

Lerner Jewish Community Day School

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

6:30-8:30 pm

In attendance: Christy Brooks, Sally Brown, Jonathan Dayan, Hollis Gauss, Norma Gindes, Richard Goldberg, Elyza Halev, Andrew Janiak, Tal Lewin-Wittle, Jon Lovins, Grace Marion, Allison Oakes, Phil Seib, Marlo Wilcox, Kathryn Wolf

Absences: Norah Goldman

- I. Welcome 10 minutes
 - A. Consent Agenda: September-December 2015, January 2016 Minutes; all approved
 - B. D'var Torah- Hollis reflected on the Torah portion regarding how to "spend" our extra money and resources for a place for god among us
 - C. 3 things: 1) donate to funds, 2) write a positive statement & send to Hollis, 3) guidelines:
 - a. share only verifiable facts, b. speak respectfully & level-headed, c. don't escalate the level of discourse (no response in social media is probably the best response)
 - D. biggest concern is our response, current and future
 - E. PR campaign coming soon; share the letter community-wide?

- II. HOS Report - Allison
 - A. Allison thanks Hollis for taking the helm so Allison can still run the school
 - B. Allison shares anecdote of her own children's feeling: Lerner embodies a love of Israel
 - C. Ellis Island simulation in 3rd grade tomorrow, 2/10/16 - Lerner teaches students about their future while embracing from whence they came...

- III. Jewish Life Committee - Jon
 - A. Group convened to discuss admissions to support Allison; report in Dropbox
 1. Current elementary school policy: "open to children of the Jewish community whose parents embrace the mission of the school"
 - a) no proof required
 - b) welcomes families on the journey towards Judaism
 2. Committee was concerned about an implicit policy requiring 1 parent to be Jewish; this is not the case and is not written anywhere
 3. Concern regarding non-Jewish preschool family; open enrollment only in preschool
 4. Concern regarding lack of specificity; a challenge to Allison and staff: what does it mean to be a part of the Jewish community
 5. Recommend education for staff to only use the written policy
 6. Transparency recommended with current families to ensure they understand the current policy
 7. Recommend the Board is very transparent & shares with community should a policy change be discussed or recommended
 8. Recommend the Board to discuss open enrollment in elementary (not a recommendation to change the policy, but just to discuss it)
 9. Recommend a contract for families to sign that reflects written policy
 10. Recommend Board to discuss the question of enrollment non-Jewish faculty and staff and their children
 - B. Documents from prior Board meetings can be shared for background information

- IV. Security Committee update - Kathryn
 - A. Review of goals
 - B. In process of soliciting outside opinions
 - 1. Durham Academy did a walkthrough and made recommendations
 - 2. Rescheduling meeting with Durham Police Department
 - C. Support school professionals
 - D. Continuing to gather information from experts, knowledge of biggest vulnerabilities and the recommendations for doable changes
 - E. Security chatter has increased on Board President listserv: Hollis shares new best practice is to hire an independent audit on top of free supports (police, FBI, etc.); Hollis has a recommendation for Resilience Consulting
 - 1. Discussion ensues regarding needs for this in addition to what the committee has already completed
 - 2. Community training- "boys & toys" gadgets vs. being planned, alert & thoughtful

- V. Finance Report - Etan
 - A. Next month is 1st budget conversation
 - B. Update - reserves & restricted money were confusing & are now all set properly
 - 1. Starting in July 1 2015 - 320K in reserves, 160K in investment accounts, only \$4,000 has been spent since beginning of fiscal year
 - C. Business office is excited about the organization, and confident in the numbers; tax issues are being resolved or already resolved
 - D. Renewing vendors this year; optimistic on saving money
 - E. Looking for someone to groom for future Treasurer or on the Finance Committee
 - F. Discussion regarding reserves
 - 1. negative numbers in an account will move from account (ie, operations) from reserves; excess money will also get transferred to reserves

- VI. Discussion ensues regarding case & petition
 - A. recommendation: create links for parents to click to increase positive pages
 - B. avoid clicking on negative pages to reduce their visibility

- VII. Executive Session - Marlo & Hollis
 - A. Mid-year Review of HOS last week

- VIII. Etan - Motion to make decision on next steps, seconded by Marlo

- IX. Adjourn - meeting ended at 8:45pm

Minutes taken by Christy Brooks, Secretary

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 6:30-8:30PM at Levin JCC Israel Center