

Advocates for Academic Excellence in Education, Inc.
(Benjamin Franklin High School)

Board of Directors Meeting

October 20, 2016 at 4:00PM

Benjamin Franklin High School Student Center

1. **Call to Order:** 4:10 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Les Alexander, Mark Baum '77, Alea Cot, Duris Holmes '80, Richard Ireland, Jr., Sandra Katz-Levy '65, Dr. John Nicklow, Daniel Schenck '94, Dr. Maureen Shuh, Todd Slack, and Carlos Zervigon
Excused: Ingrid Labat, M.D. '87 and Gary Ostroske
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved
4. **Approval of Minutes of September 29, 2016:** Approved as distributed
5. **Information/Discussion**
 - a. **Student outreach project with Arise Academy (Dr. Widhalm)** Two students, Madison Smither '17 and Ilaria Simeone '17 started the Student to Scientist program last year and were going to make a brief presentation on their work. It will be rescheduled for the November meeting. Madison Smither '17 has also been working on cancer research and had a meeting at this time to discuss a clinical trial with Tulane University Medical Clinic. Dylan Borne '17 will also present at the November meeting about the Project XQ experimental school contest. Dylan and his team were in the top 50 out of 750 entries, but were not selected as one of ten winners. However, they continue working on project goals with Propeller and other agencies.
 - b. **Audit report presentation (LaPorte)-** LaPorte auditors, Anthony Rutledge and John Murray shared the report findings and highlights. The opinion page of the report states an unmodified opinion, as there are no significant items or concerns to report. Mr. Rutledge went over specific items in the report: total assets, liabilities, net assets, revenue, expenses, net asset change and footnotes from the report. The additional set of procedures, statistical data, and schedules 1-9 are all included. No procedures showed non-compliance or errors. Allison Bent asked that the board vote to accept the audit findings so she could release the faculty stipend payment. There was discussion about the procedure to approve or accept the audit. It was determined that voting to accept the audit was necessary to release the stipend.
Motion and second to accept the LaPorte audit, which was approved unanimously.
 - c. **Grant report: (Dr. Widhalm)** A handout illustrated approximately \$50,000 has been received in the current year, which is up from the same time last year. There are an additional \$50,000 grants with December deadlines as well. Among the grants are those for the locker room modernization, science equipment and materials, robotics and other academic enhancements. Grants are an important source of funding for specific projects and also an opportunity to strengthen ties to the broader corporate community. Ms. McHugh was thanked for her success as the Grants Writer. She provided an example of grants strengthening ties with the

community, such as the Gateway Program, which started as a small pilot program, but now serves 20 schools. This year, 189 middle school students participate in math advancement provided by Franklin student tutors and the Khan Academy platform. Most come from low-income schools and the program does not just serve as remediation for students struggling with math, but also to advance talented students to their next level of performance.

- d. **Parents Association update- (Mr. Alexander)** The second Parents Association meeting was well-attended and officers are now in place. A Chair of the International Fest has been named and is active, and grade-level representatives have been named and are ready to take ownership of this organization.
6. **Head of School Monthly report- (Dr. Widhalm)** The Homecoming game under the lights is scheduled for October 21. *Alice in Wonderland* will be staged in November, and Dr. Widhalm reported a school-wide assembly “Teens, Sex and the Law” presentation by the New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center on October 27. College Night was well-attended with 70+ colleges in attendance. The Open House on October 6 was very successful. New admissions materials show the talents of Christy Read, Natalie Rinehart, and Virginia Saussey (packets were distributed to board members). Approximately 240 applications for admission have already been received.
7. **CFO report- (Ms. Bent)** Financial Statements now include a Capital Projects Fund line item in preparation for the move to create the Facilities Masterplan. This will also make the issue of repairs and maintenance show more appropriately as part of the Capital Projects Fund.
8. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Facilities-(Mr. Baum)** The Facilities Committee interviewed 3 firms for the Facilities Masterplan: Studio WTA, Wagner & Ball, Trapolin and Peer. All three had excellent presentations and ideas. These will be ranked and next month the committee will present findings to the board.
9. **Committee charter discussion**
 - a. **Facilities- (Mr. Baum)** The Facilities Committee established operating procedures in 2014. Recommendations were made to bring them in line with other charters. Only minor changes have been found to be necessary. The Facilities charter language will change “committee chair” and “school leader” to reflect the current usage.
 - b. **Finance- (Mr. Ireland)** With Ms. Bent’s help the committee drafted and circulated a charter. There was discussion among the board regarding whether or not each committee is required to have two board members. Mr. Alexander concluded that even if not a requirement, it is a good idea. Discussion was inconclusive if ex-officio membership implied full membership and voting rights, and therefore satisfied the requirement to have two board members on each committee.
10. **Action Items**
 - a. **Approval of the committee charter for the Facilities committee (Mr. Baum).** No board discussion or public comment. **Motion and second, with unanimous approval.**

- b. **Approval of the committee charter for the Finance committee (Mr. Ireland).** No board discussion or public comment. **Motion and second, with unanimous approval.**
- c. **Approval of the Class of 2001 serving beer and wine during their reunion reception on campus.** Dr. Widhalm shared that a permit, permitted server and security would be provided. Discussion took place regarding the role of Orleans Parish School Board in approving. Further discussion of liability in regards to alcohol consumption. Consensus was that insurance covers this risk. It was determined that ATF approval is not necessary as no beer or wine is being sold. **Motion to approve as long as no additional permitting is necessary, and second, with unanimous approval.**

Mr. Alexander extended an invitation to board members to attend the Investiture of Dr. Nicklow as President of the University of New Orleans. The board offered their congratulations to Dr. Nicklow.

11. **Motion to adjourn:** 5:02PM