**Linden STEAM Academy**

Governing Board Meeting

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

April 24, 2013 7:00 AM

* **Connections**
	+ Members shared their opinions, feelings, and observations. Overall , people were excited to be on the board and all the possibilities that lay ahead for the school.
* Grant Opportunities/Assistance
	+ Joyce LaTulippe is the district grant writer. She has experience with seeking out technology grants.
	+ The PARCC exam will be replacing the MCAs exams and they will require the students to take the tests on-line. Joyce LaTulippe has been testing all the schools’ wireless infrastructures to assess their state of readiness and to determine what more is needed.
	+ Currently the wireless capabilities at our schools is spotty at best.
	+ The district will be sending out a survey to determine where teachers and students stand technology wise.
	+ They are looking at the “Footsteps to Brilliance” grant which could bring $3 million to the district.
	+ We are working on getting our non-profit status. Richard Bransfield has some funding to cover the fees required.
	+ Byrd foundation may give us money if we get our non-profit status
	+ Richard Bransfield approached the the Geldfarb foundation for money for the Smart lab. They gave us feedback that they thought the system had too many bells and whistles. They guided us to another vendor. The generally feeling is that if we re-submit the application we will have a better chance at getting the funding.
* Technology updates:
	+ From David DeRuosi: Each school will get 5 MAC Computers that will be placed in the libraries. The hope is to eventually create whole MAC labs in each school.
	+ From Richard Bransfield: the LSA will have 8 mini tablets for each grade. One use could be for when the students are working in centers.
	+ He also purchased some hovercams. Among other things, these cameras can be used to record lessons, allow two classrooms to view each other and project on white boards.
* Task Board Development.
	+ Keeping SPED and Exploratory teachers in the loop.
		- When classes go on field trips, the SPED and Exploratory teachers are not notified so they only find out when the students don’t show up for class.
		- Also they don’t receive monthly calendars in their mailboxes like all the other teachers.
	+ It was felt that most of the items on the task board need to wait until we have a school schedule.
		- Adding more exploratory teachers (such as a tech ed teacher) will require taking time away from something else unless we add more time to the school day.
		- The teachers also need more common planning time.
		- David DeRuosi said he does not want people working for free, but he can’t afford to pay for the extra hours at this time. He willing to “think out of the box”. He could potentially pay a stipend. So if the teachers work an extra hour a week or month, they could have the time for common planning. He would hope to increase the stipend over time, but it wouldn’t happen immediately.
			* He also mentioned that he is creating new stipend positions in a hierarchy. There will be team leaders, in each building for K-8, and teacher leaders who will work with the directors in the central office. This will help create a teacher career track.
	+ Music: Next year 7th and 8th grade music classes will be different. It will be more performance based.
	+ It was strongly felt that Math needs to be our next focus.
		- The ELA scores are doing well.
		- Moving our ELA curriculum to match the national core curriculum is not too difficult. But moving the math curriculum is not going to be so easy.
		- Think Math does not give a mastery of the subject that is needed for the PARCC exams or for the National Core curriculum.
		- Richard Bransfield said he is working with the Title I funding to see if it can be used towards Math. Also ANET will help.
		- They are also looking at using Edwin a student database. It will keep track of exams, curriculum, lessons, assessments etc.
* Next Meetings:
	+ Pushed to next next meeting as we ran out of time