the high school and twelve (12) in the middle school, largely due to the expansion of the middle school. A mentoring program was also developed.

Mr. Hardy noted that the schools are also retaining their core members longer, as the Director of Curriculum, Joel Witter, has held his position for seven (7) years. Dr. Tennant continued by stating that on September 6, 2014, Boys' Latin hosted a Family Fun Day with a dunk tank, moon bounce, burgers and hot dogs which was well attended by the students and recognized a network of support.

Dr. Tennant also stated that on a Saturday night, the high school hosted a Video Game Night that was attended by 60 students; the primary goal being to build relationships between the students and also between the students and staff.

Dr. Tennant continued by stating that 15 Boys' Latin students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Heidi Bonner organized the Southwest Regional College Fair which was attended by hundreds of people. Boys' Latin partnered with different south/southwest Philadelphia schools, and Dr. Tennant noted that many students showed up from uninvited schools. Dr. Tennant believes the word is getting out in the community of what Boys' Latin offers not only to their own students but to many schools in the region.

Dr. Tennant went on to discuss the upcoming Special Education Audit, noting the new director of Boys' Latin Special Education Department is Bethany Yonkers. The audit will last for a few days, where ten (10) random students' files will be pulled and the auditors will determine if Boys' Latin is in compliance with state special education protocols. Dr. Tennant also noted that their last audit was six (6) years ago.

Dr. Tennant then introduced Dr. David Bungard, who replaced Trey Smith as Boys' Latin's Science Department Chair.

Dr. Bungard gave a Power Point presentation on the current state of the science department, outlining his goals for the science department, which include: teaming up with the students' families and the scientific community to get students out of the classroom, and tying his lessons to real jobs students can get.

Dr. Bungard's presentation outlined the core courses of the science program, as well as electives. He detailed the monthly speakers organized for the students, which include: speakers in the fields of research and writing, internships, STEM scholars, Penn Medicine, Drexel and Community College of Philadelphia. For example, he brought in an addiction specialist from Penn who showed her research to the students. Dr. Bungard noted that he brings students to college labs so they can get hands on experience with sophisticated equipment.

Dr. Bungard continued by stating that he wants to expand the school's astronomy program by converting a defunct satellite in Philadelphia into a radio telescope. He would like to start a Farmer's Market where the students could sell peppers, tomatoes, bok choy. Dr. Bungard also noted that new clubs have been implemented, including the Astronomy Club and Bee Club. Boys' Latin has three (3) bee hives that students maintain and harvest to conceptualize not only the environmental side but the business end of marketing as well.

One of Dr. Bungard's students, Tyriq, spoke regarding his personal experience being involved in the Bee Club. Tyriq noted how his involvement has inspired him to want to start his own nursery from learning about biological/environmental science. Tyriq stated that no students have been stung, only the teacher, and detailed how the students care for the bees by wearing authentic bee suits to check for eggs and harvest. Dr. Bungard added that the students will also participate in Honey Fest where they will make their own honey cake.

Dr. Bungard concluded his presentation by distributing Boys' Latin honey to all members of the Board of Directors.

IV. Board Committee Reports

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

Mr. Thorkelson began by directing the Board members to the budget handouts. He noted that all financials are in order, and that as the school year progresses the numbers will become more applicable. Continuing, Boys' Latin is also in good shape with their cash on hand. Revenues are under budget with a surplus that will allocate \$110,000.00 towards purchasing new computers. In terms of Total Revenues, Boys' Latin is under budget by \$149,600.00.

Additionally, in terms of expenditures, Mr. Thorkelson noted that the numbers are realistic, and they were able to reduce a lot of "fluff" as different avenues were found to save money. Expenditures were under budget by \$79,066.00.

There was a motion to approve the budget of the 2014-2015 school year, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Thorkelson concluded his presentation.

b. Facilities: *Joe Conwell*

Mr. Conwell began by stating that in terms of facilities, by next year the middle schools will be too small. He introduced the idea of tying facilities into a strategic plan, then developing a facilities plan to support the strategic plan. Continuing, Mr. Conwell stated that the money would be spent to make the site look better.

Mr. Williams followed up by stating that the Board would have to develop a system of checks and balances, so as to not get one idea nailed down only to realize down the road that Boys' Latin would not be able to afford those changes.

Mr. Williams continued by stating the current plan is to add a facility on high school grounds, and if that does not come to fruition then continue work on the second middle school. He noted that Girls' Latin would exist in a rented space.

Mr. Conwell concluded his presentation.

c. Governance: *Albert Oehrle*

Mr. Oehrle began by proposing modifications to the By Laws with the introduction of an Executive Committee, Article III A. He noted that the Executive Committee would act in lieu of the Board if necessary and would consist of four (4) officers: Dick Williams, Marianne N. Dean, Bill Thorkelson and Albert Oehrle.

Mr. Oehrle continued by stating that the Executive Committee would meet in the event that the Board would have to act quickly, and not all members could be rounded up in time. In short, the Executive Committee puts a few members in power to make a quick decision, i.e. authorize an application or approve financing. Mr. Oehrle noted the Executive Committee would exist for "just in case" scenarios; it is not a working committee and they would not meet on a regular basis, only for emergencies.

There was a motion to accept the Article III A Executive Committee By Law, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

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

Ms. Dean began by thanking Mike Whisman for finding a successful candidate to oversee the grant process. Dr. Tennant noted that money received from the grants targets struggling students, and can also be used for enrichment in programs such as robotics and engineering.

Ms. Dean continued by announcing that Neiman Marcus has been pinned down to sponsor the Old Bags fundraising event, which is slated to take place in April 2015. Additionally, Ken Downing, the Fashion Director for Neiman Marcus, expressed an interest in coming to Boys' Latin to tour the school.

Ms. Dean discussed a potential cocktail party, where Philadelphia people would be invited to see the school, take a tour and potentially donate money. Amy Williams added that the Franklin Square Foundation took one of these tours and they were left with a profound impression of the school.

Dr. Tennant continued by discussing the Job Program, which would find part-time work for students in an effort to prepare them for the job search process, including practicing job interviews and drafting resumes, near the school and in center city. Dr. Tennant noted they are still in the early stages of developing the Job Program, as they had their first meeting on September 30, 2014.

Mr. Schuh stated that Boys' Latin could gain some publicity by participating in the Whole Foods Give program, where patrons can donate their bag refunds to Boys' Latin. He will look into this program further.

Lastly, Mr. Hardy directed the Board to a College Bound flyer that lists the Top 200 Universities students Boys' Latin students have been accepted to, and shows how Boys' Latin has improved from Number 9 in 2011 to Number 3 in 2013 in the Philadelphia School District matriculation rate, from 74 to 84 percent.

Ms. Dean concluded her presentation.

Executive Session was held.

With there being no new business, the meeting concluded at 5:45 p.m.