

LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
April 27, 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
Laura Kathleen Baker	Jeff Edwards, Middle School Principal
Jeff Bensky, Ph.D.	Stephanie Blue, LFLA Instructional Coach
Jack Burke, Ph.D.	Jennifer Bush, Development
Debbie Champion Snyder	Michal Grace, Business Manager
Kate Hatfield	Andrea Zeiter, LFLA Teacher, Board Liaison
Mary Jo Liberstein, Ph.D.	Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, SEMO
	Dr. Laura Brock, SEMO
	Dr. Diana Bourisaw, President of Learning Curve Advisors

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

I. **Mission Minute:** Senior Zinyetta Morgan shared her Optimist speech, "What the World Gains From Optimism".

II. **Consent Agenda**

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

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

C. **Summer School.** Marshall Cohen explained that Board approval allows LFLA to operate Summer School in June for 15-16 days.

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

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

The committee has been focusing on the Pre-K-elementary school expansion. The last meeting dealt with space. May meeting will focus on curriculum. The committee is working with SEMO's Elementary Education Dept. Dr. Noble explained that the elementary school will be project-based and student-centered.

With respect to the Middle School, Dr. Noble explained for next school year, grades 6 & 7 will be restructured to accelerate growth in science and social studies and making students WANT to learn. School-wide, LFLA is laser-focused on doing whatever it takes to improve student achievement.

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

- Testing is underway now in High School and next week will begin in Middle School.
- Graduation is May 24th at Harris Stowe University. 2PM for 8th Grade. 6PM for High School
- The Charter Renewal document is in process. It should be completed by June 9, 2017.
- No Dashboards were presented.

IV. **SEMO – Dr. Laura Brock**

- The Charter Renewal document will be user-friendly and a collaborative effort of the Academy, SEMO and DESE.
- Much appreciation to LFLA staff and administrators for helping with the document.

A. School Quality Review Report - Dr. Diana Bourisaw

- SQR has been sent to SEMO for review. In the process of creating the SQR all factors that related to student learning were reviewed.
- In the SQR, Dr. Bourisaw stated that when students enter LFLA they are academically behind an average “x” number of years and they catch up each year they remain at LFLA. Kate Hatfield requested that Dr. Bourisaw expand on the observation and include how she draws this conclusion. (Was it from review of data or information gathered during her research?) Kate Hatfield explained that if Dr. Bourisaw can/will quantify the observation she made in the SQR, this would be especially helpful to LFLA to include in the Charter renewal and other documents the school uses.

V. Development — Marshall Cohen

A. Capital Campaign:

- Meetings with prospects continue.
- Closing on purchase of Flannigan building on April 28, 2017.
- Gym is still in city Planning & Zoning review. Hope to break ground in summer.

B. Fashion Show: May 7 Noon. Brief update on income and attendance to date.

VI. Operations Committee — Debbie Champion Snyder

A. Foundation Update: The LFLA Foundation exists. Waiting on IRS tax determination before Foundation can operate. Board members are being interviewed.

B. General Update: Kate Hatfield reviewed the Annual Employee recognition award criteria and announced that several good nominations were received. Jefferson Stephens won this year’s award.

VII. Finance Committee — Brian Liberman

A. March YTD Financials

- LFLA continues to be well-above the required 3% required DESE Fund Balance requirement. Although still challenged by the decrease in state payments, LFLA has closed the shortfall.

B. FY 18 Budget 101-

- Michal Grace reviewed the FY 2018 budget and detailed sources of revenue for each budget item and walked-through how to compare the different budget reports presented at Board meetings.
- Brian Liberman reminded Board that the vote on budget will be at the May Board meeting. Michal asked that any questions be sent to her no later than two weeks before the next board meeting so she would have time to research and respond.

VIII. Other

A. Charter Renewal & Timeline – previously discussed.

IX. Closed Session — NONE.

X. Adjournment

Brian Liberman moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Jack Burke and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Dolan, President

Jennifer Bush for Gina Wischmeyer, Secretary