

La Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School  
December 2014 Board Meeting

Attending: Brian Fahey, Tom Peters, Nora Gonzalez, Veronica Vasko, Peter Barry, Alexis Simms, Bill Hutchinson, Shawn Stevens, Maria Matos, Luz Garcilazo, Maria Alonso, Phyllis Smith, Norma Ivonne Antongiorgi, Keina Hodge(IS), Riccardo Stoeckicht (IS), Teresa Gerchman (IS), Caridad Alonso (Public), Ellen Cooper (Attorney)

The Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

- I A motion was made by Tom Peters to approve agenda, seconded by Shawn Stevens. Agenda was approved with no changes.
- II Approval of November minutes. A motion was made to table approval of November minutes. Motion was seconded. Approval of November minutes tabled until January meeting.
- III There was no public comment.
- IV Head of School Report
  - i. Enrollment-225 students, might be a loss of a family due to transportation issues. Applications for next year, 24 for k and 7 for 1st The process is different this year, so the school is making plans to help parents get through the enrollment process.
  - ii. Open houses are coming up soon, some classrooms will be open, there will be a presentation for attenders
  - iii. This weekend there will be 5 teachers going to the Expeditionary Learning conference in Boston.
  - iv. Jake Fishbein, from Expeditionary Learning, met with staff recently and provided guidance on further implementation of the EL model. A focus for the school will be "UNIDOS" The letters stand for *unity, never give up, integrity, discovery, ownership, self-discipline*. This will be a branding strategy going forward, and part of the common vocabulary in the school.
  - v. The school will be visiting the Grand Opera House. Some of the students will be performing on that day December 16th. The Downtown Visions group will be helping to escort the students and teachers to the theater.
  - vi. December 19th will be the first showcase night at the school. Teams of teachers will work to put together presentations of student work.
  - vii. Personnel-teacher resignation recently in a Spanish speaking classroom. The school will be interviewing right away. Four candidates have been identified so far. In the process of hiring two part time employees to serve as interventionists for students who are having difficulty in school.

## V Finance Committee

- i. Created the Citizen's Budget Oversight Committee.
- ii. Nora attended a training recently. All Board members are required to attend this training. The next training is in January, in Dover. There is one in March in New Castle County.
- iii. Riccardo Stoeckicht is working with the Delaware Community Foundation to determine the history of our account with them.
- iv. We are currently on track with our spending, except spending for professional services. We hired some part time employees and substitute teachers for additional help in the first couple of months of the year and we have nearly exhausted this allocation. However, there are some area of the budget that will produce some surplus, so we will be able to keep our professional services funded.
- v. Going forward we will have a Finance Committee and a CBOC. The members of the Finance Committee will also be members of the CBOC. The CBOC will meet directly before regularly scheduled board meetings.
- vi. The Finance Committee approved the budget at its last meeting and approved presenting the budget to the Board at its December meeting.
- vii. Maria Matos received a letter from the CEB that will defer an additional \$50,000 of our rent. The CEB has agreed to defer a total of \$250,000 of our rent to date.
- viii. Maria Matos thanked Nora for her work.

## VI Marketing and Student Recruitment

- i. We are in the process of recruiting families. Marketing materials are being produced and open houses have been scheduled.
- ii. Coordinator at LACC will set up a date where we can help families fill out enrollment materials, probably in the beginning of January.
- iii. The new website is live and is being updated regularly.
- iv. There is a lot of traffic on the facebook page.
- v. A video was created to show at the Open House events.
- vi. Maria Matos thanked Veronica for her work.

## VII Development

- i. Shawn Stevens has worked very hard on development projects. We applied to several foundations for grants. We should know this month if we were successful or not.
- ii. Maria Matos thanked Shawn for his work.

- VIII CMO Report
  - i. Teresa introduced Keina Hodge to the Board. She was reentry hired at Innovative Schools and will be working closely with the school. She will be at La Academia for the equivalent on one day a week.
  - ii. The CMO provided a report that showed the support dates for IS staff and a narrative describing the focus of their support at La Academia.
  
- VIII Governance
  - i. Tom Peters will chair the Governance Committee of the Board. Luz Garcilazo, Maria Matos and Maria Alonso will also serve on the committee.
  
- IX Old Business
  - i. Rebeca Fahey will do translations, subject to compliance with conflict of interest statement in by-laws.
  
- X New Business
  - i. We need to design an orientation process for new Board members
  
- XI Announcements
  
- XII Motion to adjourn to Executive Session made and seconded. The Board moved to Executive Session at 6:25 pm.