APPROVED

Libertas Academy Charter School

Minutes

Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday September 26, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Location
Libertas Academy Charter School
146 Chestnut Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Trustees Present
H. Zavala, J. Gunther (remote), K. Diamond Kayiatos, K. Stewart, L. Davis, N. Barker (remote), S. Lapolice, S. Williams (remote), T. Curtis (remote)

Trustees Absent
A. Seymour, P. Kkayego

Ex Officio Members Present
M. Montero

I. Opening Items

A. Board Chair Welcome

Chairperson thanked Hector for his service. He also shared that Dana resigned from his role. We sent a gift as a Board.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Call the Meeting to Order

K. Diamond Kayiatos called a meeting of the board of trustees of Libertas Academy Charter School to order on Tuesday Sep 26, 2023 at 5:35 PM.

D. Approve Minutes

K. Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting on 08-22-23.
H. Zavala seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Public Comment

II. Management Report

A. Management Report

MM showed some visuals of construction on new facility, on track for July 2024 deadline. Working on potential HVAC delays
Talent- over half of staff identify as PoC. Leadership in LA is not as diverse, so looking to continue to push that in the future, but not diversity simply for diversity sake. Currently meeting goal.
Student recruitment- Puerto Rican parade, back to school bbq, getting involved in community to spread the word. Meeting goal in this challenging area.
Expanding extracurricular opportunities- xc
24 students participated in pre-college programs this summer. Upcoming college fair. SAT prep course for juniors in the morning. 3 students taking college level courses at Holyoke this year- driving up there with LACS staff each day. TC asked about HBCU tours- MM responded that initial focus is to bring college reps to campus, and College Director is going to schedule tours for the spring. TC wants to continue to push LACS to expose students to HBCUs and MM agreed on communicating this to Jasmine as director and inviting her to Academic Achievement meeting. KD asked about what students at Holyoke are indicating about CL courses- MM said no strong feedback yet, but will get it as year progresses. Students recognizing that it is up to them to make the most of this opportunity. College readiness goals are being closely tracked for juniors.
School Data-
Talent- looking to backfill open roles with teaching fellows who have shown potential to be successful in front of classroom. Trying to hire part time school nurse.
TC asked about LCAS using teachers pursuing their practicum. Modesto responded that he has not had success in the past, as these programs have contracts with larger districts. TC has a connection that MM will follow up with her on.
Enrollment- LA very healthy, UA continues to have some lag due to changes going into 9th grade. Still progressing in 9th and 10th grade. 540 students currently enrolled. Recent increase of 22 applications for 6th grade.

MCAS- MM noted that LACS is just off the state average with tremendous growth overall.
LA had a goal of 30% proficiency and came in at 39%.
SGP (Student Growth Percentile) was a huge highlight, with LCAS at 64.9%, the second highest in the state!
LCAS exceeded state averages in 6th grade ELA and are closing gap in 7th and 8th.
LCAS met goal for 6th grade Math and 8th exceeded state average. 7th grade math has a wider gap, showing some growth but not enough. MM is adding layers of support for more remediation.
MM is not satisfied with high school achievement and found the ANET data to not be as predictive of MCAS outcomes. Will be tweaking this year, and power of Open Architects data will allow for targeted interventions.
LACS outperformed Springfield public school in all areas
PK wanted to make sure that success is celebrated- MM has planned full school announcement and celebration! MM always feels the need to do both, to keep pushing forward but also sprinkle joy. KD shared celebratory email from DESE that recognized LCAS improved outcomes
FYI's- open house coming up on 11/9 at 8:30, and construction tours on 12/6
Other upcoming events on slides

III. Committee Reports

A. Academic Achievement Committee

NB noted that MM had invited Ben Cruse to most recent meeting. BC and MM shared data points and plans in line with what MM has shared tonight. LACS is in great hands with gifted educators driving the school forward.

B. Finance Committee

PK indicated that the school's financials are in solid position and the school was well prepared for upcoming audit.
H. Zavala made a motion to approve August Financials.
K. Stewart seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Development Committee

KK updated-
Paul Robbins has joined committee- Communications firm
David staying on as fundraising consultant through December 2023
Matching grant with Jennison foundation still available and
Solicitations from the board will be forthcoming and remember that gifts will be matched if they come in during the rest of 2023
Upcoming events 11/9 - morning open house. Trustees should come and bring a contact
Hardhat tour 12/6 PM at new site

Tours of current building still available
MM urgency to secure the matching gift- requests that names be sent his way

D. Governance Committee

HZ - some prospective board members coming together and HZ expects to be able to put names forward next month

E. ED Evaluation Committee

H. Zavala made a motion to award a 2% bonus to the ED within the established bonus structure for Academic Achievement.
K. Stewart seconded the motion.
Bonus buckets for ED- need to finalize vote on Student Achievement. ED committee met last week and recommended 2% based on 70% of points on accountability points. LACS achieved 90%. Trustees recognized his immense value to the school, hard work, and focus on success.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Closing Items

A. Next meeting

KD reminded the board to attend events at school as we pledged as a board. College fair upcoming! Volleyball at Dunbar Community Center.
Next meeting Tuesday Oct 24th at 5:30

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Diamond Kayiatos