

LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
February 23, 2017

Attendees:

Scott Dolan, President	Marshall Cohen, Executive Director
Gina Wischmeyer, Secretary	Katrice Noble, Ed.D., Deputy Director
Brian Liberman, Treasurer	David LeMay, Ph.D., HS Principal
Ernie Banks	Jeff Edwards, Middle School Principal
Jeff Bensky, Ph.D.	Julie Derby, Human Resources Manager
Sandy Boxerman	Michal Grace, Business Manager
Jack Burke, Ph.D.	Stephanie Blue, LFLA Instructional Coach
Kate Hatfield	Jennifer Bush, Development
Debbie Champion Snyder	Andrea Zeiter, LFLA Teacher, Board Liaison
Gina Wischmeyer, Secretary	
Dr. Laura Brock, SEMO	Diana Bourisaw, Ph. D., President of Learning Curve Advisors

At 4:00 PM, President Scott Dolan called the meeting to order.

I. Mission Minute

Marshall Cohen introduced Dr. Diana Bourisaw. She has been contracted by SEMO to conduct LFLA's School Quality Review.

Stephanie Blue gave the Board an update on Literacy. Improvements are being seen just this semester. In 7th grade, based on NWEA assessments, the % of 7th graders reading at grade level has increased from 18% to 40%. The Board thanked Ms. Blue for her hard work. Dr. Noble recognized Ms. Blue for her commitment to the students and always positive attitude.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of January 2016 Board Minutes.

B. Consent & Approval of February Checks. Brian Liberman reported that the Finance committee has reviewed and recommends approval.

C. Board Term Renewals (for three year terms). Scott Dolan explained that the goal is to have 3 groups of members who will roll off every three years. The purpose is to keep board consistency and institutional history.

1. Ernie Banks
2. Jeff Bensky
3. Scott Dolan (Includes renewal as Board President)
4. Tami Fernandez (Includes renewal as Board Vice President)
5. Gina Wischmeyer (includes renewal as Board Secretary)

D. Phase I Expansion Marshall Cohen reported that the Finance Committee recommends moving forward with Phase 1 of the Capital campaign. This approval will authorize Marshall Cohen and the Finance Committee to have the ability to negotiate anything within the 10% range of initial projections.

A donor has committed \$370,000 (\$70,000 at closing and \$60,000 for five years) toward the purchase of the Flanagan Building.

For transparency, the Donor's attorney is in the same firm as Sandy Boxerman, however, the work will be done pro-bono.

There being no questions or revisions, Debbie Champion Snyder moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Ernie Banks and passed unanimously.

III. Education Committee – Gina Wischmeyer

A. Deputy Director Report — Dr. Katrice Noble

School Quality Review will begin for Middle School on February 28th and for High School on March 1st. Administrators will be working closely with Dr. Bourisaw during this process.

IV. SEMO — Dr. Laura Brock

Dr. Brock:

- Clarified that SEMO wants the elementary school preparation as a part of the renewal process. This would allow recruitment to begin in 2018.
- Shared that SEMO has to make \$6.8 M in cuts due to the state budget.
- SEMO is in process of preparing the LFLA Annual Report. This will verify and validate the Academy as the Charter Renewal goes to the state.
- Feels very positive about the collaboration between SEMO and LFLA.

V. Development — Marshall Cohen (in Tami Fernandez's absence)

A. **Capital Campaign:** We have raised about \$1.7 M. More accurate report will be available at the next meeting.

B. **Board Giving:** Scott Dolan reminded every Board Member to make a financial contribution. This means the gift has to be from the Board Member not his/her employer. 100% Board giving is a requirement of many grants.

C. Marshall Cohen announced that Karen Klaus has joined the Development Team to facilitate the Fashion Show.

VI. Operations Committee — Debbie Champion

A. **Foundation Update** Sandy Boxerman reported that the Foundation Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation are ready to be signed. The finalization of the IRS forms will take 3-6 months.

B. General Update.

- Need nominations for the Service Award
- No lawsuits and no claims have been made.

VII. Finance Committee — Brian Liberman

A. January YTD Financials

- LFLA continues to be challenged by the reduced Free/Reduced Lunch payments. LFLA is well-above the required 3% required DESE Fund Balance requirement.
- Slightly ahead on revenue due to capital campaign gifts
- The construction of the Gym will save LFLA approximately \$60K per year in transportation and rental costs.
- Kudos to Michal Grace.

VIII. Other

A. Marshall Cohen gave a brief explanation of the School Quality Review Process

B. DESE Charter School Renewal Update: This process will begin after the SQR is completed

IX. **Closed Session — By unanimous roll call vote, the Board entered Executive Session.** Upon coming out of Executive Session, Scott Dolan announced that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

X. Adjournment

Kate Hatfield moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Brian Liberman and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Dolan, President

Jennifer Bush for Gina Wischmeyer, Secretary