

APPROVED MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD  
FRIENDS of LACOE: A FOUNDATION for LEARNING  
A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation  
9300 Imperial Highway, EC 107, Downey, California 90242

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of LACOE: A Foundation for Learning was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 in EC 107 at the Los Angeles County Office of Education, 9300 Imperial Highway, Downey, California 90242-2890.

Present: Debra Duardo, Candi Clark, Emily Hernandez and Marsha Watkins  
Absent: Monte Perez, Michael Escalante, Gloria Rogers  
Others Present: Jessi Uranga (LACOE staff), Chris Looney and Jim Morgan (CCS Consulting)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Duardo called the meeting to order at 3:26 p.m.

During the call to order, Dr. Duardo opened the meeting by announcing two new grants that were awarded to Friends of LACOE by Mountain Philanthropies. One of these grants will fund half of the Community Schools Director position and will total \$300,000, payable over three years. The second grant totaling \$195,000 will allow Friends of LACOE to secure the services of CCS Fundraising for an additional six months. CCS will facilitate the next phase FOL's Philanthropy Planning Initiative.

Dr. Duardo then expanded on the LACOE Community Schools initiative. She informed the board that 10 school districts were selected based on need to pilot the program. The board was also informed that Jose Gonzalez has been hired as the Director of Community Schools for LACOE. In her remarks, Dr. Duardo emphasized that things are now taking shape for both public and private resources to be leveraged for the benefit of Los Angeles County schools.

Marsha Watkins inquired about the details of the new grant to retain the services of CCS, the answer to which is to be addressed during Mr. Looney's remarks to the board.

COMMUNICATIONS (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes for the meeting in October.

It was MOVED to approve by Dr. Emily Hernandez; SECONDED by Marsha Watkins. Four approved; none opposed.

#### FINANCE

Dr. Clark shared the Acceptance of Funds for the period of October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, with the Board for approval. Total income was \$40,248.86.

Dr. Clark also updated the board about the completion of two open pledges, totaling \$17,500.

Ms. Watkins made an inquiry about the growth in donations from employee payroll deduction. Jessi Uranga indicated that payroll deductions have been holding steady with no significant change in the amount raised.

It was MOVED to approve by Marsha Watkins; SECONDED by Dr. Hernandez. Four approved; none opposed.

The Board also reviewed the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities. Dr. Clark informed the board of a pledge receivable in the amount of \$300,000. This pledge is for the Community Schools Director grant, previously announced by Dr. Duardo in her opening remarks.

It was MOVED to approve by Marsha Watkins; SECONDED by Dr. Hernandez. All in favor; none opposed.

#### DONATIONS, GRANTS and OTHER INCOME

Dr. Duardo briefed the board on the status of two grants that are in the process of submitting final reports.

The first grant that is being closed out was awarded by the McCormick Foundation and funded LACOE's Expanded Learning Unit's "Summer Matters" project. Dr. Duardo shared that although this grant is ending, program manager Mary Jo Ginty will be applying for a new grant through the AARP Foundation to continue the Summer Matters project.

Dr. Duardo continued by informing the board that the initial grant from Mountain Philanthropies is also ending. This grant allowed FOL to retain the services of CCS Fundraising and the final report is being finalized. Jessi Uranga and Jim Morgan will collaborate to submit all requirements for this final report.

In addition, the board was briefed that Mr. Morgan and Mr. Uranga will facilitate the application process for the two additional grants being awarded by Mountain Philanthropies.

#### PHILANTHROPY PLANNING INITIATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Looney provided an update on the status of the Philanthropy Initiative. He began by informing the board about the success of the Philanthropy Roundtable held on November 1, 2018. Thirty key public education stakeholders and funders came together at The California Endowment for a two

and-a-half hour discussion about the issues on public education. Among the key takeaways that Mr. Looney shared are the following:

- The strong desire among the participants for enhanced and focused public education collaborations and partnerships
- The urgent need to turn around failing schools
- LACOE's role as experts in public education with a county wide perspective and ability to scale programming gives it, and Dr. Duardo specifically, a leadership role in developing enhanced partnerships
- LACOE's need to increase awareness of its role in public education within Los Angeles County
- LACOE's need to articulate its vision, plans and priorities
- LACOE's potential as a data resource, both for partnership activities and individual private programming to support public education.

Mr. Looney and Mr. Morgan continued their update by providing the board with insights gained from the 49 conversations conducting with philanthropists and key stakeholders in education. The conversations revealed a consensus among the participants that public education is of fundamental importance and there is an urgent need to address issues and challenges. The conversations revealed great interest and energy within the Greater Los Angeles philanthropic marketplace to advance public education through private-public partnerships. The concerns voiced during the conversations gravitated toward the difficulty of working with some government agencies and the need for LACOE to be more specific about its priorities and plans.

Mr. Looney continued by briefing the board on the key recommendations in the final report compiled by CCS. Among the recommendations is the need to establish an Advisory Group, develop a strong vision statement, develop the platforms to support enhanced co-investment opportunities, and recruit an executive director to lead the initiative.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Looney shared that the next stage of implementation should last between six to nine months. An Advisory Group is being formed, a vision statement is in the drafting stage, and executives at Mountain Philanthropies are already in discussion with the California Community Foundation about acting as a fiscal sponsor for co-investment programs.

Dr. Duardo followed the remarks from CCS by expressing a need to do more to leverage and bring more resources to all districts in the county.

Ms. Watkins followed by stating that LACOE is going back to its roots as a county resource.

Dr. Duardo then noted that LACOE is the largest education agency in the country, serving two million children. There are opportunities to be creative and leverage resources, including county departments.

Ms. Watkins and Dr. Hernandez expressed that there are opportunities for FOL to be a resource for smaller districts.

Mr. Morgan noted that even though we are still developing the initiative, we are beginning to achieve results.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

No additional business was brought to the board's attention.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED to adjourn at 4:02 p.m. by Ms. Watkins; SECONDED by Dr. Hernandez. All in favor. None opposed.

APPROVED:

April 29, 2019  
Downey, California