



## 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**

---

29 Wescott Street, Malden, MA 02148  
Phone: (781) 397-7329  
(781) 397-7218

Email: [rgarcia@maldenps.org](mailto:rgarcia@maldenps.org)

#### Linden STEAM Academy Governing Board Agenda April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 @ 5:45pm Linden STEAM Academy Library

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

Call to Order 5:51 pm

Attendance: Callie Walsh, John Murray, Eden Garhart-Smith, Deb Gesualdo, Ray Garcia, Rachana Gray, Scott Marino, Netsanet, Elaine Rittershaus, Kenya Avant, Cynara Cannatella, John Froio, Justin Umlah, Kathleen Christensen

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

Motion to approve by Deb Gesualdo, seconded by Cynara Cannatella. Motion passes.

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

##### **a. Governing Board Representation (Legal Update)**

MTA representative has tried to reach out to Howard Greenspan but finding common dates has been difficult. Deb Gesualdo has legal opinion from MTA but can't share documents until legal representatives meet. She can speak to some of it if certain specific questions are there. How to vote moving forward with parent representation?

A governing board vs. school council: An innovation school is not required to have a governing board. Play different role in the life

A school council cannot see budget or assist on school improvement plan or curriculum plans, nor can it have authorities over any matters

(MGL Chapter 71, section 92--advisory board of trustees and Chapter 71, section 59c--school councils)

Is the Innovation Plan legal?

The Innovation Plan was approved by the School Committee and accepted by DESE, so the plan stands

what is in question is that part of our plan that would have required a vote for a waiver of the CBA between the MEA and the School Committee and that vote did not occur prior to the submission of the plan,  
waivers to the CBA need to be passed with a 2/3 vote of the bargaining unit  
vote needed to happen before the plan started so cannot do it now  
amendments to plan may need to be filed  
what was in plan should have collectively bargained  
look at what needs to be amended so we discuss and plan ahead for the next cycle  
Next agenda: identify items we want to keep next time to start a process,  
Amendment can be filed jointly by MEA and MPS or by one of the parties  
Can we collective bargain outside of contract?  
an individual item could have been bargained outside of the full contract and a side letter could have been written if the waiver passed with a 2/3 vote  
waivers to contract language are not bargained and voted on during the full Unit A contract bargaining cycle  
Kenya Avant offered to include Massachusetts Department of Education legal counsel. Deb Gesualdo is also going to continue to work on getting a meeting set up between MTA legal counsel and School Committee legal counsel  
We said if nothing presented, then we would make a decision on parity.  
Language in bylaws outlines the makeup of the group

## **b. Task Force Update**

### **i. AEAP**

successful parent information night, well-attended  
AEAP- 20 members are on that now-how does this work with so many people (parents, staff, Janice Raymond)  
concern over releasing data because kids could be narrowed down by non-staff members looking over the information  
This can be a way for staff to look deeper and then give aggregate  
Mask the data instead of subgroups or grade levels  
Justin Umlah included official document(application) from PIC  
There is confusion in task force because teachers want to improve what is in place while parents want to decrease class size, etc.  
What are goals and objectives? Is there a meeting date to have certain things accomplished to push forward to school committee via Tara Beardsley?  
Kenya Avant-we're not out to improve, get rid of, or increase but to understand it  
Give to superintendent before school committee  
Concern: Treatment of AEAP students to those not in it, must make sure equity is provided in all academic areas and classrooms  
Easy tweaks can make it stronger  
Student entry even for one subject  
Can we get info from UCONN and staff who attended over 10 years ago?

### **ii. Family Involvement**

First meeting had a good turnout, meeting tomorrow night(4/10/19) in cafeteria at 6:00 pm and merging with PTO to work together to help each other out  
Pizza will be given so word can go out  
Handle elections  
Callie Walsh to post: this is a working group(to make known not an “event” but to accomplish various items)  
2 positions available on Governing Board for the 2019-2020 school year: Kenya Avant had a one year term so will rerun, Rachana is still deciding

### **iii. Parent Elections**

*see Family Involvement details*

## **4. New Business**

### **a. Dress Code**

Uniforms are tricky, sweatpants are easier on occasion because drawstring sweatpants and it was a big item when uniforms were put into play, parents bought them so became upset when rules became strict on who can wear them and when  
Only LSA sweatpants on gym days/ only LSA logo-no other  
K-4 CAN gym days full day, 5-8 only gym  
Info sheets to be translated and given out on exhibition night  
Kindergarten orientation, that is where  
FB page for linden uniform swap  
Why can't sweatpants be every day? \*One purpose of a uniform is for students to feel a sense of equity without comparison and professionalism. Daily sweatpants would take from the latter.  
Dress code to may so we can further it and have it finalized

### **b. Starbase Field Trip**

District agreed to pay for half, and the \$4,000 needs to be paid  
Head of STARBASE wants all of Malden to attend

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

Mr. Garcia

Culture Museum in 3rd grade with Mrs. McDonagh, many families came, food from around the world

STEM showcase-great turnout, great job to Mr. Mooney and Ms. Degelmann

MCAS has started-the need for mice went out and many were donated

## **6. Public Comment**

Audience Member “A”: There is currently a lax uniform policy, not in a bad way but is flexible to what is comfortable and affordable. It could be stricter. The facebook swap page

seems to be more for parents who have spare items. It is helpful to provide resources: Children's Place, etc. (can we promote businesses on school page?) while being mindful of students with sensory challenges.

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

Elaine Rittershaus- For parents who lack resources for washer and dryer, we have one here- can we use that? (through guidance or nurse?)

Justin Umlah and Callie Walsh-Pearson-MCAS has been great, supportive

Deb-change chapter 70 formula and take resolution seriously, advocating and have gone to finding forums. Wants to thank Callie Walsh and Tina Weldai to submit information on behalf of PROMISE Act as to why our students in Malden deserve fully funded public schools.

### **8. Adjournment**

Motion by Elaine Rittershaus, seconded by Deb Gesualdo at 6:56.