Leadership Public Schools
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 7th, 2015

Present: Marsha Dugan, Stu McLaughlin, Kevin Katari, Dr. Louise Waters, Brigitte Lowe, Soo Zee Park, Luis Chavez, Yolanda Peeks, Prasad Ram, Chuck Bowes, David Finke, Amy Slater, Lisa Pitters, Rosain Ozonsi
Absent: D’Lonra Ellis, Michael Zaninovich
Guests: Kate Levitt, Lauren Klaffky, Zenebu Bekele, Edie Hoffman

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm. The agenda was confirmed and roles were assigned.

The meeting was opened to public comment. No public comments were made so the meeting was closed for that purpose.

Consent Agenda
The group voted to approve minutes from October 10th, 2015.
Moved: Soo Zee Park
Seconded: Kevin Katari
Approved: All
Against: None

COT Update
Louise Waters introduced staff and parent representatives. David Finke provided an overview of the Board matrix and composition, as well as recruitment priorities. The group discussed next steps and goals for new trustee recruitment.

Finance Report
Treasurer Stu McLaughlin gave an overview of school finance and the financial picture for LPS in the coming year. Several members were interested in doing a finance tutorial prior to the January Board meeting, so the group agreed to schedule an optional training on school finance.

San Jose discussion
Louise Waters introduced Jessica Diaz, Principal, and Patricia Lopez, Enrollment Coordinator, and gave an overview of the timeline and structure for making decisions about next steps at LPS San Jose. Ms. Diaz and Ms. Lopez provided detailed data and analysis of the enrollment and recruitment efforts at the school, as well as improvements in overall school culture and academic performance.

The Board asked a range of questions regarding their strategies and goals for increasing enrollment at LPS San Jose, and the group engaged in a discussion on the school’s possible changes.
Short break for dinner at 6:30-6:45.

Data Dashboards overview
Lauren Klaffky presented the school data dashboards for Board review cycle 1.

Strategic Planning
Natalie Walrond followed up on the strategic planning retreat in October with a presentation of proposed long-term goals.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding LPS’ main priorities in terms of mission, strategy, and growth. Many agreed on the need to emphasize and better connect the two parts of the LPS mission, linking running outstanding public schools with leading as an incubator for effective education practices.

Several commented the need to make the strategic plan’s language more vivid and hard-hitting. The question of language led to a discussion over the tension between foundational and aspirational goals – balancing the core of LPS’ work with a bigger and bolder vision. Others suggested doing a needs assessment to analyze LPS’ current programming and staffing, envision where LPS wants to grow and change, and then articulate how to achieve those goals in the next five years. A lengthy conversation about strategy, goals, and tactics followed, focused primarily around the articulation of our mission to run excellent schools and the clarification of our strategy to innovate and impact the field of education. Finally, the Board briefly considered its own role in the strategic plan and supporting the work at LPS, including increased opportunities for engagement with schools and the creation of additional subcommittees.

Process Check
Yolanda Peeks commented that it was a well-run meeting with high levels of participation from all members, although it is clear that the Board needs more time to discuss these pressing issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Levitt
Recorder