

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

**Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

The Meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m.

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

Board Members Excused: Ann Baruch, Mike Coslov, Steven Kempf, Janice Murdoch, Albert Oehrle

Staff in Attendance: Ruth Gonzalez, Amy Guidi, Dr. Noah Tennant, Mike Whisman

Parent Representative in Attendance: Elaine Wells

Guests: 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 3, 2014 meeting, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

**II. CEO Report: *David Hardy***

Mr. Hardy began by stating that the academic year is still going along well. Last Friday, attorney Ajay Raju from Dilworth Paxson LLP presented "The Germination Project," a program that would provide intense mentoring to promising high school students. Only ten (10) high schools in the area were chosen, and Boys' Latin was one of them. Up to three (3) students could be chosen from each school to be a Germination Fellow. These students will work with big names in the city under the pretense that after college they will return to Philadelphia help improve the city.

Mr. Hardy continued by stating that David Field's wife, Jamie, is putting together a debate forum at the Constitution Center, the topic of debate being tackling problems in the city. Boys' Latin was chosen to participate in the debates. Additionally, Mr. Hardy stated the Urban League Oratory Contest begins in a few weeks, where the winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Mr. Hardy added that usually girls win this competition, but Boys' Latin competitors will put up a good fight.

In terms of Girls' Latin, Mr. Hardy noted that the first hearing has occurred, where school representatives were interrogated and answered questions brought up in the hearing. The School District asked applicants to sign a waiver to delay decision, and Boys' Latin is still

deciding on whether or not to sign the waiver. Continuing, Mr. Hardy noted that they have received push back from the Senator's office in Pittsburgh. The current sense is to sign the waiver, but they will not if it will hurt Girls' Latin. Mr. Hardy will discuss this with Mr. Alderman at a later time.

Mr. Hardy concluded his presentation.

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

Dr. Tennant began by stating that Bethany Younkens, who heads the Special Education program at Boys' Latin, will submit two (2) policies to the Board for approval: the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and the 504 Plan. Dr. Tennant noted Ms. Younkens has spearheaded the initiative to revamp, revise and update these plans after the audit of the Special Education program.

Ms. Younkens began her presentation by stating that the IEP is a working document, and all special education students have an IEP. Usually ten to twelve percent of students qualify for an IEP, which is roughly 70 to 90 Boys' Latin students. Continuing, Ms. Younkens stated that the 504 Plan covers students with disabilities like ADD, ADHD or diabetes. Roughly 15-20 Boys' Latin students fall under the 504 Plan.

Mr. Thokelson asked if counsel had reviewed the revised plans, and Mr. Hardy answered in the affirmative by stating that Boys' Latin had brought in an attorney who specializes in special education, who defends both school districts and children.

There was a motion to approve the IEP and 504 Plan, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Younkens concluded her presentation.

Continuing, Dr. Tennant stated that he is excited to announce that Boys' Latin is a recipient of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant. Dr. Tennant explained that Boys' Latin will bring in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century coordinator who will offer ideas to lead the school with projects including empowerment services, parent workshops, building a greenhouse, installing water barrels and even bringing in live fish. Dr. Tennant noted that the science department and the students are excited to begin.

Dr. Tennant added that Boys' Latin will offer an intensive SAT preparation program to Juniors, which will run for seven (7) weeks in the evenings. Boys' Latin will continue to advance the Keystone Preparations. He also added that school representatives met with La Colombe regarding selling the honey the students cultivate from the bee hives to their coffee shops in Philadelphia.

Dr. Tennant then discussed the Day of Service which took place on January 17, 2015, where Hope Worldwide and the Philadelphia Fire Department helped Boys' Latin students distribute over 200 smoke detectors and smoke alarms to the elderly in the area.

Additionally, Dr. Tennant noted that Alumni Day was a success where graduates came back and spoke to current students. There was a basketball game between the Class of 2014 and the Class of 2015, but a clear winner was not named. Dr. Tennant added the freshmen will go see the film *Selma*, and the Boys' Latin Basketball Warriors will play their first playoff game at the high school campus versus Mastbaum.

Finally, Dr. Tennant stated that so far fifty percent of the Boys' Latin Class of 2015 has been accepted to college.

Ms. Dean added that while showing a potential donor the high school, the former Class President made a great impression.

Dr. Tennant concluded his presentation.

#### **IV. Board Committee Reports**

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

There was no financial presentation.

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

Mr. Conwell began by directing the Board Members' attention to a PowerPoint presentation regarding selection of a new location for the Boys' Latin Middle School. Mr. Conwell offered the option of purchasing buildings from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to move the middle school.

Mr. Conwell stated that the total estimated cost for this project would be \$4.80 million, as a worst case scenario. If the sale closed by April 30, 2015 then the facility could be ready to host classes by August 25, 2015. Mr. Conwell offered the breakdown of the financing, which would include a \$2.85 million mortgage loan then the school would have to raise \$1.95 million in equity. Mr. Conwell advised that he believes this option is worth pursuing, as the current site at St. Cyprian does not have the capacity to hold a fully enrolled middle school (which is 425 students, currently it holds 350 students). Renovations at the current site would create only a sub-optimal result, whereas at the proposed site at 63<sup>rd</sup> and Callowhill after renovations would increase capacity to 450 students.

Mr. Conwell added that the new location is ideal as it would expand Boys' Latin's footprint above Market Street and enter a new district and new zip code. Mr. Conwell then offered a breakdown of the Debt Tolerance, and stated that acquiring a loan for this facility will not be an issue as Boys' Latin has already spoken to a lender on the matter.

Mr. Conwell then displayed photographs of the new facility, which showed the school entrance situated on Felton Street. Mr. Conwell advised that the church building would be the most challenging to renovate, as it is 115-years-old: they would have to remove structural supports to put in a gymnasium/auditorium

which could house the entire student body. Mr. Conwell added that an environmental study has not yet been performed.

Dr. Sands commented that renovating the church is ideal as it would help the students feel like they were a part of the community, and Boys' Latin would therefore market themselves as a respectful, neighborhood school who chose to keep a historical institution within the community.

Ms. Dean asked for Board approval to pursue to finance this option, and Mr. Williams advised that a motion is needed to give approval to sign an eventual Agreement of Sale, since documents are being signed and money changing hands, which Mr. Conwell advised would take place at the end of March.

There was a motion to pursue the purchase of a new middle school facility, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Conwell concluded his presentation.

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

There was no governance presentation.

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

Amy Williams began by stating that Career Day will take place on March 11, 2015, and she is pleased to report that Boys' Latin already has enough speakers registered to fill the day. Ms. Williams added that she would like to include two to three more speakers to the list, in case of cancellations, if the Board could suggest any potential candidates.

Ms. Williams then discussed the breakdown of events for the day, where two speakers will present for 15 to 20 minutes apiece in a classroom, then answer questions from the students before they rotate between rooms. The students will have a choice as to what categories of careers they would like to hear speakers discuss during the day.

Ms. Williams concluded her presentation

*Executive Session was held at 5:13 p.m.*

With there being no new business, the meeting concluded at 5:35 p.m.