



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

Monday, July 19, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation was held on Monday, July 19, 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, and Sam Gelinias.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Duardo called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM. 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 April 28, 2021.

It was MOVED to approve the meeting minutes by David Sanford; SECONDED by Gloria Rogers. All approved; none opposed.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Dr. Garcia provided an update on the foundation's Summer Learning Network. He shared that that, in partnership with LACOE and the Partnership for Children and Youth, the Greater LA Education Foundation (GLA) engaged key representatives from districts and school site implementation teams in a network to provide time for collaborative planning with their internal team and colleagues from neighboring districts, access to original planning tools, budgeting resources, and roadmaps, and hands-on guidance and implementation support through the summer and transitions into the new school year.

Dr. Garcia also shared that GLA is leading a regional coordination effort that strengthens postsecondary access, success, and transition supports for low-income and BIPOC high school students. In collaboration with LACOE and Education Strategy Group, GLA will launch a network of select K-12 school districts within Los Angeles County to build their capacity to improve equity-enhanced dual enrollment offerings that help to close longstanding equity gaps, improve



postsecondary outcomes of historically underserved group, and that are aligned to guided pathways. The network will launch in the fall with support from California Community Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The GLA team is actively working to raise additional support to enhance offerings for districts for the first year and allow for year two and three implementation support for districts.

GLA is also embarking on a multi-year effort to work with LA County districts committed to attracting, developing and retaining a highly talented and diverse staff and expanding DEI capacity. In partnership with LACOE and WestEd, GLA will launch a community of practice for select districts within Los Angeles County to build capacity in the recruitment and retention of educators of color. The strategy invests in individual districts that are ready to implement evidence-based pilot interventions and committed to addressing legacies of systemic racism.

Lastly, Dr. Garcia shared that GLA is working closely with the County's Internal Services Division and their Delete the Divide initiative. They are supporting our community mapping efforts to determine with neighborhoods will benefit most from the Best Buy Teen Tech Centers. They are also helping advocate for ARP dollars to be dedicated to the project. We have been providing additional information to the County CEO's office per their requests. We will find out if we are included in the budget at the county supervisors meeting on the 27th.

David Sanford shared that he is working with Sam and the team to formalize a Development Committee that will drive engagement that can be program specific, fundraising, and volunteer opportunities.

## **FINANCE**

Gloria Rogers reviewed the Financial Statements included in the Board agenda. For the fiscal year 2021, Gloria shared that it is the first-year organization budget, so many items were not originally anticipated and some adjustments will be made in the future.

LACOE legacy programs like the Academic Decathlon and scholarships account for \$129,000 expense variance. Grants made were not anticipated or budgeted and account for \$201,000 in expense variance. Consultants were unbudgeted and account for additional expense variance. These expenses were offset by some of the unexpected grants received.

Gloria went on to review the Budget vs. Actuals and explain variances. She shared that the effects of the pandemic have not only increased anticipated revenue but also increased the unplanned expenditures. Many of the unplanned COVID support grants were pass through grants to purchase equipment such as MiFi devices, chromebooks, headphones to decrease the digital divide, education consultants, and other pass through grants. Payroll is tracking right on budget. The variance is due to unbudgeted Community Schools Director salary. This will be incorporated into next year's budget.



Sam Gelinas provided a development update. He shared that the foundation received a multi-year support from the Parsons Foundation for general operating support, the Weingart Foundation decided to increase their support to \$150,000, and the California Community Foundation committed support for the dual enrollment network through the Gates Foundation. Sam also shared that the Ballmer Group is interested in expanding Community Schools in LA County and also set up LACOE and the Foundation as a technical assistance provider to other counties in California. The Foundation is also working in partnership with LACOE to look for additional support for LACOE's legacy programs like the Superintendent's Collaborative and Teachers of the Year.

Capri Maddox inquired if the Foundation needs letters of support for the Board of Supervisors meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Sam shared that we do not need letters of support at this time because the Internal Services Division is advocating for the Teen Tech Centers project and the request came from the education deputies from the County Supervisors. If anything changes, Sam will update the group.

Dr. Garcia moved the discussion back to the variances in the financial documents. He reminded the group that the Foundation had a projected first-year budget and because it was a brand new foundation things played out differently than what was projected and also COVID changed a lot of things and caused more variances. Dr. Garcia also shared that when the budget was built, it was built for the Foundation's work and didn't build a joint budget with some of the existing LACOE work like the legacy programs and Community Schools Director salary. The Foundation now has a combined budget with things that have existed in the Foundation's own work.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS

Dr. Duardo followed with a request to approve the Acceptance of Funds for the period of January 1 through March 31, 2020. It was MOVED to approve the Acceptance of Funds by Dr. Perez; SECONDED by David Sanford. All in favor; none opposed.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Duardo shared that earlier in the month the Executive Committee convened to discuss several items including a program update from the Greater LA team, the Board Chair and Chair-elect nomination processes, and Dr. Garcia's upcoming performance review.

Dr. Garcia is at his two-year anniversary as President of the foundation. Over the next few weeks, the Executive Committee will discuss a performance evaluation process and timeline. The executive committee will follow up with the rest of the board with more information about the performance evaluation, which will be done in a closed session.

The Executive Committee also discussed the process for nominating and electing the next Board Chair and Chair-elect. Dr. Duardo reminded the group that because her term as Board



Chair ends at the end of August, the Board agreed to the idea of nominating and electing a new chair and chair-elect at this board meeting. Typically, one board member will nominate another board member to fill an officer position.

She shared that the committee wanted to continue with this process at this board meeting while also ensuring that those that are nominated and/or elected are willing and able to take on the role and responsibilities assigned to it.

As a first step in the nomination and election process, an email was sent to the board inquiring about interest in the chair and chair-elect positions and provide an opportunity for board members to express their interest in expanding their role on the GLA board.

Dr. Duardo shared that each officer will hold office for a two-year term. The chair will preside over meetings, have a seat on the executive committee, and will work closely with the GLA team to make high-level strategic decisions and achieve the foundation's mission and values. The chair-elect would prepare to assume the role of board chair, would fill the chair position should it become vacant, and would preside over meetings in the absence of the acting chair.

Dr. Duardo opened the floor for nominations of those that have expressed interest in the Board Chair position. Candace Bond McKeever MOVED to nominate Dr. Perez to be elected as Board Chair of the Greater LA Education Foundation; SECONDED by Gloria Rogers. All in favor; none opposed.

Dr. Duardo opened the floor for nominations of those that have expressed interest in the Chair-elect position. Dr. Perez MOVED to nominate Candace Bond McKeever to be elected as Chair-elect of the Greater LA Education Foundation; SECONDED by Capri Maddox. All in favor; none opposed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **LACOE UPDATE**

Dr. Duardo shared that there has been a lot of superintendent transitions, retirements, and people moving around the county. LACOE is continuing to support districts with their summer learning initiatives, planning for reopening, and working with the County's Department of Public Health to communicate with districts. She shared that one of the issues superintendents are trying to figure out at the moment is independent studies, which is required of all districts. If districts aren't able to provide remote learning options, they are able to look to LACOE for support. LACOE's overall message to everyone is that it is safe to come back to school but understand that there are families that aren't comfortable. LACOE is working with the Department of Public Health to coordinate funding to all districts so that they can do COVID testing.



Dr. Duardo went on the share that she and LACOE are also focused on the mental health and well-being of students, staff, and families. LACOE is hearing from superintendents that LACOE needs to provide more mental health services to assess where students are at and to make sure that we have a plan in place while looking at the whole child approach. LACOE is looking at bringing in a cabinet level person that is a mental health expert to work with the department of mental health.

Dr. Duardo shared that Deputy Superintendent Arturo Valdez will retire in September. His replacement has already been hired, Dr. Martinez-Poulin, former Superintendent in Whittier. Also retiring is Greg Lindner, chief of technology at LACOE. Both Mr. Valdez and Mr. Lindner were a tremendous support during the pandemic.

Dr. Garcia asked about the lag between when students are vaccinated and when school is set to begin and the ramifications of that. Dr. Duardo shared that she hasn't heard any of the superintendents plan for not returning to in-person instruction. She knows that they are working to bring as many of their students back that is possible.

Gloria Rogers asked about the case rate amongst children and if they information will be reported. Dr. Duardo will follow up with Department of Public Health for date and more information.

#### **BOARD RETREAT**

Sam provided an update on the Board Retreat scheduled to take place on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The advisory put together an agenda and vision for the day.

#### **BOARD MEETING CALENDAR**

Dr. Duardo updated the Board regarding the revised meeting calendar. She shared that the board originally had its next meeting scheduled for October but because the Board is coming together in September for the board retreat, the October board meeting will be cancelled. The Board will reconvene in February for our regularly scheduled board meetings. 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 10:30 AM by Gloria Rogers; SECONDED by Dr. Monte Perez. All in favor; none opposed.