



## CITY OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Ray Garcia, Principal  
Mr. Michael Drouin, K-4 Assistant Principal  
Ms. Sharon Seyller, 5-8 Assistant Principal

### **LINDEN S.T.E.A.M. ACADEMY**

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Linden STEAM Academy Governing Board Agenda  
February 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 @ 5:45pm  
Linden STEAM Academy Library

#### **1. Call-to-Order**

**@ 5:52 p.m.**

John Murray, Rachana Gray, Jessica Leggett, Cynara Cannatella, Netsanet Defabachew, Kenya Avant, John Oteri, Deb Gesualdo, Justin Umlah, Kathleen Christensen

#### **2. Approval of Minutes from January**

Motion by Cynara Cannatella, seconded by Kenya Avant

#### **3. Ongoing Business**

##### **A. Governing Board Goals**

- Kenya stated that they are not ready to be shared with the Board; she hopes to have it ready for 3/13/19 meeting
- Move to March agenda

##### **B. Subcommittees/Procedures and Protocols:**

- Title working groups as task forces instead of subcommittees, motion to move to first discussion topic within "Ongoing Business" by Deb Gesualdo seconded by John Murray
- School committee does them, this would allow work to be done sooner be, it is held to reporting but not subject to open meeting law so no need for posting meetings, must report back to GB by a set date, allows team to work immediately
- "subcommittee"=open meeting law comes into play

- Main purpose is to allow more participation from parents and staff; this would allow this to occur because of fewer restrictions.
- Kenya: uncomfortable with name change, questioning Open Meeting Laws with notes for subcommittees
- Past members made clear that this other format has failed the GB in the past and it isn't an aggressive change as we haven't used subcommittees in a long time
- Waiting for legal opinion on behalf of union and city will be coming soon on proper ways to run and treat the Governing Board
- Motion made to change our subcommittee title to task force, by Kenya Avant seconded by John Murray, all in favor-unanimous

### C. Governing Board Representation (Parent Parity)

- Motion to move to second discussion topic within "Ongoing Business" by Kenya Avant, seconded by Cynara Cannatella
- discussion on moving agenda item: no
- Some research states that parent parity should be aligned with staff
- Part of legal research that we are awaiting is on comparison of Governing Board to a typical School Council, which would create more clarity of this topic as well as inclusion of past votes that should've been made by staff but were not
- Attendance policy needs to be enforced, need a solution
- Can other administration sit on Governing Board? This will be answered from legal opinion from both MTA and city lawyer.
- What are we and what laws are we held to?
- If legal opinion info doesn't get back for 3/13/19 meeting, might need to have a special meeting for these details to be discussed

### D. Status of AEAP

- Jessica Leggett tried to recruit students to discuss and didn't have buy-in from kids
- John Oteri is concerned/ surprised because kids at focus groups last year were very vocal. Various kids participated, not all G/T kids. We should go to high school students and see where AEAP kids are now.
- Shared opinion of LSA being inclusive so students in younger grades could go to AEAP for one class is applicable
- Gain perspective of all schools, not just Linden
- Task force needs to get moving to can meet
- Justin Umlah can send an email out about task forces to staff. Information should also be shared through PTO, Facebook, backpacks, connect-ed,

- There is a good book, "Nurture Shock" that has a chapter on AEAP

#### **4. New Business**

##### **A. Open Meeting Law Webinar:**

Cynara said there is one on March 12 but it's poor timing

##### **B. 6th grade science teacher:**

- Mary O'Neil has been hired, as of right before February vacation.
- Fear of dropped MCAS scores because of an inconsistent year in that classroom.
- unfortunate situation but amazing that LSA paraprofessional, Andrea Rigano, had things planned and was of presence for the students
- fear of 7th grade having difficulty catching kids up but topics are spiraled so they will be looped in and caught up just fine

##### **C. Governing Board member office hours:**

- Parent board member asked for office hours and a space to meet with parents
- This would be perfect for representatives from Parent Engagement Task Force to choose a day monthly to have a table before school and/or after school to allow this.
- Have both, one parent and one teacher, present

##### **D. Review Parent Election Letter**

- Need Exhibition Night date
- Netsanet Defabachew to take on updating info on letter
- Cynara Cannatella and Netsanet Defabachew to look over letter as part of parent engagement
- Parents to vote on exhibition night: options of tech-based, or have candidates speak at beginning of Exhibition Night in the auditorium have people

#### **5. Administrator's Report**

- Discussed Mr. Ruggere needing to go immediately due to health and welcoming Mr. Garcia who has tremendous experience, sound decision making, and is reflective

#### **6. Public Comment**

- Open search for principal for 2019-2020 school year? Look and see how this works with Mr. Garcia
- Lowe's Grant-any idea when parent volunteers can help setup the space?

#### **7. Personal Privilege**

- Commissioner of DESE to staff on district-wide PD was great
- PD Had great value was wonderful

- Natalia Brennan amazing
8. **Adjournment** at 7:23 p.m.
- Motion by Jessica Leggett, seconded by Kathleen Christensen.