Académie Lafayette
Board of Director’s
Special Call Meeting
Wednesday, April 29, 2015

MINUTES

Board Members Present:
Chad Phillips, President
Marvin Lyman, Vice President
Mike Zeller
Harriet Plowman
Pam Gard
Dr. Margaret Anderson
Dave Cozad
Mark Flavin
Jon Otto

Board Members Absent:
Tracey Lewis

Staff Present:
Elimane Mbengue, Head of School
Marcia Berry
Jessica Wallace
Jacque Lane
Zach Mejean
Norman Carrer
Sarah Guthrie
Peggy Arians

Guests
Lynn Beachner, UCM

Meeting Opened
Chad Phillips, President, opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Stakeholder Comments
Chad Phillips asked for comments from stakeholders who had requested to be on the agenda.
Terry Riley, Parent
- Parents asking the school to continue to look at the option of a high school.
- Families want to remain in Kansas City and are very adamant about the search for a high school to continue.
- He mentioned that outreach within the community will continue and that children need choices relevant to their education.

Dan Kumm, Parent
- Enthusiasm for possibility of partnership with KCPS is evident.
- Mentioned that parents are eager and willing to embrace the possibility of assisting the board in its efforts and may have some expertise and assets to aide in the process.

Lynn Beacher, University of Central Missouri
- Some of the strengths of Académie Lafayette are:
  - The parents and teachers.
  - All staff continues to embrace the school.
  - Outreach program with pre-schools and teaching French to those children in the pre-school programs.
  - Bus transportation.
  - Community continues to work together, parents, admin. and teachers.
  - And she commented that Dr. Hughes and Dr. Thomas are also in agreement with continuing to pursue a high school.

Approval of Agenda
Chad Phillips asked to add a closed session item, discussion of a student issue, to the agenda. The Board unanimously approved the agenda to include the added item, discussion of a student issue.

Re-organization of the High School
Chad Phillips, President, introduced a motion to create a School Expansion Committee to be led by the Head of School.

Motion
Create a school expansion committee led by the Head of School and consisting of up to three board members appointed by the Board of Director’s President and other committee members as appointed by the Head of School. This committee will be responsible for exploring options to expand Académie Lafayette into a K-12 program. The committee may review options, not limited by: location, size or potential partnership. The committee is tasked with providing: a location recommendation, a funding plan, a financial viability plan, curriculum and roll out plan. The Head of School will give monthly status reports to the Board of Director’s.

Marvin Lyman seconded. Board approved unanimously.
Mike Zeller mentioned that the three representatives from the board be selected by the Board president and agreed upon by the entire board.

Jon Otto asked for clarification on the responsibilities of the re-organized high school committee.

Jon Otto also stated that, moving forward, negotiations should include a third impartial party to ensure that the best plan and negotiations be conducted on behalf of the board. He also commented that the motion states that the committee would have up to 3 board members and the by-laws state that there should be at least two on any committee and two to three board members would be sufficient.

Mark Flavin suggested working with the KCPS re: Southwest, another building, or looking for another building outside the district.

**Roll call vote on motion to re-organize committee.**

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*Motion approved by majority vote.*

**Invitation from Mayor James**

Chad Phillips informed the group that an invitation from Mayor James to participate in an open dialogue with KCPS had been received. Discussion followed regarding participation in the meeting.

**Comment/Questions**

Mr. Mbengue was asked if he had recommendations for the committee to be formed that would head up the high school endeavor. He responded that there have been approached by several parents who are willing to help as well as people who participated on the high school committee in setting up the IB program.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Open meeting adjourned to go into closed session at 7:14 p.m. to discuss student issue.
Roll call vote taken.

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