

APPROVED



Lee Montessori Public Charter Schools

Minutes

October Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday October 27, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Directors Present

C. Bellinger

Directors Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Pencikowski (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

C. Pencikowski (remote)

Guests Present

Denise Miles (remote), Ebony Crawford (remote), Erin Hart (remote), Katie Wendel (remote), Lorraine Madala (remote), Megan Hubbard

I. Opening Items**A. Record Attendance****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Motion to approve the minutes from 9-23-21 Board Meeting.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Bellinger called a meeting of the board of directors of Lee Montessori Public Charter Schools to order on Wednesday Oct 27, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

II. Executive Director's Report

A. Academics and Student Success

- Implementing comprehensive approach to minimizing COVID spread while still providing high-quality education (Continuous Education Plan on website)
- Review of Fall 2021 MAP Data
 - The average Lee Montessori student was below the pre-covid national average in both Math and ELA (In future will review % of children exceeding 50%)
 - Persistent achievement gap between Black and White students
 - Significantly lower scores in Kinder / 1st Grades (very little time in school Pre-COVID)
 - Strong connection between scores and attendance
- Presentation of Spring 2021 analysis by Empower K-12. Lee Montessori ranked high on these areas, but working with Empower K-12 to better understand meaning / implications.

B. Talent and Culture

- Launched surveys to be consistently applied three times a year, including Gallup 12 and a Net Performer Score
- Getting support from Board on development of Talent Strategy, Managers' Trainings
- Kicking off staff recruitment for SY2022-23

C. Finance, Operations, Org Sustainability

- Through coordinated effort of the Operations Team and school leaders, enrollment was at 97% of target
- Upcoming contracts for review will include:
 - Studio27 Architecture (East End Renovation, terms still under negotiation)
 - Gilbane Construction (East End renovation, terms still under negotiation)
 - Wye River (Financial Advisory Services)
 - City First Bank (Short-term Financing for East End purchase)
 - Extended Day Partners

D. Family Engagement

1. Reviewed Key findings from Fall Family Survey

- 103 responses representing 131 children (31%)
 - 55% White, 38% Black.
 - 54% Brookland / 46% East End
 - 75% joined in 2019 or after.
- 87% reported 4+ satisfaction (out of 5)
- Net Promoter Score: 48 (Goal: 50)

2. Working with Communications partners (SMJ) to determine strategies for improving family outreach, especially post-COVID.

E. Anti-Bias / Anti-Racism

Review request to apply for Equitable Access Lottery Preference as soon as possible.

- Closing the Opportunity Gap is a key component of our Theory of Action
- Target “At-Risk” enrollment: 25%
- Brookland At-Risk enrollment: 8% - 16%
- This is the first year “Equitable Access” preference has been available to schools
- While At-Risk Proficiency Gap exists, it’s slightly smaller than rest of DC
- 12/9 Meeting: Request approval to apply to DC PCSB for Equitable Access Lottery Preference (only for Brookland in first year)

F. East End Facility Update

Project Financing Update

- For building acquisition, we are working to close on bridge financing from City First Bank for up 90% of the appraised value of the property and OSSE for an additional \$1.7MM direct loan
- Bridge loans will be refinanced out with long-term tax exempt bonds to be issued via DMPED’s revenue bond program
- Selecting RBC’s underwriting team to lead that financing process

Project Schedule Summary

After acquiring the building by 11/30, we are pacing to begin construction activities by Summer 2022 for a Summer 2023 delivery – assuming the timely resolution of the alley closure process

Motion for Next Meeting: Empower the Executive Director to sign Official Intent Resolution Under Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2

III. Treasurer's Report

A. Treasurer's Report

Monthly Update on Year-End Projections

- *\$10.8MM Revenues, 97% of budget.* Enrolled 13 fewer students (3%) fewer than budgeted. Title II, IDEA and Cares III Equivalent final allocations lower than budgeted.
- *\$10.6MM Expenditures, 98% of budget.* Savings driven by staffing vacancies, lower contracted building services, lower contracted SPED instruction fees, and reduced food service fees due to covid.
- \$217k Net Income, \$135k < budget

IV. Governance

A. East End Parent Board Member Recruitment

- Received 3 strong applications from East End parents

- Conducting interviews week of November 1st
- Aiming for each applicant to interview with 2 board members
- Full board will evaluate candidates against our Board Job Description
- We will make a decision before December board meeting and vote to confirm the EE board member at the beginning of that meeting, so that they can fully participate
- Further governance updates - including committee work and board recruitment next steps- to come via email in November.

V. Closing Items

A. Public Comment

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Pencikowski

Documents used during the meeting

None