



ASPIRA OF DELAWARE CHARTER  
OPERATIONS, INC.

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES: ASPIRA OF DELAWARE**  
**CHARTER OPERATIONS INC. (ADCO)**

**DATE:** 5/23/2013

**LOCATION:** Conference Room  
Las Americas ASPIRA Academy (LAAA) Charter School  
326 Ruthar Drive, Newark DE 19711-8017

**Directors Present:** John Laznik, Aaron Goldstein, Jamie “Gus” Rivera (Chair), EJ Bley, Lois Heesters

**Directors Absent:** Lilia Meredith, Daniel Segui, Maribeth Welch, Lourdes Puig (Future Chair)

**Others Present:** Greg Panchisin (Business Manager)

**Future Meetings Dates:** 6/27, 8/22, 9/26, 10/24 (Annual Meeting), 11/21

**Call to Order**

Gus Rivera called the public session to order at 6:00PM. He noted that there were five voting-eligible Directors present and that a quorum was established. References hereunder to “unanimous” actions of the board refer to the actions of the five present voting-eligible Directors.

**Public comment:**

Miss Tomlinson (5<sup>th</sup> grade parent) presented two issues.

- 1) Teacher/student/parent/administration communication
- 2) Parental involvement for homework in immersion program (K-2)/second language (3-6)

Discussion occurred. Board thanked Ms. Tomlinson for her attendance and thought the issues discussed were extremely important and need to be addressed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the April 25, 2013 Board Meeting were presented and reviewed. Goldstein presented a motion to accept the April Meeting Minutes as presented which was seconded by Heesters. The motion to approve the minutes was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

**Finance Committee Report (FOC)** *as reported by Greg Panchisin (Board Treasurer/Chair of the Financial Oversight Committee position is vacant – until filled, G Panchisin will present finance reports)*

Greg reviewed the April monthly financial report as approved by the FOC and provided an update on the FOC. Actual to budget remains favorable. Several questions were raised and answered. Full report is available on the FOC portion of [www.aspiraacademy.org](http://www.aspiraacademy.org). A motion by Goldstein, seconded by Heesters that the ADCO Board accept the April 2013 Monthly Financial Report as presented. Final resolution was unanimous.

**Head of School Report** *as reported by Greg Panchisin for Margie Lopez-Waite*

Greg presented information regarding:

- 1) Staff Recruitment Update – offers have not been extended for incoming teachers
- 2) Salary schedule approval  
Goldstein presented a motion to accept a teacher salary increase to 93% of Christina School District salary schedule which was seconded by Bley.
- 3) Academic Highlights – not presented

- 4) DCAS Spring Update – Tabled until June (Goldstein/Laznik)
- 5) New student orientation – not presented

**Development Committee Report** *as reported by Lois Heesters-Chair*

Four interviews were scheduled for part time Development Manager Position

- Two no shows

Two candidates being considered – possibility of full time position (dependent on FY14 budget)

Grant applications:

- Introduction letter sent to Marmot Foundation for site visit/tour
- Lynch Foundation funds challenge grants (investigating)

**Facility Report** *as reported by Gus Rivera (Chairperson of the Board of Directors)*

Building Hope loan is in the final stages of approval.

Longwood Foundation granted LAAA \$350,000 for Phase 2 construction. THANK YOU!

Construction contract has been reduced to approximately 1.1 million.

Construction has begun for Phase 2 with current funding.

Full Phase 2 construction contract can't be completed until loan is approved.

*Old Business*

**Board Recruitment** *as reported by Gus Rivera*

Board received a resume for Jorge Diaz for Board Treasurer.

Laznik presented a motion to accept Jorge Diaz as board treasurer which was seconded by Goldstein.

- We are seeking a person in education K-16 with charter experience.
- FOC is seeking another board member on their committee.
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**School Financial Audit** *as reported by Aaron Goldstein*

Aaron Goldstein is working with Greg Panchisin to put in place corrective actions, specifically sections 12-5 and 12-6 to review the by-laws and put a bid policy in place.

**School Name** *as reported by EJ Bliey*

Topic of the school name “Las Americas ASPIRA Academy” discussion continued. ASPIRA of Delaware Charter Operations Inc. (ADCO) will be discussing this issue more extensively at a future meeting to determine the pros and cons of any type of change.

**Delaware Charter Schools Network** *as reported by John Laznik*

Delaware Charter School Network will be presenting at the June Board Meeting.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:00PM.