



## 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  
March 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 @ 5:45pm  
Linden STEAM Academy Library

#### 1. Call-to-Order

- Call to Order at 5:54pm

#### Attendance:

Callie Walsh, Eden Garhart-Smith, Jessica Leggett, Ray Garcia, Deb Gesualdo, John Oteri, Cynara Cannatella, Netsanet Defabachew, John Froio, Kenya Avant, Justin Umlah, Kathleen Christensen

#### 2. Approval of Minutes from February

- Motioned by Deb Gesualdo, seconded by John Oteri

#### 3. Ongoing Business

- **Governing Board Representation (Legal Update)**
- MTA has draft written, has to be run by CEPP, then by the training professional learning department, should be ready for April meeting
- District council states it is not a school or site council, it is of an innovation school and serves as our school council and works with OML like any other city committee. Our innovation plan says  $\frac{2}{3}$  of board is staff representatives
- An innovation school may but doesn't have to have a governing board as it is a one line provision depending on what the school community wants
- Deb Gesualdo's questions to be looked into- "In 2012, what waivers did former Principal Bransfield apply for? What exactly was set into motion pertaining to making sure that we are doing "innovation" correctly?"
- MTA will make a request to the district asking what exists on what was applied for to school committee when former Principal Bransfield applied for this in 2012 from public meeting postings, etc.
- Request if one or both MTA legal representatives can come to our meeting

- All of this legal information can be shared with the board, Deb also asked that it is all written in a way for us to understand, changing out attorney language for non-attorney language to grasp information and concepts
- Howard Greenspan contacted Mr. fader, the former wasn't comfortable discussing update until it's all been confirmed
- Kenya Avant- Thought that we discussed at February Governing Board meeting that we would go by MA laws if we didn't come to a conclusion at tonight's meeting, that we would follow MA rule of parent equality
- From February minutes, we decided we might have to have special meeting
- Pointless to have special meeting if no legal information is available, if this is the case at April 10 Governing Board meeting, do we come to a consensus for what we think is best?
- John Oteri recommends that we don't do anything until attorneys are in the room to avoid further harm ...past experience with a non-educational experience(non-profit) on a board with Secretary of State based on different interpretations
- Deb Gesualdo was on committee to implement innovation and original Governing Board, by-laws went through Howard Greenspan but he didn't have much other involvement. He is unsure of original innovation plan which is probably why there so many big question marks on the plan. If he had more involvement with them, things would be more clear for us right now
- Cynara Cannatella- For discussion sake, Deb and John are making us seem like we don't need to follow rules of a school council. If legal information is not ready by next meeting, we need to make decision as a board.
- Kenya Avant-Makes a motion if we don't hear by the next meeting, then we will have discussion/take action as to what our representation is at April meeting, seconded by Eden Garhart-Smith

- **Governing Board Goals**

- Kenya forgot but they should be captured in minutes
- See 3 in January minutes of overarching
- Task force will make goals related to own theme to bring back to April meeting, goal will need to be voted on as they become GB goals on top of being task force goals
- Justin will place task forces as ongoing business on agenda moving forward

- **Task Force Update**

- Discussion of feedback of who is on each task force, how are staff responses coming in
- Reps:
- AEAP-Justin to email current members
- Family, Community, and Engagement- Meeting after tonight's Governing Board Meeting

- School Improvement Plan-Mr. Garcia to digest, connect and discuss, and come back because Kenya Avant was on this with Tim prior, met once
- Meet the Task force night-round robin style, here for an hour etc...Thursday March 28 from 5-6?(before Title 1 family event)
- Staff have been in a not-so-positive place so we can see more involvement looking ahead
- Staff want to commit but can't commit so to do a survey, or come to a forum is more likely
- Callie would like to put info on PTO page for families/send flier home to families in backpacks explaining them including next meeting date for
- Is there a limit on task force participants or should it be capped? Decide in April after holding "task force forum"
- Justin will reach out to AEAP of those he knows will be involved
- AEAP- The AEAP program is more than Linden, we bring recommendation to the school committee to share with rest of district, which goes to the academic subcommittee
- Concern of AEAP of who is being involved...only AEAP staff and parents or others as well? Face to face communication is stronger than emails
- Dates to accomplish and get to board within the next week and sending out the information
- Task forces need to have goals together by march 28
- Flyers from Kenya Avant to Callie Walsh and Jessica Leggett
- Kathleen will reach out to Janice 3/14 about coming before title 1
- Need for ways-of-sharing:
  - Dates
  - location

#### 4. New Business

- **Teacher PD Survey Results**
  - See attachment from Jess
  - Similar to our edcamp from a few years ago so was successful bc staff had choice which allowed
  - Only piece was that we offered "Linden or district" and "Linden didn't plan and offer anything to staff to make that choice
  - Jessica Leggett has specific pages of info broken down from the different categories of staff based on length of career at Linden, subject/grade level area, etc. "new since innovation started, content, yes like" ...if anyone wants to see

- PD question about not consulting staff to go to district PD, so now that we did consult staff-deb: collective bargaining agreement aligned to school year calendar to be careful on how we worded the motion...important to note different aligning us to city PD

- Voting to change MPS schedule is an annual vote, if we want to change it then staff must vote for  $\frac{2}{3}$  win...it's not about voting for PD it's voting about calendar and PD is within that once that were to pass or not

- No vote of staff is needed

- Rachana wants to make a motion that we vote based on staff input

- Motion made by Deb Gesualdo that "Governing Board is moving to support the opinions put forth by staff survey to continue to have Linden calendar to give Linden faculty option to attend district PD or Linden specific PD when available. Motion made that as long as LSA is on the same academic calendar as the rest of the Malden Public Schools, that staff will have the option to attend district PD seconded by Cynara Cannatella, motion to amend motion by Jessica Leggett to change "opinions" to "feedback" seconded by Deb Gesualdo, motion passes

- **Exhibition Night Date / Parent Election**

- Exhibition night: June 6 from 6-7:30

- Parent engagement task force to handle election

- **Teacher Election**

- We don't do this until late May and election results are announced first week in June

- Everything is aligned to be ready

- MEA elections is also first week in June

- Schedule to have nominations out May 1-8

- This allows a few days to input info into election buddy

- "Humpday News" push until then to create staff awareness of open seats

- Must follow by-laws with MEA, legally bound to those by-laws so timeline is based off of that, for open window. This timeline is not on our own watch or calendar choice.

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

- Ray Garcia felt that conference night allowed more him more time to meet with parents throughout the building

- His transition has been great so far (on day 7) and is working to get to know all staff of the building

## **6. Public Comment**

- One member of the public showed and left before this agenda item leaving no one to speak

- Makes sense to move “Public Comment” to the beginning as there is not much of a showing and those who do leave early

- Make this an agenda item for April so the board can make a motion in April to move to Public Comment to the beginning of meetings

**7. Personal Privilege (quick statement)**

- Multiple board members stated their excitement and confidence in the welcoming of Mr. Garcia to lead Linden as our principal. A difference has been noticed in the building already, there is a sense of calm

**8. Adjournment**

- Adjournment at 7:15 p.m.

- Motion by Deb Gesualdo, seconded by Cynara Cannatella