**Linden STEAM Academy**

Governing Board Meeting

Attendees: Linda Bell, Richard Bransfield, Diana Buonopane, Nicholas Catoggio, Kathleen Cutting, Laura Degelmann, John Froio, Deborah Gesualdo, Rachana Gray, Jocelyn Ken, Alisha King, Melissa Lightbody, Linda Patrie, Ann Schiro, Franklin Shearer, Susan Terban, Leonard Young

April 2, 2013 7:00 AM

**Agenda**

* **Quick share of emails, comments**
  + **Sharyn Zeiberg sent an email to Kathleen Cutting with a suggestion that the board should set up brain storming sessions with parents in the café. So a different session for each of the areas we want the school to focus in, such as Arts, Engineering etc. Kathleen Cutting thought this would be good to do after we break into subcommittees. Each sub-committee could use these sessions to collaborate with the parents and generate more ideas.**
  + **Nicholas Catoggio suggested that we need to learn how to be facilitators before we can do this. He attended the last District Capacity meeting and that group is looking for ways to support the LSA Governing Board. This maybe one of the areas they can help us.**
  + **David Deruosi brought up the need to tell people who we are and what we do. Everyone agrees that we need to have better communications with parents and staff.** 
    - **He feels we need to create a survey for parents and teachers to get a gauge of how people feel about the change to an innovation school and see if they still like the school. Teachers have a chance to opt out and we should see if there are things we need to do better.**
      * **Nicholas Catoggio suggests that we should use the survey to gauge the level of participation that teachers are interested in. He mentioned the need to groom people for future roles on the Board.**
      * **Ann Schiro suggested we should be careful to show that teachers have always been doing good things, before the board was formed and even afterwards.   
        The board doesn’t make the teachers do anything. We are here to support their efforts.**
      * **Kathleen Cutting agreed that the survey should emphasize the positive.**
      * **At the last meeting a Communication Committee was formed. Melissa felt that the committee should have some time to get information out to parents. She felt the survey should be sent out to the teachers and not the parents. Linda Patrie and Rachana Gray agreed with this.**
      * **David Deruosi asked the teachers on the board how rest of the teachers were feeling. Kathleen Cutting noted that the teachers still are not clear about what is different and what is going to be different.**
    - **A suggestion was made put a video together to showcase what is going on at the school. Capture the good. A commercial for the LSA.** 
      * **Diana Buonopane mentioned that the 8th graders needed a new project and that they could make a video.**
    - **Leonard Young commented about the board members needing to be the ones to spread the word about the good things the schools is doing (as we learn them of course). We represent the rest of the school so, it is absolutely our responsibility to be the conduit of information, to and from. Good and bad. It should be at least one of the ways we get information out anyway. Especially while we wait for the other means to be up and running (and even after of course)**
    - **Another suggestion was made to have a parent information night, where they could meet the board and hear about all the good things that are going on.** 
      * **Richard Bransfield feels that people will only come to the meeting if it is about uniforms. That anything else we speak about will be forgotten once people leave the meeting.**
      * **While others agreed, people felt we should still plan to do it.**
  + **On a side note, Richard Bransfield and David Deruosi announced that they were able to secure another $40,000, so now each room with have its own Mimeo.**
    - **Laura Degelmann said this is why the staff is uncertain. They are given new things but are unsure on how they will be expected to use them. Will there be requirements on how many hours a week they will need to use them?**
* **Uniform Committee Report**
* **Review of Policy.** 
  + **T-Shirts were added based on Sharyn Zeiberg’s feedback.**
  + **Once it is approved, it will be put up on the school website and sent home with the students**
* **Richard Bransfield said he was planning to add an FAQ**
  + **It was suggested that Gym days, picture day, and footwear be added to the FAQ**
* **Nicholas Catoggio suggested changing the word offence to violation and that an additional statement should be added that states no PTO funds would be used to pay for uniforms.**
* **Adoption of Policy – A vote was taken it was unanimously approved.**
* **Task Board Development – This will be pushed out to the next meeting.**
* **Begin to prioritize items**