



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, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Debbi Stone, Chairperson.

**Board Members Present:** Jennifer Collins, Stan Kroh, Jamie Meyer, Karen Ramlackhan, Debbi Stone, Jennifer Wolgemuth, John Zdanowicz,

**Board members absent:** Christina Goldstein, Christina Faudel

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

**Parent Liaison:** Nicole Rametta

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Mission statement read silently by all Board Members.

**Announcements:**

- None

**Public Input:**

- None

**Executive Committee Reports:**

**Secretary (Jennifer W.)**

- There was extensive review of the February minutes by several board members.
- Stan motioned to approve the February minutes. Jenn C. seconded. Motion passed.

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

- Revenue is at 66% of target, and expenses are at 62%. Everything looks good.
- Speech therapy expenses of \$5-6,000 were noted on the budget. In previous years, this used to be a staff position, but now it is now performed by a contractor. The cost goes up or down based on the number of students.
- There are some outstanding expenditures on facilities, mainly the sprinkler system.
- Karen motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, Debbi seconded. Motion passed.

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

- No updates.

**Personnel (Jamie M.):**

- No updates.

**Business and Finance (John)**

- A draft 2017/18 budget is needed before the Board Retreat to meet bond requirements. John will draft a budget and send to Kris by next week.

**Governance (Debbi S.)**

- The next meeting will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- There was an application received from Amelia Terrapin to join a Board committee.
- At the next meeting, the topics will include recruitment, strategic planning ideas, hiring a lawyer, and the upcoming placement of officers.

**Resource Development (Michele N. reported):**

- There was 100% board participation for the all board challenge.
- The online bidding process for Auction Night was very successful. It made accounting much easier, many more bids were received, and it was more interactive for those who couldn't attend. The cost was similar to the cost of hiring casino workers.(I think QTEGO asked us to not disclose the cost.)
- There were many issues with the center where the event was held. Overall, \$35,000 was raised, with more coming in this week. This is comparable to what was raised in previous years.
- Ecofest is one month away. Almost all vendor slots are filled, and all food truck slots are filled. There will be a yoga zone, a food trucks, and an obstacle course. There will be a meeting with USF and the city to go over details. It is possible to have virtual sponsorships with banners. The next meeting for the Resource Development Committee will be held in 2-3 weeks.

**Foundation (Stan)**

- Christina sent a note saying the next meeting will be held next Monday or Tuesday.

**Facilities (John):**

- A meeting will be held next week.
- The sprinklers were not approved by the county. The contractors need to install a 16" steel pipe. John will meet with CFC and two vendors, we need to dig a ditch under 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, and we will not pay for work done in error. We still have a provisional variance from the Fire Marshall.

**Principal Update (Michelle):**

- The calendar is similar to those from previous years. It needs to be approved in order to submit it to the county.
- Debbi motioned to approve the school calendar, Stan seconded. Motion passed.

- The lottery was held last Friday. More than a dozen parents attended. Amber in the front office emailed everyone to let them know they had a spot before spring break.
- Five trees were removed on the Hanna Campus: three in the front and two in the back. Michelle reported the school is very satisfied with the tree trimming company.
- The cleaning crew is not working out as well as hoped. John suggested we consider hiring two or more cleaners as part of the maintenance staff. A discussion about the pros and cons of internal and external cleaners was had, including costs.
- Testing begins next week for third graders. Testing will last the whole month of April.
- Accreditation materials are due May 1<sup>st</sup> and Michelle is making good progress responding to the specific targets. The school strategic plan is finished and a school improvement team will be put together.
- The administrative team is required to have graduate level coursework in administrative leadership. Michelle and other members of the administrative team have course work that should meet that requirement and Kelly is completing a Master's degree now.
- Kelly reported that new math curricula are being examined for K-5 students. Teachers are considering My Math and Envision. Samples of these two curricula have been tested out by teachers and a representative from Envision did a demonstration. A choice will be made by the end of the year.

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

- No updates

**Old Business:**

- Dates for the Board Retreat are still under discussion.
- A legal letter still needs to be crafted for the water at Learning Gate, Inc. When we stop the water, we will need to figure out how to supply water to the garden. We may use a solar pump for a near-term fix.
- John is drafting a letter to present to the historical resources society to remove the LGCS Lutz Lake Fern campus building from the historical registry. John will have it by the next Board Meeting.

**New Business**

- John coordinated a donation from Brand Buddha to rework of the school's website. They will put together a proposal, but we need to convene a steering committee. They will make sure the website is easy to update and make changes. This will happen in the next 30-45 days.
- There are issues with the tax exempt status of the Cub Scout Troop associated with the school. The school "owns" the Cub Scout Troop, but the paperwork requires that the troop be listed separately on the tax exempt certificate. This should be looked at by our legal counsel.
- The annual call with Standard and Poor's was held regarding the bond. It went very well, but they haven't returned the results yet (typically it takes 3 days). After the results are received, there is a 6 hour window to distribute it to the Board before it becomes official. Kris will let us know when it is received.
- Kris. sent out an email that we need a SWFWMD inspection. These are very common, and it will cost around \$200 to certify the storm water on the property. It should be done every 5 years by an engineer.



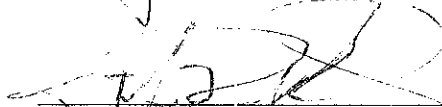
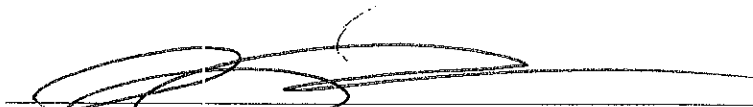
- An email address will be created for the Foundation.
- A meeting was held with ADP, and the price of the current benefits will be increasing by 16%. We are working on options to decrease costs, but still offer the same or similar benefits. There is a Health Savings Account program starting this year.

John motioned to adjourn at 7:11 PM. Karen 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**

	4-17-17
Debbi Stone, Chair	Date
	4-17-17
Jennifer Collins, Vice Chair	Date
	4.17.17
Jennifer Wolgemuth, Secretary	Date
	4-17-17
John Zdanowicz, Treasurer	Date