

**LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**March 30, 2017**

**Attendees:**

Tami Fernandez, Vice-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.	Jennifer Bush, Development
Sandy Boxerman	Andrea Zeiter, LFLA Teacher, Board Liaison
Jack Burke, Ph.D.	
Kate Hatfield	Dr. Laura Brock, SEMO
Mary Jo Liberstein, Ph.D.	

At 4:00 PM, Vice President Tami Fernandez called the meeting to order.

**I. Mission Minute: Tabled to next meeting**

**II. Consent Agenda**

Tami Fernandez removed Item C, Elementary Expansion Inclusion in Charter Renewal from consent agenda

**A. Approval of February 2017 Board Minutes.**

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

There being no questions or revisions, Kate Hatfield moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Jack Burke and passed unanimously.

**C. Elementary Expansion Inclusion in Charter Renewal.** The purpose of this discussion is to ensure that elementary school be a part of the Charter Renewal, with a goal of opening the elementary school as soon as possible.

Gina Wischmeyer moved that the Board endorse continuance of the pursuit of expanding Lift For Life Academy to include grades Pre-K through 5. Motion seconded by Sandy Boxerman and passed unanimously

**III. Education Committee – Dr. Mary Jo Liberstein**

The committee has visited several schools and evaluated curriculum models. It is recommended that the new LFLA elementary school have a project-based, hands-on learning curriculum, with a heavy literacy and math focus, in a space that is bright and specifically designed to be conducive to learning. Ideally the elementary school will begin in the 2018-19 school year—starting with two classes of each K and 1st grade the inaugural year.

**A. Deputy Director Report — Dr. Katrice Noble**

School Quality Review (SQR) is underway and going very smoothly. She feels the SQR report accurately reflects LFLA currently.

**B. MS Academic Dashboard—Jeff Edwards**

Review of the Dashboard shows the Middle School is on track to meet all metrics relating to attendance and discipline. Academics are showing growth. To help ensure improvement in math an additional math teacher has been added. The reading “gap” is closing because teachers are using a student-centered classroom and differentiated learning. In 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades, 20-25% of students are new to LFLA.

**C. HS Academic Dashboard—Dr. David LeMay**

Review of the Dashboard shows that they are on target to meet all metrics. The only area that is not “in the green” is 9<sup>th</sup> grade NEWA Math.

DESE has not released the post-secondary report yet, for comparison to APR. This timing is a change from last year.

**IV. SEMO — Dr. Laura Brock**

Dr. Brock:

- Very complimentary of LFLA’s input in the School Quality Review process. The preliminary/draft report has been submitted to SEMO. The final SQR should be available for the LFLA April Board meeting.
- Charter Renewal Process timeline distributed for Board review. Dr. Brock, Steve Langhorst, the Education Committee and LFLA Administration will review and revise Charter with a goal of presenting at the May LFLA Board meeting. After LFLA Board approval of the Charter document, during June-July SEMO will work with LFLA administration on final revisions. August is targeted for SEMO Board of Regents vote, after which the Charter will be submitted to DESE, ideally in September. DESE will review in November-December. The goal is to have approval from DESE by January 2018.

**V. Development — Marshall Cohen**

- A. Capital Campaign:** Meetings continue. On track to begin site work for Gym in late spring. Will close on Flannigan building at the end of April. Kristi Meyers Gallup has been hired as a consultant to help with the Capital Campaign.
- B. Fashion Show: May 7 Noon.**

**VI. Operations Committee — Sandy Boxerman**

- A. Foundation Update:** The LFLA Foundation exists. Waiting on IRS tax determination before Foundation can operate. This may take 6-9 months. While waiting, Marshall asked Board members to send him any names Board members feel would be good Foundation members.
- B. General Update:** Committee met and will have updated Strategic Plan draft available for review at the April Board meeting.

**VII. Finance Committee — Brian Liberman**

**A. February YTD Financials**

- LFLA continues to be challenged by the reduced Free/Reduced Lunch payments. LFLA is well-above the required 3% (12.9% February) required DESE Fund Balance requirement.
- In response to the SQR, the Finance Committee will update reporting to be more user-friendly and offer additional information such as cost per student and sources of revenue.

**VIII. Other**

- A.** Marshall Cohen gave a brief update on the SLPS lawsuit. Additional information is available from Doug Thaman’s updates on the Missouri Charter School website.
- B. Graduation is May 24<sup>th</sup> — 2PM for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 6PM for High School**

**IX. Closed Session — NONE.**

**X. Adjournment**

Sandy Boxerman moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Gina Wischmeyer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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Tami Fernandez, Vice-President

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Jennifer Bush for Gina Wischmeyer, Secretary