



APPROVED MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Greater LA Education Foundation

Thursday, January 28, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation was held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 via Zoom video conference.

Present: Debra Duardo, Monte Perez, Gloria Rogers, Candace Bond McKeever, Capri Maddox

Others Present: John Garcia, Daisy Esqueda, Matthew Jaffke, Steve Purcell, Kristina Romero, Sam Gelinas, Kim Traynor, Elizabeth Graswich, Cord Jefferson, David Sanford

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Duardo called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. She acknowledged staff present and asked Dr. Garcia to introduce additional attendees present.

**COMMUNICATIONS (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

NONE

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes for the meeting on October 21, 2020.

It was MOVED to approve the meeting minutes by Ms. Candace Bond-McKeever; SECONDED by Mr. Chris Steinhauser. All approved; none opposed.

**BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS**

Dr. Duardo shared that over the past several months, the Greater LA team has been working closely with the Board Development Committee to expand the Foundation board. The group has worked to identify the skills and experience the board needs, as well as identify and recruit new board members.

She also reminded the board that Ms. Pat Smith, submitted her resignation as Director and Treasurer prior to our last board meeting, leaving an ex-officio voting Director position and an officer position open. At the last board meeting, Ms. Gloria Rogers was elected as our new Treasurer of the board.

Dr. Duardo then shared that the group would be voting on three prospective board members, all of which had already been presented to the board development committee and executive committee and have been approved to move forward in the nomination and election process.



Dr. Duardo briefly introduced Elizabeth Graswich, Executive Director of Communications at LACOE, Cord Jefferson, a writer and television producer, and David Sanford, Partner and Portfolio Manager at Hitchwood Capitol.

Elizabeth Graswich was NOMINATED by Candace Bond McKeever; the nomination was SECONDED by Dr. Monte Perez. All Directors in attendance voted in favor. None opposed.

Cord Jefferson was NOMINATED by Chris Steinhauser; the nomination was SECONDED by Gloria Rogers. All Directors in attendance voted in favor. None opposed.

David Sanford was NOMINATED by Dr. Monte Perez; the nomination was SECONDED by Candace Bond McKeever. All Directors in attendance voted in favor. None opposed.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Dr. Garcia provided an update on Greater LA's COVID response efforts. Dr. Garcia shared that the foundation invested \$50,000 in relief for food, clothes, home goods, and more to support LACOE's Community Schools and repurposed funds from Ballmer grant for professional development, tutoring, and parent engagement to ameliorate some of the effects of the pandemic.

Dr. Garcia also provided an update on the foundation's educators of color work. He shared that the team released its first publication, *Advancing a Diverse Future: Recruiting and Retaining Educators of Color in Los Angeles County*. As part of the report's communications plan, the team hosted a webinar with a panel of education leaders who spoke to the importance of and dynamics that influence recruitment and retention of educators of color. Panelists included: Daniel Lee, Deputy Superintendent of Equity at the California Department of Education; Kathryn Edwards, Director of Equity at LACOE; Dr. Pedro Noguera, Dean of USC Rossier School of Education; Mary Nicely, Senior Policy Advisor to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Annamarie Francois, Executive Director of UCLA Center X; Mayra Lara, Associate Director of Educator Engagement, The Education Trust-West.

Additional quarterly updates included a new partnership with Best Buy to pilot an expansion of Teen Tech Centers; a Community Schools convening focused on elevating, collaborating, and expanding opportunities for Community Schools work in Los Angeles County, in partnership with LACOE; the launch of the Teachers of the Year Equitable Innovation Grants program, which started with a \$60,000 investment from Greater LA and nearly 200 proposals from educators across the county; the development of a report highlighting some best practices and innovative approaches found in Learning Continuity and Attendance Plans that are geared toward equity; and lastly the development of two white papers exploring the most critical issues affecting English Learners in Los Angeles County.



## **FINANCE**

Gloria Rogers reviewed the Financial Statements included in the Board agenda. Ms. Rogers reviewed the Budget vs. Actuals for July through December of 2020, which shows an increase due to items that were not anticipated or budget and pass through grants; the projected cash flow for January 2021 through June 2021, which shows a projected surplus at the end of June; fiscal year profit and loss; and the acceptance of funds, which shows support for COVID donations and grants.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS**

Dr. Duardo followed with a request to approve the Acceptance of Funds for the period of October 1 through December 31, 2020. It was MOVED to approve the Acceptance of Funds by Candace Bond McKeever; SECONDED by Dr. Monte Perez. All in favor; none opposed.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Duardo shared that the Executive Committee convened on January 15 to discuss the expansion of the board, the Foundation's organization status, and the PPP loan opportunity.

Dr. Perez shared that the Committee agreed to move forward with the nominations of three new board members at this board meeting - Liz Graswich, Cord Jefferson, and David Sanford. The Foundation is exploring the opportunity to apply for the PPP loan, but is currently reviewing the new caveat that organizations must show that they have a 25% reduction in growth revenue or income than last year. The Greater LA team is checking with the California Credit Union to see if the caveat applies to the foundation.

Lastly, the committee reviewed an analysis by the Greater LA team on the pros and cons of different IRS designations and the designations of similar organizations. Ultimately, changing the foundation's designation would allow the team to apply for additional funding opportunities and would allow us to move away from Brown Act restrictions.

The board then reviewed and discussed an organization status analysis performed by the Greater LA to identify any advantages and disadvantages of changing the organization's status.

It was MOVED to approve the change in tax designation for the Greater LA Education Foundation to Public Charity by Candace Bond McKeever; SECONDED by Gloria Rogers. All in favor; none opposed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **LACOE UPDATE**

Dr. Duardo shared that LACOE continues to have frequent calls with all 80 superintendents to support districts; has supported all districts with reopening plans; submitted a proposal to the Board of Supervisors for funding to help LACOE bridge technology gap for students that didn't



have access to instruction and was awarded \$17 million; partnered with California Endowment and CA Department of Public Health to get three LA County districts to pilot a COVID-19 testing program to inform the state's reopening protocol; supported the state's dashboard that provides information about what type of instruction was being provided at schools; and is working closely with various county departments to align efforts.

#### **EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Sam Gelinas shared that the Foundation would like to develop better relationships with LACOE employees and also wants to build meaningful investment from LACOE employees in the Foundations operations and programming. Sam also walked the group through a presentation on how the Foundation's work has evolved since the start of the pandemic, which has included an immediate COVID response fund for districts, integrating a COVID-specific response into core programs, and developing new opportunities to support a regional recovery.

#### **LEARNING LOSS DISCUSSION**

Dr. Garcia led a discussion on supporting districts in planning faster and more effectively and potentially putting a session together to discuss topics like expanding summer, dual enrollment, and other ways to accelerate learning.

#### **BOARD MEETING CALENDAR**

Dr. Duardo updated the Board regarding the revised meeting calendar. She shared that the next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. The location of the meeting will be determined as the date approaches and in accordance with LA County's COVID-19 regulations, but will most likely be remote.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED to adjourn at 2:38 p.m. by Ms. Bond-McKeever; SECONDED by Dr. Monte Perez. All in favor; none opposed.