



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

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation (GLA) was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, via Zoom video conference.

Present: Debra Duardo, Monte Perez, Gloria Rogers, Candace Bond McKeever, Capri Maddox, Cord Jefferson, David Sanford, Elizabeth Graswich, Chris Steinhauser

Others Present: Daisy Esqueda, Kristina Romero, Sam Gelinias, Alex Halpern

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Perez called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. He acknowledged staff and additional guests.

Dr. Perez shared that the February meeting was his first as Chair of the board as Dr. Duardo's term as Chair ended in August 2021. He clarified that although her term has ended, Dr. Duardo remains a voting member of the board and a member of the Executive Committee. He thanked Dr. Duardo for her service and guidance through the development of the foundation and knows that she remains committed and engaged as our work evolves.

Dr. Perez also noted that the last time the board came together was in late September for the in-person board retreat. Since then, GLA has gone through a couple of transitions. Most recently, Dr. Garcia was appointed to serve in the Biden administration as a Senior Advisor for the Department of Education and resigned from his position as president of Greater LA, effective February 11, 2022. Thus, Sam Gelinias will provide the President's report and share updates for Board discussion as interim Executive Director moving forward.

**COMMUNICATIONS (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

NONE

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes for the meeting on July 19, 2021.

It was MOVED to approve the meeting minutes by Candace Bond McKeever; SECONDED by Capri Maddox. All approved; none opposed.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Sam Gelinas provided an update on the foundation's current program and activities including GLA's district networks, research and publications, the LA Community Impact Hub, Teachers of the Year Equitable Innovation Grants, as well as future projects.

#### LOS ANGELES COLLEGE ACCELERATOR NETWORK

Nine district and community college teams have participated in three Community of Practice sessions as part of the Los Angeles College Accelerator Network. Session topics ranged from data, strengthening partnerships, and goal setting. Future sessions will focus on CCAP and individual coaching to support the development of district action plans. By June, teams will develop an action-plan and participate in a Year-1 culminating convening.

GLA and LACOE will continue to work with Education Strategy Group for Year-2, which will focus on progress monitoring and evaluating the implementation process. ESG will also develop an approach to evaluate district's implementation process that will inform policy recommendations. This work is funded by College Futures Foundation and the California Community Foundation.

#### NETWORK FOR ADVANCING A DIVERSE AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE WORKFORCE

Six district teams have engaged in several individual coaching sessions with West Ed to identify a core team, collect and analyze baseline data to build a district profile, and understand progress monitoring and evaluation routines. Through Spring 2022 teams will develop a vision for this work, theory of action, and SMART goals to achieve the vision. Teams will also develop a draft action plan for achieving SMART Goals.

Network teams will convene in Spring 2022 where they will participate in activities and gather resources to move from aspiration to sustainable action. GLA will provide each district with a \$5,000 implementation grant to support strategies outlined in their action plans, including affinity groups, stipend for coaches or mentors, or grants for new educators seeking credentials.

#### RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

In partnership with LACOE's Multilingual Academic Support Unit, GLA will release a whitepaper in March that explores critical issues affecting English Learners in Los Angeles County. GLA is working with LACOE to explore additional research questions for a second white paper – likely how SEL can support language acquisition.

Additionally, GLA will release a brief that summarizes and analyzes findings from a survey, conducted by GLA and LACOE's Expanded Learning Technical Assistance Unit, of all county districts to better understand their plans for this summer and how we can support their staff and students. The survey and brief will provide information for GLA and LACOE to develop new



tools and resources, seek philanthropic partners, and develop a regional advocacy agenda based on local needs.

#### LA COMMUNITY IMPACT HUB

GLA hosted a preview of the newest Teen Tech Center in South Los Angeles with Best Buy, LACOE, and other founding partners. Dr. Duardo, Supervisor Holly Mitchell, and Best Buy CEO Corie Barry were among a select group of attendees.

GLA recently opened an RFP for nonprofits that are interested in establishing and running a new Teen Tech Center in Southeast LA, East LA, or the Antelope Valley. Host partners will be selected spring 2022.

#### TOY EQUITABLE INNOVATION GRANTS

GLA will award \$75,000 in grants to LA County educators to support projects, programs, and services. Nearly 200 applications were received this year for projects spanning all grades and from 46 districts. GLA engaged past TOYs, LACOE staff, and other partners to review applications. Grantees will be selected and notified the week of February 14th.

#### FUTURE PROJECTS

Future GLA projects include a partnership with USC Center Edge where select Teachers of the Year will be recognized as Center EDGE Fellows to promote best practices, strategies, and content. Additionally, GLA is entering a partnership with LACOE to develop an overview of community, district, and school level data. Daisy Esqueda shared that throughout the pandemic, it became evident that schools are the center for the coordination of services but that there is a need for data sharing to understand the need and to be able to advocate for resources. LACOE is interested in investing one-time ESSR funding in a long-term tool solution to demonstrate the state of education in LA County and provide community-level data. Lastly, GLA is working with LACOE to develop pathway programs to recruit and train new Head Start educators.

Candace Bond McKeever asked if community colleges are part of HeadStart pilot along with parents. Sam Gelinas shared that community colleges are built into the pathway programs.

#### STAFFING UPDATES

Sam Gelinas introduced Alex Halpern as GLA's newest Program and Development Manager and shared that Alexandra Marmion Roosa as the Director of Operations and Grants Management.

Dr. Perez then opened the floor to discuss changing the titles of the foundation's director level positions. Dr. Perez shared that GLA is going through a unique transition but is on a solid path of growth and development. As a result, he is proposing elevating the titles of our Director of Development and External Engagement to Chief Officer of Development and External Engagement and the Director of Operations and Grants Management to Chief Financial Officer.



He shared that he feels the changes reflect the growth and positive trajectory of the organization.

The floor was open for discussion. Capri Maddox shared that she agreed with the idea, the changes were great for morale, and it is important to for titles to be accurate when working with other entities.

Dr. Perez made a motion to update the Director of Development and External Engagement to Chief Officer of Development and External Engagement and the Director of Operations and Grants Management to Chief Financial Officer. The motion was **SECONDED** by Candace Bond McKeever. All in favor; none opposed.

## **FINANCE**

Gloria Rogers reviewed the Financial Statements included in the Board agenda.

Gloria reviewed the Statement of Financial Position as of the end of the Q2, December 31, 2021, which shows total assets of \$2.5M and total liabilities of \$38K.

The Budget to Actuals report shows total revenue of \$915K. \$1.6M was budgeted. There are discrepancies—philanthropic revenue is tracking slightly lower than originally budgeted. This can be attributed to grant term finalization taking longer than expected.

The cash flow projection has the revised timing on grant fund receipts, which are still expected to come in on budget. (Primarily this is the Balmer \$3M grant and the \$2M grant from LA County.) The PPP loan was fully forgiven in Q2. Payroll expenses are tracking lower than budgeted through the first two quarters of FY22. This is partially due to delayed onboarding of a new position plus a staff transition in November. Q3 will also track slightly under budget until both open positions are filled.

Grant disbursements are also under budget through Q2 but are expected to occur in Q3 for Teacher of the Year awards. We expect that this expense will be on budget by the end of the Q3. Participant incentives, such as awards for the Educators of Color program are under budget due to an adjustment in timing. The anticipation is that these awards will be disbursed in the latter half of FY22. The \$150k favorable variance in Miscellaneous expense represents a set-aside for program expenditures that have yet to be specifically identified. These funds are expected to be disbursed by the end of the fiscal year.

GLA's projected FY21 ending cash balance is \$3.52M, after deducting a four-month operating reserve, anticipated surplus cash is projected to be \$1.12M.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS**



Dr. Perez followed with a request to approve the Acceptance of Funds for the period of September 1 through December 31, 2022. It was MOVED to approve the Acceptance of Funds by Chris Steinhauser; SECONDED by David Sanford. All in favor; none opposed.

#### REVISIONS TO AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR CHECKS AND CONTRACTS

Dr. Perez transitioned to the next agenda item—revising GLA’s authorized signers for checks and contracts. He shared that because the board has recently made changes to its officers, and because of John Garica’s resignation, the GLA board must amend the list of signatories for the foundation.

Dr. Perez shared that, currently, the GLA Board has designated the Board Chair, Board Treasurer, Board Secretary, and President as Authorized Signers at various levels of approval to sign checks, execute agreements, and access the foundation credit card.

The proposed resolution, Attachment F, will maintain that (a) only one Authorized Signer is needed to approve transactions of less than \$5,000 and (b) for transactions of \$5,000 or more, two signers are required and can be the Board Chair, Board Treasurer, Board Secretary, and President.

The second page of the resolution allows Greater LA to update its current list of authorized signers and formalizes the removal of the names of previous authorized signers.

Dr. Perez opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. Perez asked for a motion to approve the Resolution on Authorized Signers for Checks and Contracts. It was MOVED to approve the Resolution of Authorized Signers for Checks and Contracts by Candace Bond McKeever; SECONDED by Dr. Duardo. All approved; none opposed.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Perez shared that earlier in the month, the Executive Committee convened to discuss several items including John’s transition, additional staffing updates, and preparation for the February board meeting.

The Executive Committee held a closed session to discuss immediate next steps following John’s transition in preparation for today’s closed session with the full board.

Dr. Perez shared that the full board would hold a closed session at the end of the meeting to provide time and space to candidly discuss the board’s next steps for searching for the next President and the direction of the foundation.



The floor was opened for questions and discussion regarding the Executive Committee update.

Dr. Duardo shared that the Executive Committee had a great conversation during the closed session and reiterated that the committee is thrilled for Dr. John Garcia appointment. The committee took a closer look at the board's transition plan for GLA, Sam's ability to fulfill the Interim Executive Director position, and discussed the need to move quickly to fill John's position to maintain partnerships and ongoing work.

Candace Bond McKeever echoed Dr. Duardo's sentiments and offered the support of the board to GLA staff.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **LACOE UPDATE**

Dr. Duardo shared that a lot of time and effort continues to be placed on COVID response efforts, including keeping schools open, keeping everybody safe, and address the loss of instruction. A lot of the challenges districts are facing are due to staff shortages despite receiving a historical amount of funding coming in to fill those positions.

LACOE continues to meet weekly with all LA County superintendents and the LA County Department of Public Health. LACOE invested some of its COVID recovery dollars in mental health services for all 80 district employees, including access to a 24-hour hotline.

LACOE has been working closely with the Department of Mental Health to expand Community Schools initiative and offer additional mental health resources to additional students and educators.

LACOE continues to work on addressing the digital divide and providing students with access to devices and high-speed internet, especially as a lot of mental health support is offered electronically. Working closely with LA County to ensure that all students have long-term broadband internet. All 80 school district superintendents signed off on a letter advocating to close the digital divide, which will be sent to LA County Supervisors, the Federal Communications Commission, and County libraries.

Dr. Duardo shared that LACOE is working on expanding the Community Schools initiative to additional districts in LA County with the additional funding coming in from the federal and state level.

Lastly, Dr. Duardo shared that LACOE will be hiring a Chief of Wellbeing and Support Services to elevate the need for mental health and wellness services, which will be a chief cabinet level position at LACOE that will push for the need of family engagement, parent engagement, student engagement, addressing well-being with students and families.



Gloria asked if it would be helpful for partners like the California Credit Union and parents to send a pre-drafted letter in support of providing broad-band internet access. Dr. Duardo agreed that it was a great idea and is a great opportunity to engage parents.

### **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES**

Capri Maddox shared that on April 9<sup>th</sup> the Civil Rights Department will host a Law Event to help underrepresented students prepare for the law school process.

Chris Steinhauser shared that the CSU Board of Trustees will be acting on dropping the SATs as part of the admission requirements.

### **BOARD MEETING CALENDAR**

Dr. Perez shared that the Board would reconvene on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 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 likely be remote.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Dr. Perez shared that the Board would transition to a closed session, which is closed to the public, and that no action will be taken during the closed session—it will only be a discussion.

Dr. Perez asked for a motion to enter a closed session to discuss the hiring of the President and Chief Deputy of Strategic Partnerships and Innovation. It was MOVED to enter a closed session by Dr. Duardo; SECONDED by Dr. Candace Bond McKeever Perez. All in favor; none opposed.

For the record, no action was taken by the GLA Board during Closed Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED to adjourn at 4:00 PM by Gloria Rogers; SECONDED by Dr. Monte Perez. All in favor; none opposed.