



**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 4:00pm
Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19**

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Joe Conwell, Steve Kempf, Steve Smith, Kerry Woodward, Elaine Wells

Board Members Excused: Isaac Ewell, Amy Guidi, Albert Oehrle, Patrick South, Amir Tucker, Paul Yakulis, Wes Wyatt

Staff in Attendance: Dr. William Hayes, Ruth Gonzalez, Tyler Jackson, Colleen Smith

Guests: Mike Whisman (Charter Choices), Jenna Smalley (Kleinbard LLC)

I. Executive Session

An executive session was held to discuss contracts being voted on tonight.

II. Call to Order: Steve Kempf

Mr. Kempf calls the meeting to order, and thanks everyone for attending. Mr. Kempf notes that virtual classes at Boys' Latin have resumed, and commends Dr. Hayes, Ms. Smith, and rest of the staff who have worked very hard to make this sudden pivot work to provide students with best educational experience under the circumstances.

Mr. Kempf states that a quorum for this board meeting was not reached, so all votes will be tabled until a follow-up meeting later this month.

III. Public Comment: Naima Miller

Ms. Smith explains how a parent of a Boys' Latin high school student requested to speak at today's meeting, information of which was circulated to the board prior to this meeting. Ms. Miller is not here at present to read her statement.

Ms. Smith concludes the public comment portion of the meeting.

IV. Interim CEO Report: Dr. William Hayes

Dr. Hayes begins with an update on the National Clearinghouse Data that came in during the break, which details the percentage of students enrolled in college in the fall immediately after high school. Dr. Hayes highlights a decline after 2017 but an increase in 2021 for all institutions, as more students have been attending two-year institutions since 2020 whereas four-year institution attendance went down.

For the Boys' Latin Class of 2014 (consisting of 102 overall students), 68 students entered 4-year institutions (with 29 percent completing a degree) and 19 students entered 2-year institutions (with 21 percent completing a degree). For the Boys' Latin Class of 2015 (consisting of 100 overall students), 71 students entered 4-year institutions (with 30 percent completing a degree) and 16 students entered 2-year institutions (with 43 percent completing a degree)

Dr. Hayes states that Boys' Latin is successful at sending students to college. The school needs to investigate why students are leaving these institutions in their later college years.

There is a discussion on college enrollment numbers and how it compares to other charter schools and the School District, and how Boys' Latin can improve their numbers.

Dr. Hayes explains that Boys' Latin is above the national average for African American students in freshman and sophomore year of college. Dr. Hayes notes that work needs to be done to investigate what happens during students' junior and senior college years to help prepare them better. Boys' Latin has taken steps to comply with its mission to help prepare students for college and beyond by creating the alumni affairs coordinator position, where students can reach out to get assistance. Dr. Hayes describes next steps being to have a conversation about where students are attending college, and how they were successful as they matriculate. Boys' Latin wants to help better prepare seniors for the path they take post-high school. Dr. Hayes explains that students are persisting better at in-state schools, so Boys' Latin could create an opportunity to develop dual-partnerships so students can get college credits earlier on.

Dr. Hayes pivots to the covid-19 update at Boys' Latin, as the school made the decision to go virtual until January 18, 2022. Dr. Hayes explains how the school saw a large uptick in covid-19 cases from September to December 2021, and specifically between November and December. Dr. Hayes emphasizes how vaccination is the best way to reduce student absences, and Boys' Latin is severely behind as average vaccination rates at the middle school are 14 percent, 33 percent at the high school, and 70 percent of the staff is fully vaccinated. Dr. Hayes notes that Boys' Latin is in the lowest percentage of zip codes for vaccination rates in the city.

Dr. Hayes explains how next steps will be to push forward an effort to increase the number of students and staff who are fully vaccinated, stress the benefits of the vaccine to the community, and seek support in hosting a school-based vaccination clinic. Boys' Latin is switching to a nest testing service, Operation Expanded Testing, to allow for identification of specific positive cases within a pooled sample. The school will review the budget to allow for purchase of K95 or N95 masks. Dr. Hayes commends Ms. Smith for her work in switching to a new testing service.

There is a discussion about in-school vaccination student obstacles, and additional strategies to encourage vaccinations.

There is also a discussion on why families are hesitant to get vaccinated. Ms. Wells notes that there is a level of mistrust and vaccine information should be delivered by someone who is known and representative of the community.

Ms. Smith then updates the board on Boys' Latin's Health and Safety Plan. As background, the American Rescue Plan Act requires each local education agency that received ESSER funding to make that information publicly available on their website. Boys' Latin's Health and Safety Plan serves as the school's local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities during the period of the school's ESSER grant.

Ms. Smith explains that the school's plan was originally approved by the board on July 27, 2021, submitted to Pennsylvania's Department of Education, and shared with the public via the school's website. A vote on this plan will be tabled until the next board meeting.

Dr. Hayes and Ms. Smith conclude their presentations.

V. Board Committee Reports

a. Parent Liaison Report: *Elaine Wells*

Ms. Wells states that she will have an update at the next board meeting.

b. Finance: *Kerry Woodward*

Ms. Woodward begins with an audit update as the finance committee will bring a resolution around finalizing the 2021 audit. The finance committee submitted a round of comments to the auditor, who provided comments, and the committee then adopted the audit. Turning to the November 2021 Financial Statements, Ms. Woodward explains how as of November 30 Boys' Latin has \$3.4 million of cash of hand, and \$4.4 million of current assets. The school has 85 days of cash on hand and is in strong shape despite a substantial decrease due to capital projects. Ms. Woodward notes that due to changes in enrollment and revenue-side adjustments there are projected

deviations from the budget. The finance committee will look at projections and assess the school's ability to take on additional financing for facilities projects.

All votes related to finance will be tabled until the next board meeting.

Ms. Woodward concludes her presentation.

c. Development: *Tyler Jackson*

Mr. Jackson begins by wishing the board a happy new year. Mr. Jackson explains that as of December 21, Boys' Latin raised \$875,000 in cash and commitments, with \$332,000 from EITC and \$118,000 from individual giving. The development committee hopes to see more donations coming in with the annual appeal and upcoming event as the appeal exceeded expectations for donations received. On December 10, Boys' Latin sent out a report to highlight events at the school: Dare to Imagine Church donated \$2,000 to the school, and Pastor Jackson will give \$1,000 to any student who attends his alma mater.

Mr. Jackson announces that the annual event will take place on April 28, 2022 at Merion Golf Club from 6-9:00 p.m. There will be a Renaissance theme this year. Mr. Jackson asks for full board support to help make this event a success, which will be a good story to tell coming out of the pandemic. Mr. South will chair the event and the save-the-date will go out mid-January. The development committee is looking forward to bringing in more donations for the school.

Mr. Jackson concludes his presentation.

d. Facilities: *Joe Conwell*

Mr. Conwell begins with an update that the facilities committee was scheduled to hold an off-site planning meeting which had to be postponed. The facilities committee will have a report on that delayed meeting at the next board meeting.

Mr. Conwell concludes his presentation.

e. Education: *Steve Kempf*

Mr. Kempf explains that the education committee did not meet over the holidays, and a report will be provided at the next board meeting.

Mr. Kempf thanks those attended, and the board will decide another time to convene to vote on the resolutions from today. Mr. Kempf thanks for the board for their engagement.

The meeting adjourns at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick South, Secretary