

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

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**

The Meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: David Hardy, Marianne N. Dean, Bill Thorkelson, Charles T. Brooks, Joe Conwell, Albert Oehrle, Sally Randolph, Steve Smith, Wes Wyatt

Board Members in Attendance via Teleconference: Dick Williams, Cliff Tomas, Matthew Schuh, Mark Alderman

Board Members Excused: Janice Murdoch, Isaac Ewell, Will Kontes, Dr. Torch Lytle, Steve Kempf

Staff in Attendance: Dr. Noah Tennant, Kerry Woodward, Mike Whisman, Ruth Gonzalez

Parent Representative in Attendance: Elaine Wells

Guests: Ingrid Boucher and Emily Hurst of Bloom Planning, 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 December 9, 2015 meeting, which was moved by Mr. Wyatt and seconded by Mr. Conwell. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Nomination of New Board Members: *Marianne Dean***

Ms. Dean then directed the Board to the résumé of Patrick C. South, CFA, who was nominated to be the newest Board Member at Boys' Latin. Ms. Dean believes Mr. South will be a great addition to the Board.

There was a motion to approve Mr. South as a new Board Member, which was moved by Mr. Conwell and seconded by Ms. Randolph.

**III. CEO Report: *David Hardy***

Mr. Hardy began by stating that the government recently released around half of the School District's funding. Boys' Latin received half of their reimbursement from the School District in January, will receive the other half plus a full payment in February, and will be paid through the end of May. Mr. Hardy met with Dr. Hite, who reassured Mr. Hardy that once the City of Philadelphia revenue comes in, June payments will not be a budgetary problem.

Mr. Hardy then discussed Boys' Latin's School Progress Report (SPR) scores for 2014-15, including their incorrectly reported college matriculation rate, which is truly at 82 percent. Mr. Hardy intends on bringing this point up with the School Reform Commission (SRC).

Ms. Woodward then shared both the Middle School's and High School's SPR Reports for 2014-15, and a discussion followed regarding the different rankings and categories. The Middle School received a 61 percent "Reinforce" score while the High School received a 29 percent "Watch" score.

Mr. Hardy was proud to announce that Boys' Latin is ranked third in the City of Philadelphia in college matriculation. Continuing, Mr. Hardy reported that college enrollment for the current Senior class is at 52 percent and a football player has already been recruited to play for Bloomsburg. Mr. Hardy expects to find out the status of more college applications come March, and noted that enrollment is going along well.

Mr. Hardy announced that Boys' Latin's Class of 2012 are now college seniors. Ms. Dean added that Boys' Latin graduates spoke to High School and Middle School students on Alumni Day and gave very inspiring speeches.

Mr. Hardy was pleased to note that the Boys' Latin basketball team has won the Regular Season Championship for the first time in the school's existence. Senior Night was to take place that evening, and the playoffs begin next week. Mr. Hardy added that three students were removed from the team for underperforming grades, but the team is still in great shape.

With great sadness, Mr. Hardy announced to the Board that a Boys' Latin graduate and former football player had committed suicide. A memorial service was held at Boys' Latin, which 70 alumni attended. A discussion followed on the particulars of the student's personal life, as well as the resources necessary to help students who may be struggling with depression and mental health issues.

Mr. Hardy then discussed a special celebrity guest scheduled to visit the High School Seniors the following day, rapper Meek Mill.

The Board then congratulated Mr. Hardy on his 30 years working in public education.

Mr. Hardy concluded his presentation.

#### **IV. School and Operations Report: *Dr. Noah Tennant***

Dr. Tennant began by announcing a new federal law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which the government will be transitioning to and away from No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Dr. Tennant believes the good news surrounding ESSA is the sure departure from states looking solely at a school's test scores, which the NCLB Act primarily focuses on. Dr. Tennant believes ESSA will leave more room for schools to present other factors at play that highlight a school's successes, such as college matriculation rates and climate.

Dr. Tennant concluded his presentation.

**V. Board Committee Reports**

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

Mr. Thorkelson began by directing the Board to the Boys' Latin Financial Results. Mr. Thorkelson noted a key driver of Boys' Latin's projected deficit is a significant revenue shortfall pertaining to reimbursements for special education students. Mr. Hardy added that special education students cost significantly more to educate per pupil than a regular education student. Mr. Thorkelson is hoping the district grants full reimbursement, which would close the \$250,000 revenue shortfall. The board will be kept apprised of the situation.

Mr. Thorkelson then invited Mr. Conwell to give an update on the Middle School's facility project.

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

Mr. Conwell began by stating that Boys' Latin is finished with the school portion of their Middle School renovation, and they are very pleased with the results. The school came in \$40,000 under budget, which Mr. Conwell believes is a great success, and thanked Mr. Whisman for his work on financing.

Mr. Conwell announced the next project will be converting the church to an auditorium and gymnasium for the students. The project is currently funded and designed. Mr. Conwell expects to receive the building permits by the end of February. Mr. Conwell added that construction will begin in March, and he is confident that the project will be completed on time and on budget.

Mr. Hardy added that Boys' Latin is making good use of the current space as a venue for special events like the school play.

Continuing, Mr. Conwell believes the functionality of the space is on track, and the new gymnasium will include a basketball court.

Mr. Conwell then concluded his presentation.

Mr. Thorkelson then continued his Finance Report by highlighting an area of concern for the next fiscal year: the reduction of per pupil revenue from the School District, which is conserving cash and not spending as much money as in prior years. Mr. Thorkelson stated that this reduction could result in lower per-pupil revenues, which will make the budget more challenging.

Mr. Thorkelson then concluded his presentation.

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

Mr. Oehrle began by stating that he and Mr. Williams are collaborating to assign term limits for Boys' Latin's Board Members. Mr. Williams will contact each Board member in the next 30 days to get an idea of what the future of the Board looks like. Mr. Williams intends to come back with a report at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Oehrle then concluded his presentation.

d. **Development:** *Marianne Dean, Kerry Woodward*

Ms. Dean began by announcing that Boys' Latin has raised \$1 million in contribution revenue in the fiscal year, 45 percent from individual giving and 55 percent from foundations and EITC. Ms. Dean thanked the Board for their contributions, and spoke to how these contributions raise awareness for Boys' Latin and encouraged the Board to deepen their relationships with the fantastic donors the school currently has.

Ms. Dean also gave an update on the annual fundraising event, Night of Fashion. The event will be held on April 20, 2016 at the Neiman Marcus King of Prussia.

Ms. Woodward announced that Career Day has been scheduled for March 9. Ms. Woodward has secured 23 professionals to speak to the students, and needs 10 more. Ms. Woodward asked the Board for any recommendations for speakers, as she is looking for those with culinary, business, artistic and entrepreneurial professions.

Ms. Woodward also arranged a side by side walkthrough with West Philadelphia High School. She hopes that those who attend will witness a striking difference in how Boys' Latin operates versus other local Philadelphia schools.

Ms. Dean and Ms. Woodward then concluded their presentation.

e. **Strategic Planning:** *Dick Williams, Bill Thorkelson*

Mr. Thorkelson began by introducing Ingrid Boucher and Emily Hurst of Bloom Planning, who gave a presentation on their services and mission with Boys' Latin. Bloom is a strategic planning firm, which specializes in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia charter schools. Ms. Boucher and Ms. Hurst outlined the process of their services, and stated that Boys' Latin is currently in the Developing Perspectives & Aligning vision phase, where focus groups comprised of parents, students and teachers are arranged to get an initial read of the climate and goals perceived of Boys' Latin.

Ms. Boucher and Ms. Hurst noted how they were impressed with the student focus group, as the eleven students sampled were thoughtful and helpful in reflecting on the mission and vision of Boys' Latin. Bloom will continue to focus on Boys' Latin's human capital, recruitment and retention of teachers, and community engagement.

After a discussion on the deliverables Bloom would produce to Boys' Latin, Ms. Boucher and Ms. Hurst concluded their presentation.

*There being no new business, and no Executive Session needed, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Sally Randolph, Secretary