

*Every man is the architect of his own fortune.*



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Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School | 215.387.5149 | 5501 Cedar Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143

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**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, August 17, 2020 at 10:30am  
Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19**

*The meeting was called to order at 10:38 a.m.*

Board Members in Attendance: Amy Guidi, Steve Kempf, Albert Oehrle, Patrick South, Elaine Wells, Kerry Woodward, Wes Wyatt

Board Members Excused: Joe Conwell, Eric Dobson, Isaac Ewell, Steve Smith, Wally Zimolong

Staff in Attendance: Trudy Allen, Xavier Brown, David Hardy, Ruth Gonzalez, Colleen Smith

Guests: Jenna Smalley (Kleinbard LLC)

I. Call to Order: *Wes Wyatt*

Mr. Wyatt calls the meeting to order, and thanks everyone for attending digitally. Mr. Wyatt states that the main purpose for today's meeting is to review and approve an amended plan for a virtual Boys' Latin reopening through December.

Mr. Wyatt advises that a parent who spoke during the public comment section of the June 10, 2020 board meeting has asked the board to revise to the minutes to remove her son's name. This parent was going to speak at today's meeting but has decided not to. A discussion follows on how to appropriately redact the minutes.

There is a motion to redact both the parent's and son's name, to be replaced with first and last initials, from the June 10, 2020 board of directors meeting minutes, which is moved by Ms. Woodward and seconded by Mr. Oehrle. The motion passes unanimously.

There is a motion to adopt the July 20, 2020 board of directors meeting minutes which is moved by Mr. Oehrle and seconded by Mr. Kempf. The motion passes unanimously.

II. Public Comment

Due to the aforementioned parent's decision not to speak, there is no public comment portion of today's meeting.

### III. School Health and Safety Plan: Ruth Gonzalez

Ms. Gonzalez begins by updating the board on Boys' Latin's reopening plan for the 2020-2021 academic year. The reopening plan was shared with faculty and parents, along with survey asking for concerns. Ms. Gonzalez reports that 64 percent of parents and 65 percent of faculty responded that they felt uncomfortable with in-person instruction. Based on both the parents and faculty surveys, Boys' Latin has decided to adopt a one-hundred percent virtual reopening through December 3, 2020.

Ms. Gonzalez then breaks down the reopening plan for the board, with the first trimester taking place from September 9 to December 3, 2020. A decision on the second trimester will be announced on November 12, 2020 and a decision on the third trimester will be announced on February 11, 2021. Employees who are deemed essential will report to the Boys' Latin High School for in-person work.

Ms. Gonzalez advises that all students will receive a laptop along with internet access via a mobile hotspot issued by Boys' Latin or Internet Essentials. The school has also invested in a school learning management system which creates a centralized location for all academic information such as grades and instructional materials. Ms. Gonzalez explains that live teaching sessions will be conducted through Zoom which includes faculty meetings. There will also be increased support for faculty, as Boys' Latin is giving teachers the opportunity to come into the school and teach from their classrooms if they prefer. Boys' Latin will also increase professional development and provide stipends to faculty for costs associated with virtual teaching.

Ms. Gonzalez then describes the weekly learning schedule, which consists of live classes taking place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00am to 3:25pm. Wednesdays will consist of independent work, office hours, and meetings. Classes will last for 45 minutes each with a 25-minute lunch break scheduled.

Ms. Wells asks about technical support for parents and how the school will handle any technological issues student face. Ms. Smith advises that Boys' Latin is going to require every student to complete a "how to be a successful online student" module which walks students and parents through how to use Zoom and the various other programs. Ms. Smith then explains the process in place to help families with any issues by submitting either a request or urgent request to technical support which would be responded to within 24 hours or 4 hours, respectively. Ms. Allen adds that when these technical issues arise, the principal will be notified directly who will then work with the teachers to keep everyone apprised of the student's situation so those technical issues do not negatively reflect upon the student.

A discussion follows on the survey results, the reasons why parents and teachers feel uncomfortable returning, transportation issues for faculty and students, the School District's reopening plan, plans for Boys' Latin going forward, and how to motivate Boys' Latin students to perform at a high caliber throughout the virtual trimester.

There is a motion to approve the amended plan for Boys' Latin to engage in a one-hundred percent virtual reopening, which is moved by Mr. Oehrle and seconded by Mr. South. The motion passes unanimously. Mr. Wyatt notes that Mr. Zimolong has previously logged his opposition to this plan.

Mr. Wyatt thanks everyone for attending.

*The meeting adjourns at 11:29 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Pat South

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Patrick South, Secretary