

La Salle Charter Schools, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2021

La Salle Charter Schools, Inc. Board Members Participating in Person via ZOOM: James Hill, Demetrius Grooms, Kim Perry, Chris Hinkley, Constance Gully, Dr. Shirleas Washington, Adam Smith

La Salle Charter Schools, Inc. Board Member Absent: N/A

Other Participants: LaShanda R. Boone, Sherida Williams, Lauren Cobb, Mary Tovar (La Salle Charter Schools, Inc.), Gerry Kettenbachg, Shanika Harris (University of Missouri - Columbia Charter Operations), Douglas Thaman (Missouri Charter Public School Association - MCPSA)

I. Opening Items

- a. Call to Order - Notice of the meeting having duly been given and a quorum being present LaSalle School Chairman, Demetrius Grooms, convened the Board of Directors Meeting of La Salle Charter Schools, Inc. ("La Salle") at approximately 4:36 p.m. Central Time via ZOOM Conferencing application.
- b. Adoption of Agenda – An addition to review, discuss, and vote on the staff vaccine policy that was previously shared with the Board of Directors was added to the Head of School report. Upon the motion duly made and seconded, the LaSalle Board approved the revised agenda.

II. General Board Business

- a. Open Comments - None received.
- b. Public Recognition: Mr. Grooms introduced Doug Thaman, Executive Director of MCPSA and Special Education Coordinator, Mary Tovar.
- c. Mission moment – Special Education Coordinator, Mary Tovar provided the mission moment. She discussed her dedication to the students and families she serves. She also spoke about her experience working in various fields that landed her education and ultimately La Salle.
- d. Doug Thaman provided an update on Equity Funding for Charter schools and the need to ensure Charter Boards have . In Missouri, public schools are funded through a combination of state and local dollars based on a complex formula. The formula is designed to ensure that Missouri's public school students all receive an equitable share of education dollars contributed toward their education. However, due to a 'glitch' in the law, equitable funding isn't happening for Missouri's charter public schools. The problem is significant. Last year alone charter public school students received more than \$25,000,000 less than their district peers. MCPSA is working with families and school

leaders in an effort to educate state and local elected officials by distributing information, creating social media messages, making calls, etc.

As part of Charter School Boards' commitment to success and governance, MCPSA has asked member school boards to sign two resolutions; one committing to on-going professional development and the other to ensuring strong financial oversight.

III. Development/Encompass Update

De LaSalle Inc. Caretaker Director, Mike Hall provided a written report which outlined Graduate Support/Encompass, Advancement, and Operations current activities to date.

IV. New Business

- a. Minutes from La Salle Board's December meeting were voted on and approved.

V. Old Business

- a. There were no business items to discuss.

VI. Financial Report/Update

- a. The November Financials were voted on and approved.

VII. Head of School Update

The Head of School, LaShanda R. Boone presented and/or provide updates on the following:

- a. 2020 -2021 Enrollment Update
 - i. Enrollment remains at 115 students, it is unlikely that the school will meet its targeted enrollment goal of 125 students. There are no new students in the enrollment cycle.
- b. School Reopening Update
 - i. The School's leadership teams met and determined the date to return students to the school building for full in-person learning should be February 16th. The rationale for the decision included:
 - The decline in COVID-19 transmissions in the St. Louis City
 - The current safety measures that have been successful in the school resulting in zero COVID-19 positive cases
 - The difference in engagement between students that are in-person versus those that are virtual.
 - The need to develop systems and routines for all students as they prepare for the MAP.
 - Families would still be provided the option to remain virtual if they are not comfortable returning their child to the building for in-person

learning. After some discussion, the motion duly made and seconded, the LaSalle Board approved returning all students for in-person learning on February 16th.

c. 2021-2022 Student Recruitment Update

- i. Ms. Boone reported that there will be 6 billboards in and around St. Louis city, two ad runs in the St. Louis American, and radio ads throughout the months of February and March to recruit new students. All the social media sites are being updated regularly to include recruitment ads, a mass postcard mailing to shelters, community centers, and local churches will also go out in the next two weeks. And, there will be buses and metrolink advertisements run during the month of March.

d. Teacher Intent to Return (2021-2022)

- i. The teachers' intent to return notices were distributed in December. There are 10 teachers that plan to return for the 2021 - 2022 school year and 2 that opted not to return.

e. Covid-19

- i. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination rollout, a policy to strongly encourage all La Salle employees to be vaccinated was introduced. After some discussion, the motion duly made and seconded to approve the vaccination policy as it was introduced.
- ii. Ms. Boone concluded by updating the Board on the Dashboard – Accountability plan.

II. **Adjournment**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.



Mr. Demetrius Grooms, Chair



Mr. Chris Hinckley, Vice-Chair