

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

Wednesday, June 7, 2017  
5501 Cedar Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143

*The meeting was called to order at 4:17 p.m.*

Board Members in Attendance: Joe Conwell, Marianne Dean, Jim Diehl, David Hardy, Steven Kempf, Will Kontes, Torch Lytle, Albert Oehrle, Sally Randolph, Patrick South, Bill Thorkelson, Dick Williams

Board Members Joined by Phone: Isaac Ewell

Board Members Excused: Janice Murdoch, Matt Schuh, Stephen Smith, Cliff Thomas, Wes Wyatt

Staff in Attendance: Ruth Gonzalez, Colleen Smith, Noah Tennant, Kerry Woodward

Parent Representative in Attendance: Elaine Wells

Guests: Steven Ujifusa, Jenna Smalley (Kleinbard LLC)

I. Call to Order: *Dick Williams*

Mr. Williams calls the meeting to order. There is a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2017 board meeting, which is moved by Ms. Dean and seconded by Mr. Kempf. The motion passes unanimously.

II. Nomination of Board Members: *Dick Williams*

The first candidate for new board member, Steven Ujifusa, is asked to leave the room. Mr. Oehrle describes Mr. Ujifusa's qualifications to the board: Mr. Ujifusa lives within blocks of the Boys' Latin High School, and expressed a desire to be involved in the neighborhood. Mr. Oehrle believes that Mr. Ujifusa will make a fine board member.

Mr. Oehrle presents a motion to approve Mr. Ujifusa as board member, which is moved by Ms. Dean and seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion passes unanimously. Mr. Ujifusa returns to the room and thanks the board members for their approval.

Mr. Thorkelson then speaks on behalf of the second candidate for new board member, Andrew Addis. Mr. Thorkelson believes that he will be a great addition to the board. Mr. Kontes adds that Mr. Addis is on the board of the Kids Smiles organization, which has a strong partnership with Boys' Latin.

Mr. Thorkelson presents the motion to approve Mr. Addis as board member, which is moved by Ms. Dean and seconded by Dr. Lytle. The motion passes unanimously.

### III. Resignation of Board Members: Dick Williams

Mr. Williams announces that Ms. Murdoch is resigning as board member. Mr. Williams thanks Ms. Murdoch for her years of generous service, as she has been extremely helpful to Boys' Latin's fundraising efforts.

### IV. Deputy CEO Report: Noah Tennant

Dr. Tennant begins by giving a presentation to the board which revisits Boys' Latin mission and reviews standardized test results. Dr. Tennant reiterates the Boys' Latin mission which is to get students into college. Dr. Tennant states that the National Student Clearinghouse numbers show that the percentage of Boys' Latin students enrolling in college in the fall immediately after graduation has remained at a steady rate of 80 percent. Dr. Tennant explains that this percentage grows to 85 percent by the end of the first year since not all students immediately enroll in college for the fall. Dr. Tennant states that Boys' Latin has a coordinator on staff to help students apply, enroll, and persist through college. Dr. Tennant explains that due to the skyrocketing costs of college, students are losing access to loans and financial aid which makes it more difficult for students to enroll. Many students now opt start at a two-year school for cost-saving reasons.

Dr. Tennant then discusses college persistence and completion rates: 66 percent of students from the Boys' Latin Class of 2014 have graduated college or are still in college where comparatively, only 13 percent of black males in the entire city of Philadelphia complete a college degree.

Dr. Tennant explains that SAT scores are a huge factor in students attending college: if students scored higher, they'd be eligible for more financial aid. Boys' Latin is investing in new resources relating to improved SAT preparation. The school will continue to strive for improvement.

Dr. Tennant has given thought as to what is fueling Boys' Latin's success, which includes: offering Latin classes, extending the school day, offering additional instructional time, and SAT focus, which all feeds into Boys' Latin's college mission.

Dr. Tennant then takes the board through Boys' Latin SPP and SPR results. Dr. Tennant notes that these results do not appropriately consider the crux of Boys' Latin's mission; driving college success for its students. College matriculation, persistence, and completion data are not meaningfully included in these ratings. There is a discussion amongst the board as to what the various scores mean, how scores can be improved, and how the top performing schools differ from Boys' Latin. Mr. Williams and Ms. Woodward describe the advantage that the top performing schools have over Boys' Latin in that they have special admissions criteria, whereas Boys' Latin does not. Mr. Williams adds that the heavy focus on test scores by the School District forces Boys' Latin to put more money into improving test scores. Dr.

Lytle adds that test scores only predict test scores, and that family income has the biggest impact upon SAT scores and therefore college attainment.

Continuing, Dr. Tennant gives an update on the middle school and high school principal search processes.

Dr. Tennant states that *NBC Dateline* has been filming at Boys' Latin, and the U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, will be filmed at Boys' Latin on June 8, 2017. *NBC Dateline* has been interviewing students, parents and school leaders and the special will air in the coming months.

Turning to the Class of 2017, Dr. Tennant is happy to announce that 79 out of 81 students have been admitted into college (98 percent) and Boys' Latin's high school graduation rate is 99 percent. The Valedictorian will be Tanner Hicks who will attend American University, with Marsalis Mitchell as Salutatorian, who will attend Pennsylvania State University. Other notable schools that Boys' Latin students have been accepted to include: University of Delaware, Skidmore, Temple, Hampton, Howard, Morehouse and West Virginia University.

Dr. Tennant adds that graduation will take place on June 13, 2017 at 4:00 pm at the Temple University Performing Arts Center. The commencement speaker will be Cedric Hughes Jones, Jr.

Dr. Tennant concludes his presentation.

V. Board Committee Reports

a. Finance: *Bill Thorkelson, Kerry Woodward, Will Kontes*

Mr. Thorkelson begins by explaining that Boys' Latin is in good financial shape, and is expected to run a surplus of at least \$250,000 for the year. The Finance Committee will reconvene in the coming weeks to finalize the FY2018 budget, pending soon-to-be-published per pupil revenue numbers.

Ms. Woodward describes one of the challenges to constructing the budget, which is that revenue guidance numbers are not released until July or August. Ms. Woodward states that the Finance Committee assumed a zero percent increase, to stay in line with conservatism, but Boys' Latin received verbal guidance from the School District that revenue will increase 6.5 percent.

Continuing, Ms. Woodward adds that the Finance Committee sharpened its pencils on enrollment and conducted a detailed attrition analysis when making enrollment projections for next year. Ms. Woodward then takes the board through the 2017 Projection and 2018 Budget.

Ms. Woodward asks the board for a resolution to adopt a draft budget tonight with understanding that once revenue numbers are given the summer, the Finance Committee with reconvene and finalize the budget.

Mr. Kontes adds that when the Finance Committee went through the budgeting process, they had to make hard decisions with department budgets. The Finance Committee believes this was done in a thoughtful way. Mr. Kontes thanks Ms. Woodward and Dr. Tennant for their hard work with preparing the budget.

Mr. Thorkelson proposes a motion to adopt the draft budget, which is moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Diehl. The motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Woodward proposes a motion to approve the lease reimbursement payment from Pennsylvania to charters for facilities expenses, which is moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Kontes. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Oehrle proposes an amendment to the previous motion regarding the adoption of a budget, to include language that the board adopt the draft budget tonight and grant the Finance Committee authority to approve a final budget once the revenue numbers come in. This amended motion is moved by Dr. Lytle and seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion passes unanimously.

The Finance Committee concludes its presentation.

b. Governance: *Albert Oehrle*

There is no governance presentation.

c. Academic/Charter Renewal: *Noah Tennant for Cliff Thomas*

Dr. Tennant begins by announcing that Boys' Latin's charter was renewed for another five years, with conditions. Boys' Latin is currently in the process of negotiating those conditions with the Charter School Office.

Dr. Tennant then walks the board through Boys' Latin's Renewal Report. The Charter School Office gave suggestions that Boys' Latin is happy to comply with, such as establishing a procedure for reviewing parental/guardian complaints. The Charter School Office also gave suggestions that Boys' Latin disagrees with, such as requiring the board to meet on a monthly basis. Ms. Woodward adds that there are errors in this report, such as alleged deficiencies with Boys' Latin ELL program, code of conduct, enrollment, and mission, which have not yet been corrected by the Charter School Office. The Board of Trustees wrote a letter to the Charter School Office asking to correct these errors, however that letter, sent in April, went ignored. Dr. Tennant states that Boys' Latin will adopt a new truancy policy for next year to help improve attendance, but the biggest fight will be the inclusion of college matriculation rates in the Renewal Report.

Dr. Tennant assures the board that Boys' Latin will follow up with the Charter School Office, asking them to respond. Dr. Tennant will meet with the executive director of the Charter School Office in a few weeks to go over the report.

Dr. Tennant concludes his presentation.

d. Development: *Marianne Dean, Kerry Woodward*

Ms. Dean begins by announcing that as of June 1, 2017 over \$1.7 million dollars has been raised, with 34 percent coming from the annual event. Ms. Dean states that Boys' Latin has exceeded its budgeted goal for every revenue stream except individual giving, which she would attribute to increased giving to the annual event and its fabulous honorees. Ms. Dean lists some noteworthy donations, such as a \$100,000 donation from Herb Allen after Mr. Allen read the article in the *Wall Street Journal* about Boys' Latin. Ms. Dean adds that Boys' Latin will be conservative in its budget for next year, as the school is unsure if the annual event will be as successful next year.

Ms. Dean received great feedback about the annual fundraising event, and notes that most of the money that came in for the event came from sponsorships. Ms. Dean thanks Ms. Smith for writing a multitude of handwritten thank-you notes to patrons of the event, and thanks the board for its support and giving. Ms. Dean adds that Boys' Latin is in good shape after the event as most of the pledged money has already come in. Ms. Dean states that Boys' Latin received a lot of press from the event, as photographs appeared in the *Mainline Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Philadelphia Magazine*, and *Philadelphia Style*.

Ms. Dean thanks Mr. Hardy and Mr. Williams for their years of service, and notes that Boys' Latin is going to miss them in a big way. Ms. Dean and Mr. Conwell also thank Ms. Woodward and Ms. Smith, who make a great team. Mr. Conwell adds that when Ms. Williams left, Boys' Latin did not know how it was going to replace her, but Ms. Woodward and Ms. Smith have risen to the challenge.

Mr. Williams thanks the board, and remarks how he's had a good run as board chair and that so many people have helped out along the way. Mr. Williams states that at Boys' Latin, everyone pulls their weight and cares about the futures of the students, which makes his job a lot easier. Mr. Williams will be turning the reigns over to Mr. Thorkelson, who Mr. Williams believes has all the qualifications in the world to run this board successfully. Mr. Williams notes that each member of the board has a different skill set which brings a variety of experience and knowledge to the table for positive collaboration. Mr. Williams adds that Mr. Thorkelson has run a board before, trusts him implicitly, thanks Mr. Thorkelson for taking on this new responsibility, and wishes Mr. Thorkelson luck.

The board then thanks Mr. Williams for his years of service.

Mr. Thorkelson thanks Mr. Williams for the kind remarks, and also thanks the board for all it has accomplished in terms of creating opportunities for young men, which is deeply appreciated throughout the entire community.

Ms. Dean concludes her presentation.

VI. Executive Session

*The meeting adjourns to executive session to discuss confidential personnel matters at 5:35 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Sally Randolph, Secretary