LAYC Career Academy PCS
Board of Trustees Meeting
MINUTES
April 29, 2026
6:15 PM

Trustees Participating: Kate Brannon, Emmanuel Caudillo, Dean D'Angelo, Noemí Enchautegui-de-Jesús, Lori Kaplan (chair), Benjamin Ruiz, Talib Robinson, Taylor Whitelaw *(departed 7:00);* April Elliott (joined at 6:30 pm)

Absent: Stacy Kane, Ana Hageage, Linda Moore

Staff and Contractors Participating: Nicole Hanrahan (ED); Ross Knorr (EdOps)

ITEM/ SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ PROPOSED ACTION
Motion to open the meeting	Board Chair, Lori Kaplan, called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. when it was determined that quorum was present with all but two Board Members in attendance.	A motion to open the meeting was made by Kate Brannon, seconded by Talib Robinson, and approved unanimously.
Board changes	Board Chair, Lori Kaplan, discussed that Linda Moore will step down from board when a replacement is found. Stacy Kane is resigning as board member. Need new board members such as DC residents and/or with experience in marketing, communications, healthcare, or HR.	Will ask April Elliott to chair Governance committee.
Approval of Meeting Minutes		A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 2026 meeting. Talib Robinson seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.
Fundraising and cash transfer program	The Academy needs funds to continue making cash transfers for youth. Donations can be designated directly for this use. Board Chair, Lori Kaplan, thanked board member, Dean D'Angelo and Capital for Children for a $10,000-grant to be matched. Board members should call on others to help meet this match.	Get 100% participation of the Board to match a $10K donation.
Ribbon cutting	Nicole described plans for the ribbon-cutting event, including tours and speakers. DC Council Members were invited.	Lori will invite press. Board members to RSVP.

	Encouraged board members to bring guests (add them to RSVP list) or potential donors.	
Middle States Accreditation	Congratulations to Nicole and staff. Received great feedback from the chair, including encouragement to brag more about accomplishments. Nicole thanked the board for visiting and dining with the visitors of the Middle States Accreditation.	

Committee report outs on strategic plan and other activities	• **Finance & Audit –** Kate (Chair), Manny, Dean, and Talib Reporting: Kate Brannon Leading banking transition and investment strategy. Strong cash position. Over $3M in the bank. Need to invest more. Will seek a new bank partner. • **Governance –** Linda (current chair), Taylor, April (pending chair), and Talib • Linda is creating **governance systems template** requiring ~1 day of work before handoff • Linda will stay on board until odd-number requirement is met with new member • **Marketing & Development –** Ana (Acting Chair), Noemí, Lori and Kate Recent brainstorming session generated ideas: ○ Invite mayoral candidates to graduation ○ Social media toolkit for board members ○ Student Instagram takeover tagging council members • **Kyle assigned as staff liaison** to attend all meetings • Need follow-up meeting to prioritize ideas and integrate with strategic plan NH: Invited all DC council members to ribbon cutting ceremony. No endorsements. • **Program –** Ana (Chair), Noemí, Manny, and Benjamin • No report • **Executive –** Lori (Chair), Noemí, Ana, Kate, Linda/April • Not yet convened; waiting for full committee structure finalization • Will include April once Governance chair transition complete *See Kate's communication after February meeting about which parts of the strategic plan fall within scope of each committee.*	Finance & Audit will have an investment proposal in the next board meeting. Need transition documents from Linda in the Governance committee. Include Kyle, liaison, in M&D meetings. Identify mayoral staffers to invite candidates to ribbon cutting. Ask Ana about relieving her from one committee (if Noemi takes it on.) Review strategic plan items that fall within scope of each committee.
ED Report	The Executive Director, Nicole Hanrahan, presented school updates.	NH will send the board the student remarks made at the hearing to the board.

	The school exceeded expectations in academic goals; it is in excellent financial shape and has no compliance problems. **Qualitative site review - QSR**. Mixed results. Three contributing factors: 1) a mismatch between collaborative team learning vs. personalized learning; 2) visitors' lack of expertise in alternative and adult education; 3) observations were predominantly of new and substitute teachers. PCSB will add a footnote to the report to interpret results w/caution. **Middle States Accreditation:** MSA site lead had adult education experience. **Outcomes in Aspire Framework:** • 74.8% attendance strong for adult school. • As of today, 14 graduates. • **Aspire Level–** Currently at level 2, aiming for 1 by August**.** • College/career placement rates down due to DC's high unemployment from federal layoffs and contractor cuts • Spanish GED and ESL enrollment dropped from ~50 to 18 students due to aggressive immigration enforcement • Despite external factors, team pushing to maintain Level 1 status **Policy – Nicole Hanrahan and students will testify at the DC Council** • Restore cuts to adult education grants • Increase Adult Learner Transit Subsidy (unchanged since 2019) • Maintain social safety net (DC Healthcare Alliance, SNAP, public assistance) • Equitable funding between charter schools and DCPS, including facilities funding • Implement mayor's study recommendation for increased adult school funding **Graduation date --Friday, June 26, 2026**	
June meeting date	Need to change the date of the next board meeting in June changed. Budget and compensation will be discussed in the next meeting using draft ED sent previously.	
Financial Report	Ross Knorr from EdOps presented the financial report.	

	The Academy had 253 days of cash on hand and $3.7 cash balance forecast. Expenses change in relation to medical assistance substitute contracts.	
Motion to close the meeting		April Elliott made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm. Talib Robinson seconded. It was approved unanimously.

The meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov