**Linden STEAM Academy**

Governing Board Meeting

January 9, 2014 6:00 PM Linden Library

**Attendees:** Richard Bransfield, Diana Buonopane, Nicholas Catoggio, Kathleen Cutting, John Froio, Marguerite Gonsalves, Rachana Gray, Alisha King, Melissa Lightbody, Ann Schiro, Franklin Shearer, Susan Terban, Leonard Young

**Meeting Notes:**

IConnections/Public Comment

* Nicholas Catoggio – Wish everyone a Happy New Year
* Richard Bransfield – Announced that Deborah Gesualdo resigned. He thanked her for all the time, effort and hard work she put into the board.
* Kathleen Cutting – read her resignation letter and also thanked her for her efforts on the board.
* Richard Bransfield – Welcomed Marguerite Gonsalves to our meeting. She will represent the union.

**II** Acceptance of Minutes 12/10/13

* Kathleen Cutting made a motion to accept the minutes
* Ann Schiro seconded the motion
* All voted to accept the minutes

**III** Principal’s Report

* This month’s newsletter focused more on getting back into the routine.
* He mentioned the parking lot issues. The police will be on hand tomorrow to help out and enforce the rules.
* There will be an upcoming uniform swap.
  + Families can bring in uniforms their kids have out grown and swap them with other families.
  + He is looking at local dry cleaners to see if he can get them cleaned.
  + Ann Schiro thought it should be up to the families to clean the uniforms before they bring them in. Just like at a yard sale, you buy something and then you clean it again to be sure.
  + Richard Bransfield said that he had used a cleaner for some sports uniforms and it was nice to have them cleaned and pressed and new looking before they get passed on.
  + John Froio suggested the cleaners on Lebanon Street.
* On the topic of uniforms. To date, Richard Bransfield has only had to purchase 4 uniforms. He paid for them out of his own pocket. They were for homeless families that wrote to him and explained their hardship.

**IV** Old Business

Science Curriculum with Diane Perito

* Diane Perito is STEM Director for our district. She attended a STEM conference and went to a session called “Show Me the Money”. The Linde family foundation was there looking for a district to give a grant for “Project Lead the Way” . There were 5 districts interested, so we had to apply. We won the grant. This grant will give the LSA a 7th grade engineering design class and 8th graders a robotics class. Additionally, the high school will get an intro to engineering for the 9th graders and another engineering course for the 10th graders. The grant was for 90K Project lead the way will give professional development for their curriculum.
* The high school had a grant from Exxon/Mobile, to promote AP classes. It ran out but the Linde foundation will fund it again, starting in the fall.
* David Stevens is our Project Based Learning Consultant. He also works for New Vista Designs as an architect. He will design the room we will be using for our engineering and technology classes.

Progress of Sub-committee on PCSM

* Kathleen Cutting made a motion to suspend rules regarding subcommittees to allow Deborah Gesualdo to continue to participate. Leonard Young seconded the motion. The motion passed.
  + Nicholas Catoggio and Rachana Gray stated that the vote was unnecessary since our by-laws state that non-board members can participate on sub-committees.
* Franklin Shearer felt we jumped from the idea of extending the school day to using The Partnership for Community Schools (PCSM) to do it. We as a board haven’t thought about other ways. PCSM only has 150 kids in the program. We would like to extend opportunities for all the kids. In past meetings we had discussed the possibility of using staggered hours to extend the day without extending the number of hours staff work. He said we have never clearly stated why we don’t explore options like that.
* Richard Bransfield said we decided to look at PCSM since they are in place and they are a district vehicle we could use. Because we are not an official non-profit yet, we cannot seek out funds to pay teachers more for an extended day. He mentioned that Mass 20 20 was previously focused on Extended Learning Time (ELT) schools. Now they are focus on how schools can use their time more efficiently. For example, how much time is spent between switching classes, at lockers, etc.
* Richard Bransfield agreed that staggering staff hours could work, but the teachers would have to approve it and then it would need to have a side letter in the union contract. Not an easy thing to do. The Innovation principals have meetings to discuss common issues. Their next meeting will include discussions on what the autonomies mean and how they fit in with the union contracts.
* Marguerite Gonsalves said that we have staggered hours now at the High School for students who are always late or single mothers or kids who have to have jobs. The purpose behind these hours is to give kids as many opportunities as possible to stay in school.
* Richard Bransfield mentioned that an autonomy that we could use is to change our half days to Thursdays. Currently directors cannot attend our schools meetings because they are attending the rest of the district. By changing our half days, they would be freed up to come to Linden. He also described out other districts have used their autonomies. Revere for example has half days every week. The students are not dismissed but the teachers meet. It was unclear how the students are occupied during this time.
* Richard Bransfield is speaking with MFA and Gordon College to see how we can add more arts to our curriculum.
* Eric Hamylak and Karen Steele expressed that the committee is confused about their direction. If the idea is to extend the school day for all the students, then they do not have the staff to do that. If the idea to have the after school programs extend the STEAM theme through their clubs then they are already doing that in many cases. The committee feels they need a clearer objective.
* Leonard Young said the last meeting stated the purpose of the committee. He read from them. *A sub-committee will be formed to discuss increasing student engagement, alignment to the school’s theme, involvement/enrollment, cost, etc.*
* Franklin Shearer wants a clear reason why we can’t extend the day by 30 minutes by exploring other means.
* Ann Schiro suggested that we really need two committees. The one that was already commissioned to explore how we can increase the enrichment through the means available to us. Another to explore extending our school hours without increasing staff time or expenses.
* We all agreed that staff should not be asked to work extra hours without getting paid for them.
* A second committee was formed to explore extending the learning time. Franklin Shearer, Susan Terban, and Alisha King will be on the committee. Susan Terban said she would try to get at least 2 more teachers on the committee.
* It was suggested the committees be brought up during staff meetings to ask for volunteers. So staff who is concerned about the topic can participate.

**V** New Business

DCP Update with Nick Catoggio

* Nicholas Catoggio felt that we need to re-examine our core values.
* He said the next step is to figure out what the teachers’ core values are and to compare them to ours. Most likely they will align around improving student achievement but if they don’t then we have a good opportunity for discussion. We need to reach out to get them involved in the process. He, Kathleen Coye, and Susan Terban want meet with the staff to make a presentation and the help them come up with their core values. He will work with Richard Bransfield and Kathleen Cutting to come up with a date.

Reflection/Brainstorming of our Plan

* Franklin Shearer agreed with Ann Schiro that we need proposals for innovations from the staff
* Leonard Young said the board members need to forward information to parents and teachers. We need to reach out more and keep them informed and engaged in what is going on.
* Richard Bransfield proposed we bring Mass 20 20 on board.
* Karen Steele said that they fund PCSM with a 21st Century grant, and that nationally, they want to use 21st century money to fund ELT schools instead.
* Kathleen Cutting seconded the motion and Richard Bransfield will explore the cost and scheduling of Mass 20 20.

Suffolk University connection with Melissa Lightbody

* Marketing strategy class. Suffolk University has a class where they volunteer students to work with non-profits and schools to develop marketing plans for them. It is a win win situation since the students get to learn while working and the school will get a marketing plan free of charge.
* Nonprofit status. Nicholas Catoggio spoke with Leonard Young outside the meeting regarding the paperwork needed for the application. There were many questions that Leonard Young and Nicholas Catoggio did not know how to answer. They would need Richard Bransfield and Tom Brennon (Lawyer for the city of Malden) to help out. Everyone agreed it should be our top priority. Nicholas Catoggio offered to seek out Tom Brennon and get the process moving.

Next meeting date

* 2nd Thursday of every month. Feb 13th 5:45pm-7:45pm.
* March 25th 7am (will cancel if not needed)

**VI** Board Members’ Comments

* There were none.

**VII** Adjournment

* Kathleen Cutting made a motion to close the meeting and Rachana Gray seconded. It was passed.