



An Environmentally Integrated K-8 A+ Charter School  
16215 Hanna Road  
Lutz, Florida 33549  
Tel: 813-948-4190 Fax: 813-948-7587  
[www.learninggate.org](http://www.learninggate.org)  
"The First LEED Platinum Public  
School in the Nation"



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**Learning Gate Board Directors  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Board Members Present:** Christina Goldstein, Stan Kroh, Debbi Stone, Jennifer Wolgemuth, John Zdanowicz,

**Board members absent:** Jennifer Collins, Christina Faudel, Jamie Meyer, Karen Ramlackhan

**Staff in attendance:** Michelle Mason, Kelly Pratt, Kris Smith, Adam Wolford

**Parent Liaison:** Nicole Rametta

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by Debbi Stone, Chairperson.

Mission statement read silently by all Board Members.

**Announcements:**

- None

**Public Input:**

- None

**Executive Committee Reports:**

**Secretary (Jennifer W.)**

- The minutes from May were distributed and reviewed by the Board. The minutes from the Board retreat were just sent out and will be approved at the next meeting.
- Christina G. motioned to accept the minutes for June. Stan seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report (John):**

- Revenue is 92% year-to-date, and expenses are at 85%.
- We are outperforming expenditures by 7% year-to-date. The fiscal year ends at the end of June, but more payroll will be added from employees receiving year-round pay for June and July.
- We do not yet have the FEFP estimates and capital outlay.
- Stan motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, Jen W. seconded. Motion passed.

**Educational Program (Jamie M.):**

- No updates.

**Personnel (Jamie M.):**

- No updates.

**Business and Finance (John)**

- The next meeting will occur after the budget is finalized.
- The Board should vote on Michelle's salary, but the Personnel Committee should first finalize her evaluation and present findings to the Board. Michelle's new salary will begin in August, so it must be approved before then- at the July Board meeting.

**Governance (Debbi S.)**

- Debbi sent dates to attorney Randy Stearns to come to either the July or August Board meeting for final approval so that he can be paid a retainer to represent the school.
- Kris will set up a paid account with Survey Monkey to do teacher surveys.
- Eight of the nine Board members responded to the board self-assessment survey. Jen W. went through the results. These results will be shared with the Board via a written summary later. Some observations:
  - New board members need better orientation. Three people disagreed and three were neutral when asked if orientation was sufficient. It takes a long time to become acquainted with Board procedures and customs, exposing a need for long lasting members.
  - The need for legal expertise was raised. Kris says that we are joining the Charter School Alliance in July, providing advice, lobbyists, and interpretation of law changes. We may be able to get a CSA person to attend a Board meeting.
  - Mainstream media and perception: there is a perception that charter schools are taking money from public schools, and there is little public distinction between for-profit charter schools and non-profit schools with strong boards. We need to emphasize what makes us unique and valuable to the school system.
- We are working on a parent survey for improvement and marketing. Jen W. will revise draft and send out prior to July Board meeting.
- We should do a SWOT analysis before the next Board retreat.
- Discussed strategies to deter gossip and improve school communication.
- The next meeting will occur July 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

**Resource Development (Christina G.):**

- No updates, the next meeting will occur in early August.

**Foundation (Christina F., Stan)**

- No updates.

**Facilities (John):**

- The committee will meet in early July.
- There is an engineering test expected next week for the sprinklers and an inspection within the next three days.

- Three bids were received for the bathrooms: \$22,000 for 17 stalls, \$17,000, and \$8,000 from Toro, the school district vendor who is also known to be reliable.
- Debbi motioned to approve Toro to repair 17 bathroom stalls and vanities for \$8,000. John seconded. Motion passed.
- The bathroom work will be completed before the start of the school year.
- The bathroom floors are okay for now. At some point we may need to repair them.
- Cleaning crew replacement: Michelle has received 40+ applications for two part time employees, but we may need to hire more people in the future. Many of the applicants are professional cleaners.

#### **Principal Update (Michelle):**

- We received the FSA scores for everyone except the 7<sup>th</sup> graders' language arts scores. These are being held by the DOE. There are some areas that need improvement, but these are already being addressed. The middle school scores are much higher than the district and state averages. We should advertise our results. The elementary math scores are at district averages, but lower than we would like. The new curriculum is expected to help.
- Some students get special education or gifted services, but this can miss some of the fringe students. This year we tried to identify these students to provide them with more one-on-one teacher time and group students appropriately.
- Sixth grade math had a 77% achievement rate. This is a serious improvement for these students from last year in fifth grade, when only 50% of these students passed. The teacher did some great work, and the curriculum helped also.
- The new legislation mandates testing changes in the future, including paper testing for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. All testing will occur after May 1<sup>st</sup>, and results will be received in one week. There will be mandated recess (which we already do). Some of the new rules are open to multiple interpretations, so we are awaiting clarification. For the students, paper testing is better, but it makes grading much more difficult. However, it also allows for all testing to occur at the same time and in rooms without internet or PCs.
- Both campuses are at capacity for students right now. There is still a waitlist for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- The Hanna Campus front office has been rearranged to appear more welcoming.

#### **VP Update: (Adam Wolford)**

- Middle school is working to remove three walls to create more space. Since we have more students incoming, we need larger rooms. Need architectural plans for the building. Adam and John will consult with the county and CFC can determine if the sprinklers have enough coverage for areas after walls removed. Discussed getting a bid for architectural drawings or perhaps a USF student can complete them. Can talk to the Fire Marshall when he comes to inspect the sprinklers. If John isn't here when he arrives, Adam can ask the questions. John and Adam will send emails to people who may have plans. The bid we received to remove the walls was \$3,800 for three walls. It was received from a parent.
- The erosion in the back field is difficult to solve. If we blacktop it, we can make a court to rotate students so the field can recover.
- Kelly: three teachers are moving this year, but we have many choices for replacements. The teams are incredibly strong, and we have great new people.

**Parent Liaison Update (Nicole Rametta):**

- No updates

**Old Business:**

- John: We need to have a planning meeting for the website sometime between July 9-15<sup>th</sup> to formulate a plan to present to Brand Buddha. We should create a site map and identify what additional information to include.
- There is an online and recurring payments solution meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July.
- Jen W.: We need to know the best time to survey parents to hear their stories of why they chose Learning Gate. Michelle thinks sending a survey sooner is better. Summer is a good time for this. Jen W. will finalize the survey and send out prior to July meeting.
- Jen W.'s partner has agreed to help perform the GIS analysis for targeted marketing. Kris will send a list of addresses for current students. We can also use data for students who applied. We may or may not be able to get data on past students.
- Stan: The well and water issue with Learning Gate Inc. is on hold until we have a plan for water outside. Once we shut it off, we can't water the garden.
- The former LG principal and her ex-husband are using LG pictures to promote their private business. The new attorney can address this.

**New Business**

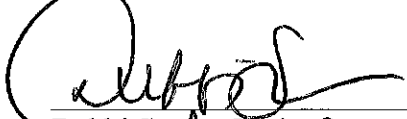
- None.

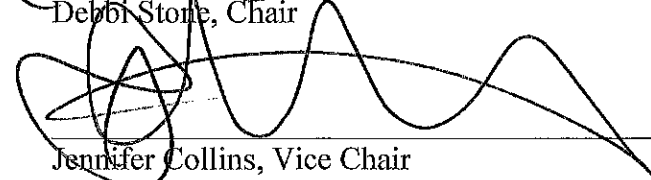
John motioned to adjourn at 7:17 PM. Christina G. seconded. Motion approved.

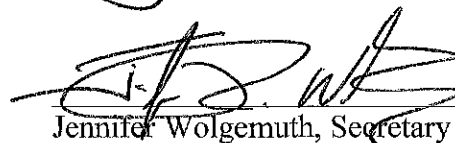
Minutes drafted by Leilani Paxton and edited and submitted by Jennifer Wolgemuth, Secretary of Learning Gate Community School Board.

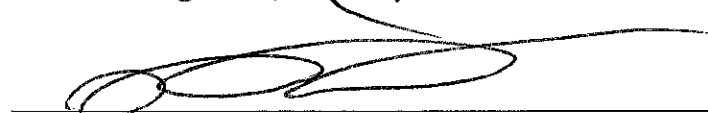
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**LGCS Board Executive Signatures**

  
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 Debbi Stone, Chair 7-17-17  
Date

  
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 Jennifer Collins, Vice Chair 7-17-17  
Date

  
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 Jennifer Wolgemuth, Secretary 7.17.2017  
Date

  
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 John Zdanowicz, Treasurer 7-17-17  
Date