

La Salle Charter Schools, Inc.

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2017

Board Members Participating in Person: Colette Edson, Demetrius Grooms, Jackie Jones, Kim Perry, Susan Turner, and Shirleas Washington

Board Members Participating via Phone: James Hill

Board Member Absent: Constance Gully

Other Participants: Amanda Henry, Amber Cline, Emily Hauge, Michael McClelland, Ervin Williams, and Sherida Williams (*La Salle Charter Schools, Inc.*), Melissa Brickey, Christine Holladay, Annie Oliverio, and Nikeea Payne (*De La Salle, Inc.*), Chuck Kretschmer and Phil Toben (*De La Salle, Inc. Board of Directors*), Gerry Kettenbach (*University of Missouri-Columbia*), Tom Durphy (*Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis & Giljum, LLP*), Mary Ewing and Rolanda Crews (*Parents of La Salle Students*)

---

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Grooms acted as chair (the "Chair") of the meeting. Notice of the meeting having duly been given and a quorum being present, the Chair convened the meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of La Salle Charter Schools, Inc. ("La Salle") at approximately 4:35 p.m. Central Time at 1106 North Jefferson Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri, 63106.

**II. Mission Moment**

Ms. Payne, Volunteer and Operations Coordinator at De La Salle, Inc., spoke of the Mentor Program in which seven La Salle students are participating with staff members at Monsanto. The program was coordinated with the assistance of Bernie Sammons, a retired Monsanto Engineer, now serving as an Ignatian Volunteer at De La Salle. Most recently, the students spent a day at Monsanto walking in the shoes of their mentors, and attending a speech given at Monsanto by Mae Jemison.

**III. General Board Business**

It was proposed that the meeting agenda be modified from the version posted prior to the meeting, to nominate and vote for the Board members who will represent the Board on the new Joint Committee for Mission.

The floor was opened for the open comments portion of the meeting, which takes place in the first fifteen minutes of each Board meeting. Mr. Williams, a teacher at La Salle, shared with the Board his concerns regarding the climate and discipline struggles at the school this year, and his hopes that these issues will be priorities to be addressed in the coming school year.

Mr. Grooms reminded the Board that terms of certain Board members are set to expire at the end of the current school year. Ms. Brickey agreed to provide a listing of term expirations to the members of the Board prior to the next Board meeting. He asked that those Board members with expiring terms contact him if they decide not to seek another term. He also asked that Board members contact him if they are interested in holding an officer position on the Board.

Proposed minutes from the meeting of the Board held on March 29, 2017 were presented for approval. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved these minutes, as presented.

Tom Durphy, attorney with Shands Elbert Gianoulakis & Giljum, LLP, provided the Board with a presentation on the Sunshine Law, and areas that he thought were important regarding open meetings, communications, record requests, closed meetings, and consequences for violations of the Sunshine Law.

#### **IV. Financial Update**

Ms. Oliverio presented the check register, bank statement and financial statements of La Salle for March 2017. Following a discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved these documents, as presented.

#### **V. School Update**

Ms. Henry noted that there would be several items regarding the next school year which will require approval by the Board: Title I Plan, Handbook Policy, and FY18 School Improvement Goals. All of these items will be discussed during the May meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee and ready for vote at the June Board meeting.

Ms. Henry shared a 2017-18 instructional preview, which includes a COCAedu partnership, McSci Curriculum, higher quality Interim Assessments, and WIN and Academy blocks.

Mr. Grooms asked Ms. Holladay to update the Board on school climate, and the "re-boot" that began in January, what is working, what is next, etc. Ms. Holladay, the Interim Dean of Students, stated that having a Dean Team, with four members, is very helpful, rather than one person. She noted that the level of seriousness of consequences for behavior and the discipline process have become clearer to students. Instruction is happening during ISS, as there is always a team member there to help students with work. It was noted that management is still a struggle, different behaviors are treated differently in different classrooms. There needs to be more consistency.

Ms. Holladay said what she believes is needed next is a full-time employee to take over and handle the discipline, in order to create a permanent, research-based practice system. She stated that the system currently in place is a temporary one, implemented as a short-term solution for the safety of our students this school year. Ms. Holladay stated that a decision is needed to determine the best structure to put in to place and the best way to implement that structure.

Ms. Crews, the parent of a La Salle student who arrived late to the meeting, was allowed to speak outside the public comment portion of the meeting as a courtesy. She challenged the Board to visit the school and sit in during a class. She noted that parents have easier access to classrooms now, which she views as positive. She stated that she believes that teachers are dealing with too many discipline issues in their classrooms, and are therefore not able to teach to the best of their abilities, and are not able to meet students where they are in order to best prepare them for high school.

#### **VI. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Brickey shared a Board retreat recap with the group. She noted the takeaways were: continue developing the whole-child approach within our mission, revisit the need for a strategic plan and begin the strategic planning process, and schedule more time for De La Salle and La Salle Boards to meet together.

The Joint Committee for Mission was created to help keep the boards and staff of La Salle and De La Salle aligned and working together effectively. A motion was made to appoint Mr. Grooms and Ms. Jones as representatives of La Salle on this new committee. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved Mr. Grooms and Ms. Jones as their representative members on the Joint Committee for Mission.

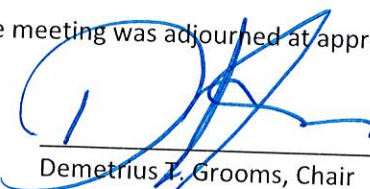
The organizational structure of La Salle was discussed. A rigorous discussion was had about the hiring of a Head of School for La Salle for the next school year, and as part of this discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to reverse the previous decision of the Board to recruit and hire a Head of School. Ms. Turner, Mr. Grooms and Ms. Perry voted in favor of the motion, and Dr. Washington, Ms. Edson and Ms. Jones voted against. As the motion did not receive enough votes for approval, the Board will continue the previously approved process for the recruitment and hire of a new Head of School for La Salle.

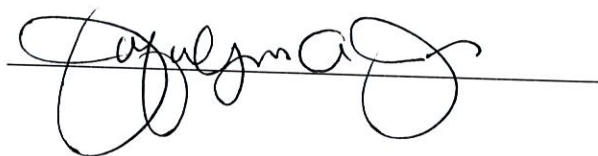
#### **VII. Closed Session**

There was no closed session.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Demetrius T. Grooms, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jacquelyn A. Jones, Secretary