

LNS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2019

Attendees:

- **Present:** Abby Adams, Jessica Kaplan, Liz Heald, Laura Leibowitz, Lauren O'Neil, Cynthia Chang, Rebecca Blanchfield, Jess Callow, Vanessa Cartwright, Sarah Robbat, Katherine Taunton-Rigby, Carrie Menke, Ania Richmon, Becky Bermont, Gina Cherco
- **Absent:** Alex Benik, Cara Shortsleeve, Feyza Marouf, Murat Arslan, Martina Ladd, Sandra Coleman, Anna Angelova,
- **Also Present:** Nancy Fincke

Board Members: President: Abigail Adams, Secretary: Vanessa Cartwright, Vice President of Operations: Cynthia Chang, Vice President of Programs: Martina Ladd, Treasurer: Rebecca Blanchfield, Enrollment: Katherine Taunton-Rigby & Carrie Menke, Gala/Fundraising: Gina Cherco, deCordova Liaison: Becky Bermont, Information Management: Alex Benik, Strategic Planning: Cara Shortsleeve & Sarah Robbat, PR & Communications: Laura Leibowitz, R Parents: Ania Richmon (B), Anna Angelova (Y), Sandra Coleman (P), Lauren O'Neil (R), Staff Search & Development: Jessica Callow, Welcoming & Social: Jessica Kaplan & Liz Heald, Extended Day: Feyza Marouf

LNS BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order and President's Report: Abby Adams

- Welcome and thank you all for coming this evening! And a big thank you to Jess and Dane for hosting us tonight, we really appreciate it! We have a lot to cover tonight but I wanted to take a minute to thank a few people who have been hard at work but before I do, I wanted to give Nancy a collective Happy Birthday from us all on the board - where would we be without Nancy and all that she does for our school and most especially our children!
- First, a big thank you to Rebecca for tirelessly working on our 2019-20 budget, which she'll present and we'll vote on tonight, its a lot of work and we couldn't successfully run the school without all her time and energy, we really appreciate it!
- Next, another big thank you for Cynthia for all her hard work on the Parent Survey. She put a lot of time and careful consideration into the questions asked this year and really did a thorough analysis of the responses to make sure we are really capturing parents' thoughts and feedback.
- And Jess, a big thank you for crafting the teacher survey and taking the time to summarize their feedback. Its really important to hear from our teachers as to what is working for them, what needs to be changed and just general feedback from them. Jess will share her summary with us tonight.
- And last but not least, Gina, she is working tirelessly on our behalf to Chair our upcoming Gala on April 6th - and if you haven't yet bought tickets, please do! She will get a much better night sleep if you do!
- Also, I wanted to mention that back in January, Rebecca, Nancy and I had a meeting with John Ravenal and Jennifer Klahn (Deputy Director for External Affairs) about The Trustees of Reservations integration and where LNS fit into the picture. We have been continuously reassured that TTOR recognizes LNS's

role at deCordova and the wider community and truly values our partnership. As most of you saw, deCordova included the question of whether Parents were aware that deCordova was planning to integrate with TTOR, 87% respondents answered, Yes. In addition, parents were asked to share thoughts or ideas about the partnership. One parent said: "Sounds like an important and hopefully sustainable move." Another said: "A little nervous about what this will mean for LNS. Hoping TOR will see the value of LNS at deCordova and be champions." The goal of the meeting was to get more reassurance about LNS's place within this partnership and we feel like we did. After our meeting, Barbara Erickson, the President and CEO of TTOR sent Nancy a letter about the integration and LNS's valuable role. I have the letter here and will read a few snippets but if anyone would like to read it further, please let me know.

- A few upcoming dates I wanted to mention, this Monday, March 11th, is Professional Day so there will be no school. And also coming up is, Studio Update night on Tuesday, March 19th so please be on the lookout for an Evite from your respective room parents - the teachers put a lot of effort into the evening so it's important at least one parent from each family attends.

Secretary: Vanessa Cartwright

- Approve January 2019 minutes: Katherine Taunton-Rigby approved; Rebecca Blanchfield seconded.

Director's Report: Nancy Fincke

- After all the studios had visited the museum to see the Sheila Pepe exhibit, Sheila visited LNS in the afternoon on Feb.18. She toured the studios to see how the children responded to her work and spent an hour visiting with the children in Studio Red. The children had prepared questions for Sheila and showed her their fiber work. Sheila observed the large fiber wrapped "Y" stick in Studio Blue, thinking it was a "why" stick knowing that children ask lots of why question. She was struck with how profound that was.

Treasurer: Rebecca Blanchfield

- 2019/2020 Budget
- We moved to executive session of the Board. Rebecca shared the proposed 2019/20 Budget; we moved to a vote and approved the 2019/2020 Budget.

Vice President of Operations: Cynthia Chang

- Annual Parent Survey Report: *see other pdf for full report*
- Nominating and Committee Preferences
- Discussion of Parent jobs including discussion of if a parent things a studio could use a deep cleaning, they could suggest getting a group of parents to get together to clean. Discussion of it could help if someone planted the seed to parents that they could do this.

Vice President of Programs: Martina Ladd

- No updates at this time.

Enrollment: Katherine Taunton-Rigby & Carrie Menke

- No updates at this time.

Gala/Fundraising: Gina Cherco

- Gala Update. Buy your tickets!

deCordova Liaison: Becky Bermont

- No updates at this time.

Information Management: Alex Benik

- No updates at this time.

Strategic Planning: Cara Shortsleeve & Sarah Robbat

- No updates at this time.

PR & Communications: Laura Leibowitz

- No updates at this time.

Room Parents:

- **Blue: Ania Richmon.** No updates at this time.
- **Yellow: Anna Angelova.** No updates at this time.
- **Purple: Sandra Coleman.** No updates at this time.
- **Red : Lauren O'Neil.** No updates at this time.

Staff Search & Development: Jessica Callow

- Report on Teacher Survey: *see other pdf for full report*
- This year was an anonymous survey, unlike in person interviews done in past years
- Largest feedback was on parent helpers.
 - Teachers appreciate parent helpers and see the value in having parents have a window into a child's day.
 - Parent Helping has greatly improved over the past few years.
 - That said, punctuality is still a sticking point; parents are having a hard time arriving by 8:45 am.
 - It can help if a parent acknowledges if they are late.
 - Cell phone use is an issue; parents using cell phones while parent helping
 - Some parents prefer to be with their child one on one while they are there, but it is really better for the greater studio if they can integrate into the greater group and be a part of other children's play.
- Very positive feedback about Nancy. 8 out of 9 said Nancy always provides the support they need. Support, thoughtfulness and cheerfulness.
- Co-teaching relationships: some said their co-teachers are amazing, supportive and thoughtful. Some discussed furthering their working relationship and using mediated meetings.
- Faculty Collaboration, some would like more of this since it happens organically but could happen more if intentional.
- Relationship with Decordova Learning & Engagement was appreciated.
- 8 satisfied with salary, 1 dissatisfied. Making sure that raises keep up with inflation.
- 9 out 9 satisfied with vacation
- Professional growth opportunities do exist
- 9 out of 9 feel respected and appreciated by parents
- Feedback overall feels smoother than last year
- At pick up time, parents should be watching their kids, teachers are no longer on duty watching the kids once a parent arrives.

Welcoming & Social: Jessica Kaplan & Liz Heald

- No updates at this time.

Extended Day: Feyza Marouf

- No updates at this time.

Verbiage for Summary Email:

SUBJECT: March LNS Board Meeting Minutes

Our most recent board meeting happened on March 5th

We covered the following topics:

- Rebecca reported on our 2019-2020 budget.
- Cynthia reported on the Parent Survey.
- Jess reported on the Teacher Survey.
- Gina discussed the upcoming Gala and how it would be much appreciated if we purchased our tickets now.
- Nancy and Abby discussed the communications with The Trustees of Reservations integration and how LNS fits into their picture.

For all details, please read the enclosed minutes attached via pdf and always available on the LNS site. I have also enclosed the full reports of the Parent Survey and the Teacher Survey. If you have questions regarding the minutes, please contact the relevant board member, or let me know, and I can point you in the right direction.

Vanessa
Weston's Mom, Studio Purple