

# The Learning Community | *a public charter school*

Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, February 2nd, 2012

## PRESENT (9)

BOARD: Kirsten Shrouf Fernandes, Sarah Friedman, Marc Greenfield, Lynn Lotierzo,  
Janice O'Donnell, Hillary Salmons, Polly Ulichny, Liban Valenzuela, Roberta J. Winters

## Absent (0)

BOARD:

TEAM MEMBERS: Derek Collamati, Kath Connolly, Mindy Farrow, Jeremy Giller, Meg O'Leary,  
Marie Whitten

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*The meeting was convened at 5:10 p.m.*

## Welcome & Introductions

Introductions were made

## Minutes

The minutes from the 12/1/11 Board Meeting were discussed. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

## Communications

Kath Connolly provided a communication update as follows:

- The Learning Community was in the NY Times on January 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Joe Nocera of The NY Times visited the school on December 29<sup>th</sup> and interviewed Meg O'Leary and Sarah Friedman for this piece
- This article lead to The Learning Community article in the Washington Post
- Contacted by NBC to come scout and film for NBC Nightly News
- The NBC piece will air on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and on Rock Center at 9:00 p.m.
- The leftover content from the NBC piece will be released on the web
- This has been an unbelievable team effort
- Christine Alves, Director of Lab, has worked so hard to make it all happen

Comments from the Board were received.

Next steps:

- Fact checking/editing
- Ask people to tune in
- Have set of clips online
- Viewing parties
- Make and send out DVDs

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## Development Update

Jeremy Giller provided a foundation update as follows:

- It has been great working with Derek Collamati
- The Kellogg Foundation in Michigan:
  - Submitted a concept paper in late November
  - Received a call back in December that they are interested as they want to be more about professional development
  - Encouraged to submit full application
  - Submitted full concept paper for five year grant totaling more than \$730,000.
  - Now encouraged to submit a full proposal budgeted at about \$900,000 over five years. Will submit by end of January.
- Great visit from Neil Steinberg in December – President of the RI Foundation
- Derek Collamati is reaching out to his prospects for future opportunities
- Applying next week for a few Vistas for After School and data support
- Submitted AmeriCorps application – will know in May

Derek Collamati provided an Individual Giving update as follows:

- Very happy to be here
- Reaching out to contacts to get people in to visit the school
- Event this year: 2012 “Get Smart” Fundraiser on May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Location: Roots Café in Providence
- Sponsorships
- Silent Auctions
- Pre-reception for Board starting at 5:30
- Committee members needed
- Will be a great event

## Enrollment Request

- Initial charter 540 students
- Currently 534 students
- Will go above 540 for the 2012-2013 school year
- Ask Commissioner for amendment

Janice O’Donnell recommended that we ask the Commissioner for an amendment. The motion was made, and it was seconded and approved unanimously.

## Evaluation Requirements

- The Department of Education asked for a list of evaluators for teachers
- Polly Ulichny is the evaluator of teachers
- Evaluator for Administrators:
  - Subcommittee of Board responsible for Co-Director evaluations
  - Bring in paid consultant / external evaluator who will work for evaluation committee (Polly Ulichny, Janice O’Donnell, Roberta Winters)

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- Evaluation committee of the Board to evaluate Administrators

The motion was made, and it was seconded and approved unanimously.

## RIDE Targets

Jeremy Giller, Kirsten Shrout Fernandes, and Lynn Lotierzo presented the data of NECAP scores

- NECAP Proficiency charts and performance measures were distributed, reviewed and discussed
- Scores were 72 in Reading, 62 in Math and 60 in Writing
- NECAP scores jumped 13% in Reading and 12% in Math
- Almost met state average in Reading
- Passed state average in Math and Writing
- Consistent across grade levels
- Scores released to public on February 9<sup>th</sup>

What was different this year to cause this shift?

- Curriculum
- Culture
- Test taking (strategies on how to take tests)
- Give our own interim test internally
- Internal test – 5% passed last year and 62% passed this year
- Grade levels more established, consistent over time

## Board Member Reports

Finance Report: Marc Greenfield provided the following budget updates:

- Reviewed the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual spreadsheet as well as Balance Sheet
- Negatives = have yet to spend budget amount
- Positives = staffing changes
- On target and in parameters
- Money to Parson's for investment – deciding what amount of money and how they will hold-short, middle or long-term
- Budgeted to have positive cash flow at year end

Board Membership Committee: Janice O'Donnell and Hillary Salmons discussed recruitment of new Board members

- Recruiting new Board members to the Board
- Community Board members
- Identify skills needed
- Areas of influence
- Recruit 2 or 3 new members to be elected in June and start in Fall
- Hillary Salmons will run the committee
- Derek Collamati will also be a part of the committee

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## Political Landscape Update

Meg O'Leary discussed these updates as follows:

- Gates Compact – Meg O'Leary represents The Learning Community on the Gates Compact with other Central Falls Charter Schools and Superintendent
- Try to come up with agreement about what we have in common on how education should be improved
- Coordinate efforts and support the whole district
- Different approaches amongst group
- Gates announced multimillion dollar facility fund and encouraged The Compact to apply for \$20 million to renovate and build facility
- The funding associated with the compact is now a planning grant that could lead to funding for collaborative reform efforts and the facilities funding

On the horizon: The Learning Community facility needs and next steps:

- Physical education space
- Space to offer electives
- Research properties in the area
- Start with plan of vision and needs

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

The next Board meeting is April, 5, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by Mindy Farrow