



October Board Meeting, October 23, 2023

<p>Board Members Present: Tony Stoupas Ruth Jarmul Nicholas Ober Susan Engel Deborah Dumont Tom Sturtevant David Schatsky</p> <p>Board members not in attendance: Susan Fine</p> <p>Board members attending virtually: Herb Fixler</p>	<p>Others LION asked to be in Attendance: Celia Sosa, CEO Sherrie Henry, COO Lex Zain, CAO Keveney McCrillis, Executive Assistant to the Senior Leadership Team Dan Marcus - Potential Board Member Matthew Esterhohn - CBIZ Auditor</p> <p>Members of the Public: "Irene" "Martinez"</p>
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Tony Stoupas called for a motion to begin the meeting at 6:07 PM. The motion was seconded by Susan Engel and unanimously approved. Matthew Esterhohn from CBIZ, LION’s auditors, entered the meeting at 6:09 PM to present the audit findings, which were shared before the meeting and reported to the finance committee during the previous week. CBIZ found LION to have no material weaknesses in their accounting. CBIZ found there were no material adjustments to the numbers themselves - an indication that LION is getting timely and accurate findings throughout the year. There were recommendations from CBIZ about best practices around the review of journal entries and bank statements. There was a question from a board member about oversight at the division level around budgets. COO Sherrie Henry answered that question regarding spending managers and their oversight and ownership of their budgets. Board Chair Tony Stoupas put forth a motion to accept the audit. Deborah Dumont seconded that motion. There was a unanimous vote in favor of accepting the audit. Matthew Esterhohn left the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Tony Stoupas then motioned to approve the September meeting minutes, which were shared before the meeting via email. David Schatsky seconded the motion. The September meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Chief Academic Officer Lex Zain presented on the 3-8 NYS exams. She first overviewed the changes to the exams for the 2023 administration. Then, she transitioned to discuss the performance of LION students as compared to district and city performance. There was a board question about the difference in exams at each grade level. There was a board question about why our 8th-grade students take the Algebra Regents and not the NYS math exam. There was a board question about the weighting of the questions on the exams and changes in exams year-over-year. There was a question about where students' proficiencies lie when they enter LION in K. Lex Zain answered all questions and shared that we conduct K intake interviews the summer before students begin to assess their skills. A board member made a comment about the effect of COVID



on students proficiencies. A board member applauded our students and staff on the 8th grade Algebra Regents performance. Lex Zain then discussed some barriers to our success and the action plan that was developed to continue to improve LION's scores on these exams. There was a board question about our benchmark and whether it is outperforming the district, the city, or the 75% proficiency outlined on the APPR. There was a question about what the board could do to support LION in increasing achievement and if there was an ask of the board. There was an ask for additional funding to recruit and retain excellent teachers and incentivize teacher performance. There was a suggestion about the client for our dashboard and if it was SUNY or LION or the students and that we talk about growth and success in ways that are separate from NYS test data. Celia Sosa, CEO, shared an anecdote about a school meeting in the high school today. There was a final board question about what we were surprised about on the NYS exams. Lex Zain answered all questions.

Celia Sosa then began her CEO board report, which was shared via email before the meeting. She began by discussing the ongoing facilities concerns at 730 Bryant Avenue, including communication she has received and sent to all of her key contacts at the DOE and SCA. A board member discussed our relationship with these entities. Sherrie, LION COO, and Celia shared their thoughts on our relationships with the DOE and SCA. There was a board question about alerting the media and/or engaging lawyers.

Celia Sosa then shared the strategic planning process, approach, and framework improvements the senior leadership team made. She asked the board for feedback and shared the components she wanted them to participate in. There was a board request to move the November meeting to 11/27/23 from 11/20/23. There was a commitment to polling the board members to see if they were interested in moving this date. Dan Marcus, a potential board member, asked for the strategic priorities of the past three years.

COO Sherrie Henry then began her finance report, which was shared via email before the meeting. She discussed LION's net income and revenue through September 2023. She spoke about how our increased enrollment would increase our revenue, beginning in the next billing period. There was a discussion about our expenses and how we would better predict these expenses in next year's budget. Sherrie stated that we have decided to move forward with launching an endowment fund. There was a conversation about what the correct target number would be for the funding of an endowment fund. There was a consensus that we send the fundraiser assisting LION an endowment document as soon as possible. Herb Fixler, chair of the finance committee, agreed to contact our lawyers to put pressure on getting that document.

Ruth Jarmul, chair of the development and marketing committee, discussed the development and marketing report, which was shared via email before the meeting. There is confidence that the team will reach their goals for the year. Next month, there will be a discussion about starting a leadership council. There was a discussion about Giving Tuesday. Susan Engel committed to making a Giving Tuesday match up to \$7500. There was a question about whether there was a communication package that would be shared to give to people in our network for that day. There



was a commitment to getting board members that communications package.

Tony Stoupas, Chairman of the Board, then spoke about forming a leadership council. There were initial conversations about this, and a proposal will be brought before the board soon.

All committee meeting updates were given earlier in the meeting.

Tony Stoupas opened the meeting for public comment. A member of the public, a tenth-grade parent, asked about ENL students and how we are making sure we are getting a whole picture of the child and their language acquisition K-12. She stated that the demographic of the school has changed since her daughter began at LION in Kindergarten. Celia Sosa, CEO, shared information about our ENL teachers, how they partner with our teachers, the accommodations we provide, and the ways we measure growth in K-12, including NWEA and benchmarks.

Tony Stoupas motioned to move into executive session at 8:07 PM. Susan Engel seconded the motion, and the board unanimously voted to move into executive session. The meeting moved out of the executive session and back to a public meeting at 8:20 PM.

There was a motion to accept the recommendation made by the executive committee regarding the CEO's bonus. This was seconded by Ruth Jarmul and unanimously approved. Tony Stoupas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM. The motion was seconded by Nick Ober and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Notes prepared by Keveney McCrillis.