



The Laboratory Charter School
of Communication and Languages

Board of Trustees Annual Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.

Board Member Role Call

- A. Present: Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President; Norris Bennis, Esq.- Vice President, Pinkey Lucas, Member, Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member, Elbert Sampson, Treasurer, Karen Slade, Member
- B. Others Present: Dr. Andréa Coleman-Hill, CEO; Alan Epstein, Attorney, Joan Belynda Brown, Director of Human Resources, Jesse Bean, Charter Choices
- C. Absent: Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary

Announcement of Executive Session

An executive session was held on August 16, 2023 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Nomination Committee Recommendation

None

Approval of Minutes:

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion: Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice President Second: Pinkey Lucas, Member

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes

Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes

Pinkey Lucas, Member - Yes

Elbert Sampson, Treasurer - Yes

Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member – Yes

Karen Slade, Member - Yes

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Finance Report

- Cash has increase of \$1M cash on hand.
- Cost containment methods have had a positive impact on financials.
- Only one third of the projected deficit due to enrollment was realized.
- LAB is expecting Federal Grant funds from ESSR and Title funds.

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the finance report.

Motion: Elbert Sampson, Treasurer Second: Karen Slade, Member
Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes
Norris Benms Esq., Vice President – Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member - Yes
Elbert Sampson, Treasurer - Yes
Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member – Yes
Karen Slade, Member - Yes

CEO Report

Audit Letter

Lab Charter received the final audit letter for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The audit was received and approved as being substantially in compliance with federal and Commonwealth financial policy. The letter is attached.

Ace Report

The ACE Report was reviewed with the Board of Trustees.

The ACE report was released in May for review. LAB submitted a rebuttal document to the ACE due to findings marked “Does Not Meet Standards” when the items actual “Meet Standards.” The document is attached. In response to LAB questioning findings that were marked in error, the CSO emailed LAB to inform the CEO that the LAB ACE Report will not be released until there is an investigation into the rebuttal issues. To date LAB has not been informed of any investigation results.

The ACE Report was released again on August 7, 2023 and LAB was given 4 days to respond and not two weeks as promised. Some information was corrected and other information was not. The report and rebuttal submitted by LAB was ignored by the CSO. These items were not only uploaded into Epicenter as requested, but also sent to everyone at the Charter Schools Office. We will await a response as the CSO stated plans to release the Report to the public by the start of school.

Without knowledge of any actual investigation, the same items we disputed in May 2023 are back on the ACE report and the CSO is refusing to allow rebuttals; therefore, LAB sent email rebuttals (part 1 and 2) with 35 total attachments rebutting the findings once again

with evidence to prove that the findings are incorrect. This rebuttal information went to everyone in the CSO.

The Trustees questioned the following:

- The Governance section of the ACE Report. Proof of compliance with Governance has historically been on the LAB Website, as Trustees can confirm yet this section “Does Not Meet Standards.”
- How the CSO, as the Charter Authorizer, is regulating specific wording in LAB Charter policies.
- Why the ACE report seems to change randomly, for example, the 2022 ACE Report changed three times from April-July 2022.
- Why there is a refusal to correct misinformation.

The Board of Trustees would like a meeting with the CSO to discuss specific misinformation being reported and the refusal of the CSO to correct findings even when they have evidence of misinformation. The meeting request will be sent to all parties in the Charter Schools Office.

Food Service

Final bids were publicly opened on July 12, 2023. The successful bidder was Maschio's Food Service, Inc. Maschio's will begin providing cooked meals (breakfast and lunch, on August 28, 2023).

Summer Programming

LAB hosted two summer programs:

1. A Literacy Institute (K-8) where students who are basic and below basic will receive extra support.
2. The Extended School Year Program for Special Education Students. Both programs were very successful.

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the CEO report.

Motion: Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member Second: Mr. Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice President

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes

Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes

Pinkey Lucas, Member - Yes

Elbert Sampson, Treasurer - Yes

Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member – Yes

Karen Slade, Member - Yes

Board Resolutions

Common Consent Agenda

No Resolutions this month

Public Participation: None

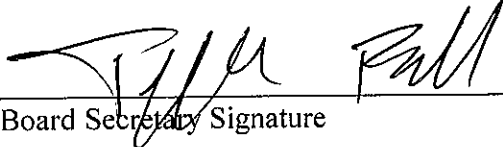
Adjournment:

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

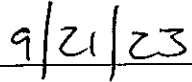
Motion: Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member Second: Elbert Sampson,
Treasurer

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes
Norris Benns Esq., Vice President – Yes
Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary – Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Treasurer - Yes
Elbert Sampson, Member - Yes
Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member – Yes



Board Secretary Signature



Date