

July Board Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2024

**Board Members Present:** 

Julie Medler Herb Fixler

David Schatsky

Tony Stoupas

**Ruth Jarmul** 

**Thomas Sturtevant** 

**Board Members not in Attendance:** 

Nicholas Ober Deborah Dumont Others LION asked to be in Attendance:

Keveney McCrillis, Executive Assistant to the

Senior Leadership Team Sherrie Henry, COO

Celia Sosa, CEO

Members of the Public:

Catherine Jessup

Talal Rojas

Tony Stoupas, board chairman, called for a motion to begin the meeting at 6:12 PM. The motion was seconded by David Schatsky and unanimously approved.

Tony Stoupas then motioned to dispense the reading of the minutes and approve the June meeting minutes, which were shared before the meeting via email. Tom Sturtevant seconded the motion. The June meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Celia Sosa then began to review her CEO report, which was shared via email before the meeting. She highlighted the positive things happening at LION over the summer, including the work Junior Deans were doing and a Summer Boost update. Celia then reviewed the family meeting process for new LION students and families. She shared the retreats that have already happened and those on the horizon this summer, including the Senior Leadership Retreat, Academic Leadership Retreat, and LION 101. Celia then spoke about the character culture at LION and some of the work we are committed to doing this upcoming school year to ensure that is alive. There was a board request that, moving forward, Celia indicate if there is something in her report that is connected to a previously established strategy spoken about in a board meeting or a new initiative/thought.

Next, Celia gave a facilities update, including reviewing that the RESO-A grant we were awarded to renovate the auditorium and playground was being transferred to the DOE, and the project completion date was May 2025. The Herb Fixler Family Engagement Center is on track to be completed on August 15th. Celia is working with Maya Severns, Director of Marketing and Development, to plan a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Tony Stoupas then reviewed some key facts that he feels led to the focus on character culture and the professional development for staff and leaders that goes with that.

Sherrie Henry, COO, began her report, which was shared before the meeting via email, reviewing





FY 24. She highlighted the changeover in the finance team and the way financial planning and analysis were handled in FY 24. Sherrie explained that the accounts payable process was very improved, including invoice processing time. LION has begun using TeamPay and Sage Intact, which she predicts will improve the financial processes. LION has also applied for an Employee Retention Credit she expects will be accepted by the federal government later in the fall. Sherrie then discussed the June financial report. She reviewed our net income and revenue, which she stated aligned with the expectations of the finance team. There was a board question about the bad debt she highlighted in her report. Sherrie answered that. She then reviewed how the FY 25 budget was developed in response to the things learned in FY 24. There was a board question about how much the budget in some of these areas was increased for FY 25. Sherrie then shared more information about Team Pay and Sage Intact. There was a board question about whether this would be highlighted in the audit or impact the audit. Sherrie answered. Finally, Sherrie asked that the board review the District Wide Safety Plan that was shared before the meeting and is linked on our website. She asked that the board vote on its adoption or give feedback at the next board meeting. There was a board question about what has changed from the previous years. Sherrie answered.

Tony Stoupas asked if there were questions about the development report, which was shared via email before the meeting. There were no questions. Ruth stated that the development plan for the 2024 - 2025 school year will be shared at the next board meeting.

Tony asked if there were committee updates. Herb Fixler shared that there were two candidates for the board on the call - Talal Rojas and Catherine Jessup. He asked them to exit the meeting so the board could discuss their nomination. Talal and Cathy were brought to LION through Board Assist. Herb shared some background about each and gave his strong support for their nomination to the board. He then opened it up for discussion. Tony Stoupas called for a vote on candidate Talal Rojas. Herb Fixler seconded the motion. He was unanimously recommended for board nomination. Tony Stoupas called for a vote on candidate Catherine Jessup. Herb Fixler seconded the motion. She was unanimously recommended for board nomination. The two candidates were called back into the meeting and given the good news. They both expressed commitment and thanks.

Tony Stoupas opened the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments.

Tony they motioned to enter into an executive session. The motion was seconded by David Schatsky and unanimously approved by the board. The members of the public left the meeting, and the board entered the executive session.

Tony Stoupas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. David Schatsky seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Notes prepared by Keveney McCrillis.

