

Meeting of the LAMB Board of Directors

5:30 PM, Via Google Meet Conference, 19th April 2021

Board Members Present: Alan Golding (Chair), Jennifer Carrier (Secretary), Brad Karrer (Treasurer), Roxana Barillas, ElShadey Bekele, Suzanne Ehlers, Najia Lupson, Ericka Markman, John Sanchez, Laura Slover, John Zakrajsek

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charis Sharp, Brian Nielsen, Maria-Jose Carrasco, Michelle Mangan, Victor Merced

Community Stakeholders Present: Approximately 20 community stakeholders were present, along with those providing interpretation services

Agenda

1. Alan called the meeting to order at approximately 5:34 pm, and thanked everyone for joining. He reminded everyone that this is a recorded meeting, and that the board members volunteer in their personal capacity and do not represent the organizations they work for. Roll call was taken to verify that a quorum was established, and the agenda was approved unanimously.
2. Discussion and Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes
 - i. March 8, 2021 meeting
 - b. Moved by Jen, seconded by Roxana, and approved unanimously.
3. Executive Director Report
 - a. Charis noted that the full written Executive Director Report will be made public on the LAMB OMA website, except for a board-only addendum related to confidential matters.
 - b. Charis provided an update on operations during the pandemic. This week is all-virtual due to Spring Break travel. Next week, 60% of students will be on-site 2 days a week. DC Health and OSSE have announced a shift in guidelines that have been significant. One was a change from 6 feet of distance to 3 feet, which has allowed us to accommodate all students who wish to be in person. We have received a number of questions and comments about opening up for full-time in-person learning and a communication will be sent to families on that topic this week. Safety and equity guide our decision-making.
 - c. At the last board meeting, we reported lottery applications were up at LAMB but those were the wrong numbers. The lottery numbers were about the same as last year, which is the most of any school. There was a drop of 20% throughout the city. One of our goals is to increase Spanish speaking families who apply and win a spot in the lottery, and the efforts we made did not result in what we wanted to see.
 - d. We are looking at the second round of testing to assess impact from instructional loss. We have seen a learning slide between fall and winter. One area that has improved a little is SPED and at-risk students. For those students, the slide wasn't as significant as we thought it could be, which means our efforts to focus on serving those students will have had some impact.

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- e. The city's budget process has been delayed by about two months, but the mayor has allowed for an increase of 3.6% in per pupil funding, which is significant and exciting. LAMB is also receiving funding from OSSE from the third round of government support.
 - f. Alan encouraged everyone to read the ED report, and noted again that in the spirit of transparency we have decided to make the full report available to everyone.
 - g. A parent asked if there was an increase in African American students applying to LAMB this year. Charis said we don't yet have the data, and Michelle noted that there were a lot fewer PK3 spots this year due to siblings, and so it will be hard to change that percentage.
4. Committee Reports and Action Items
- a. Finance Committee
 - i. Brian highlighted the previously-circulated written Financial Report. Through March we are just above break-even, which is quite good considering we budgeted a deficit for the year. The pandemic creates budget issues, such as decreased BASE revenues. The PPP funding has been helpful, as has other pandemic funding from the federal government.
 - ii. Brad noted there isn't a budget to approve tonight, as the timing hasn't matched up with the city's budget approval process. The budget will be addressed at the next board meeting.
 - iii. Brad stated that there would be a discussion in the closed session regarding moving forward on third floor improvements.
 - b. Governance Committee
 - i. Alan announced that LAMB would again be engaging Education Board Partners to assist in board recruitment.
 - c. School Performance Committee
 - i. Laura discussed the last committee meeting, which included Michelle and Victor, and included a briefing on the overall assessment plan for 2021-2022. LAMB will have good data due to MAP and ARC.
 - ii. The committee reviewed the school performance dashboard again, and discussed the different audiences and purposes and how to best share with the board and community.
 - iii. The committee also discussed academic recovery due to instructional loss.
 - d. Development Committee
 - i. Ericka requested that the budget includes a head of development, as there are a lot of good ideas that they'd like to tackle with limited resources.
 - e. Facilities Committee
 - i. Suzanne provided an overview of the structure of the committee and noted that the committee's work has been simpler with the acquisition of the 14th Street location.
 - ii. The committee is working to leverage relationships to move the city forward on completing the alley.
 - iii. The committee supports Charis on the LAMB Community Committee (LCC), and works to ensure compliance with the BZA Order.
 - iv. Subcommittees have been formed, including a Building Use subcommittee.
 - f. DEI Task Force
 - i. Roxana reported that the task force, convened by Maria-Jose, met in early April. They are looking at a number of issues to review the disproportionate impact, such as number of students returning in person versus remaining virtual, and instructional loss. Maria-Jose discussed a very ambitious 3-year plan that includes every area of the school – staff training and recruitment, family recruitment, etc. Alan noted there would be a detailed discussion of the plan in a future meeting.

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5. Show and Tell

- a. Michelle and Maria-Jose presented “LAMB PCS Board Meeting: Reopening Overview” (attached) where they discussed the planning and implementing of two learning models – hybrid and virtual. They detailed the various considerations when creating the models, including logistics, safety, and equity. The BASE spaces have been a big key to the reopening success.
- b. Jen asked what the board could do to support the school. Maria-Jose said that listening to the various options and giving our perspective is helpful, as is approving the funding and resources needed. She noted that the BASE space is a clear result of that.
- c. Ericka said “hats off to the entire staff.”
- d. Alan asked if there are aspects of the virtual model that need to be shored up, and also what should the board be thinking about now to support 5 days/week in the fall. Maria-Jose said they have been continually working on strengthening the virtual model, and discussed increased math and reading interventions. Charis said that the board can be most helpful by continuing to raise questions and hearing the administration. They appreciate the continued support and understanding of how complex the system is.

6. Adjournment

- a. Alan thanked everyone and called for a motion to adjourn the public session and move into closed session for the reasons stated in the agenda. Laura made the motion to adjourn, Roxana seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The public session adjourned at 6:45pm.

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This is a true representation of the April 19, 2021 Meeting of the LAMB Board of Directors.



Jennifer L. Carrier
Secretary, LAMB Board of Directors