



**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Friday, November 20, 2020 at 9:00am
Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Joe Conwell, Isaac Ewell, Amy Guidi, Albert Oehrle, Patrick South, Elaine Wells, Kerry Woodward, Wes Wyatt

Board Members Excused: Eric Dobson, Steve Kempf, Steve Smith, Wally Zimolong

Staff in Attendance: Dave Hardy, Ruth Gonzalez, Colleen Smith, Dawn Carmichael

Guests: Jenna Smalley (Kleinbard LLC)

I. Call to Order: *Wes Wyatt*

Mr. Wyatt welcomes the board and thanks everyone attending the meeting on short notice. Mr. Wyatt advises that four items will be addressed today, which includes the recommendation that Boys' Latin remain virtual for the second trimester based on faculty and parent feedback from recent surveys, along with approving additional school policies.

II. School Health and Safety Plan: *Dave Hardy*

Mr. Hardy begins by describing how Philadelphia is currently in a raging coronavirus spike, which may get worse through the holidays. In light of these circumstances and the overwhelming faculty and parent feedback from surveys, Boys' Latin has decided to stay virtual for the second trimester of the school year. Mr. Hardy explains that this decision was informed by survey feedback which expressed how parents want their children back in the classroom, but do not feel it is safe enough yet to do so. Ms. Smith advises that the most recent survey was sent out on October 21, 2020.

Continuing, Mr. Hardy describes how the hybrid model has its challenges, as it still exposes teachers and requires more independent work from the students at home. Boys' Latin will continue to work to through these challenges as the school year progresses, looking ahead to the final trimester.

A discussion follows on the surveys, and what would make parents feel comfortable about sending their children back to school. Mr. Hardy explains that it will be more than a vaccine based on feedback received, which likely would not become available to students until summer at the earliest.

Mr. Hardy then addresses the idea of summer school, which the board will review and evaluate related costs and logistics. Mr. Hardy advises that the school will not be prepared to make that

recommendation until February. Next steps will be sending out an additional survey asking parents about what would make them feel comfortable to send their children back to school. The teaching staff will also need to be consulted, as they have had a grueling year working through the pandemic.

Ms. Woodward supports the recommendation to stay virtual for the second trimester, with an idea to provide eventual in-school supports such as college advising and specialized services best delivered in-person. Mr. Hardy adds that the school psychologist feels safe to meet with students for their required psychological evaluations. Mr. Hardy commits to preparing a preliminary list of in-person services the school could provide by the December board meeting.

There is a motion for the 2020-2021 Boys' Latin school to remain in virtual mode for Trimester II, which is moved by Mr. Wyatt and seconded by Mr. Oehrle. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Wyatt confirms that the upcoming survey will be distributed this December to include items such as an appetite for summer school and what would make people feel comfortable to come back to in-person learning.

Mr. Hardy then proposes that Boys' Latin's Middle School modify their instructional hours to mimic the high school. Mr. Hardy explains how the high school faculty decided it would be better to have longer classes, splitting the day into two segments. Mr. Hardy adds that classes at the middle school currently are not long enough for teachers to get what they need done.

There is a motion to approve the reviewed and revised Emergency Instructional Time Template as presented to the board, which is moved by Mr. Conwell and seconded by Ms. Woodward. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Hardy concludes his presentation.

III. Special Education Policies: *Colleen Smith*

Ms. Smith begins by explaining that since Boys' Latin's inception, there are two standard policies which every few years the school reviews and revises. Every six years Boys' Latin goes through a cycle of monitoring for compliance of special education programming, which is what prompted this year's revision.

Ms. Smith then presents the two policies: the first being the Positive Behavior Support Policy which outlines what Boys' Latin provides for special education special students, and the second being the Confidentiality of Student Education Records Policy and Guidelines which regulates how students records are maintained and released.

There is a motion to approve Boys' Latin's Positive Behavior Support Policy as confirmed to be in accordance with current regulations, which is moved by Ms. Woodward and seconded by Ms. Guidi. The motion passes unanimously.

There is a motion to approve Boys' Latin's Confidentiality of Student Education Records Policy and Guidelines as confirmed to be in accordance with current regulations, which is moved by Mr. Wyatt and seconded by Mr. Conwell. The motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Smith concludes her presentation.

IV. Other Business: *Wes Wyatt and Dave Hardy*

A discussion is had on what time is best to convene for emergency board meetings.

Mr. Hardy highlighted the Boys' Latin's Teaching Fellowship, which received a \$250,000 gift from a local family foundation—their biggest gift all year. Boys' Latin will be honored by Philadelphia's City Council alongside Drexel and the Center for Black Educator Development for putting this program together with the aim of increasing the number of black-male teachers in Philadelphia schools.

Mr. Hardy then gives an update on Development, and announces that Boys' Latin has raised over \$1 million right now and way ahead of schedule as to where the school thought it would be. Boys' Latin believes it is on pace to reach its annual fundraising goal.

Mr. Hardy also welcomes Dawn Carmichael, the new executive assistant for Ms. Smith, Mr. Hardy, and Ms. Gonzalez. Mr. Hardy also announces Shamaine Walker as the new high school administration assistant, and Joe Dunn, promoted to high school dean of students.

With there being no need for executive session, the meeting adjourns at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick South, Secretary