

APPROVED



Lee Montessori Public Charter Schools

Minutes

May Board Meeting (resched from April)

Date and Time

Thursday May 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Directors Present

B. Beste (remote), C. Bellinger (remote), K. Wendel (remote), L. Madala (remote), R. Pulciani (remote), S. Morgan (remote)

Directors Absent

E. Bethel

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Pencikowski (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

C. Pencikowski (remote)

Guests Present

Betsy Romero (remote), C. Camborda (remote), Chloe (LSG) (remote), Denise Milles (remote), Ebony Crawford (remote), Erin Rowsey Hart (remote), J. Milton (remote), Megan Hubbard (remote), Niranjan (LSG) (remote)

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

C. Bellinger called a meeting of the board of directors of Lee Montessori Public Charter Schools to order on Thursday May 12, 2022 at 6:03 PM.

C.

Approve Minutes

S. Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from February Board Meeting on 02-23-22.

K. Wendel seconded the motion.

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

II. Executive Director's Update

A. Executive Director's Report

- Academics Update
 - Large improvement in EE attendance
 - Brookland has had good attendance all year - it will be different for May given COVID prevalence.
 - Update on CLASS Assessment results and how to improve results in coming years
 - Received full AMI recognition at BL campus - we are still only fully recognized public Montessori school in DC for both primary and secondary. This sets us apart from other public Montessori schools that only have recognition for Primary.
- Talent & Culture Update
 - Large spike in COVID cases in Brookland campus in past few days
 - Review of DC PCSB Notice of Concern
 - Providing BetterHelp video therapy for staff, with decent uptake so far
- Finance, Operations & Org Sustainability Update
 - Still working with Council on securing tax-exempt bond financing
- Family Engagement Update
 - Hosted cross-campus Silent Journey & Discovery
 - Coming back to in-person events (slowly, given COVID)
- Equity Update
 - Announcement of Lifelong Learner Fellows for next year.

B. FY23 Budget Presentation

- Budget preview this month - the full budget review will come at the next meeting, along with the vote on the budget.
- Review of projected expenses and revenues
- Review of projected enrollment
- Lorraine makes ask that Board members each review budget through the lens of their committees and the suggestions they have made for next year.

C. Governance Committee

K. Wendel made a motion to Approve Jessica Milton's nomination to join the Board of Directors.

B. Beste seconded the motion.

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

- Update on Education Board Partners "Recruiting, Training & Matching cohort" program to help us find an additional board member. To participate in the cohort, all Board members will need to complete the survey assessing Board habits.

- Education Board Partners is hosting a Happy Hour next week following the Governance Academy as a chance for Board members from across the city to socialize.

III. Treasurer's Report

A. Approve Resolution Relating to the Issuance of Bonds

- Update on year-end projections
- Update on Bond Financing. We hope Council passes vote on June 7th. There have been significantly increasing interest rates that add costs to our organization. Previously, the Board authorized \$26M in bond proceeds.
 - As a result, asking that the Board update resolution to allow us to seek up to \$30M in debt. We believe that we will still be in a healthy financial situation if we make this change.

L. Madala made a motion to Amend resolution relating to the issuance of bonds, increasing the aggregate principal amount to \$30M.

B. Beste seconded the motion.

- Treasurer: We are paying close attention to expenses and making sure that we are staying at correct debt-to-service ratio.
- Noted that one of the line items -- \$1M for renovations of Brookland campus -- is discretionary spending. If debt service becomes too expensive, we are not obligated to do this work.

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

IV. Strategic Planning

A. Strategic Planning Update

- RP introduces LSG to give an overview of emerging themes and level of engagement throughout the process.
- LSG presents an overview of a timeline and what stage of strategic planning process the team is currently in.
- LSG: Update on Surveys/Focus Groups
- LSG: 8 Emerging Themes
 - Positive role for students + community
 - Lee's future and connection to leadership
 - Challenges around training and retaining Montessori-trained staff
 - Gaps in communication across stakeholder groups
 - Codifying and maintaining Lee culture
 - Perceived disparities between campuses across all stakeholder groups
 - Understanding and communicating the Montessori concept
 - Creating a sense of belonging across stakeholder groups
- KW: Glad we are doing this, excited to dig in.
- SM: No surprises for me, given what I have heard from our community.
- RP: Feels like there is a normal tension between families feeling like we want to grow and balancing that with what they want for their students. Feels like that is a role for the Board. Analyzing that we have reached a "path for success" before we expand.
- LSG: Thinks the question is: where do we need to be as an organization across systems, culture, etc before we decide to expand?

- RP: Thinks its 2 questions: 1) are you doing it well? and 2) can it be scaled?
- LM: Thinking about the places we can dig in on to make actionable change.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Wendel