LION LEADERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

July Board Meeting Minutes, July 21, 2026

Board Members Present: Talal Rojas Julie Medler Tony Stoupas Nicholas Ober David Schatsky **Board Members Attending Remotely:** Ana Maria Gomez Catherine Jessup Ruth Jarmul Deborah Dumont **Board Members Not in Attendance:** Rosann Santos Herb Fixler	**Members of the Public LION asked to be in Attendance:** Keveney McCrillis, Director of Communications and Strategic Projects Celia Sosa, CEO Leslie Rich, CFO Maya Severns, Director of Development and Marketing **Members of the Public:**

Tony Stoupas, Board Chair, discussed that this was an informational meeting as we did not have a quorum for this meeting. He then handed it off to Celia Sosa.

Celia Sosa, LION's Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the CEO report, which was emailed before the meeting. She began discussing progress against APPR goals highlighting where LION met or exceeded the goal and where LION is still working to make progress. There was a board question about students who do not graduate on time and how they receive credits. Celia answered this question. There was a board question about the PLAN pilot program and if that was to meet graduation standards or college readiness standards. Celia answered that question. There was a follow up question about whether we feel the new seals as a standard for college readiness do actually prove college readiness. Celia answered this question.

Celia Sosa then discussed the NYC school survey results because there were no members of the public in the meeting. She discussed positive results and where LION still aims to make progress towards their interal 85% positive response rates. She discussed that the senior leadership team would be making a response plan and dive deep into this data during their retreat this summer. There was a board question about the unfavorable bullying statistics reported by teachers. Celia answered this question. There was a follow up board question about how we compare to peer schools. Celia said we do not yet have comparative results from the city but she would report out when we do. There was board discussion about generational awareness of bullying. There was a board question about bullying vs. resiliency and our culture of building student autonomy to address it. Celia answered this question. There was a board question about how bullying manifests itself. Celia gave some examples from expulsion hearings she's overseen.

Celia then discussed LION hiring and recruitment progress as well as anticipated staff

retention. There was a board question about a high school administrator's recent resignation. Celia answered that question. She then discussed LION's current FTE and the projected enrollment for the 26-27 school year. There was a board question about kindergarten and first grade enrollment. Celia and Maya Severns, Director of Marketing and Development, answered that question. There was a board question about the target size of each grade and class. Maya answered that question.

Tony Stoupas wanted to highlight the high school graduation ceremony that board members and the senior team attended. He wanted to pat the team on the back. Other board members echoed that sentiment.

Leslie Rich, LION's Chief Financial Officer, then presented her financial report, which was shared via email along with LION's monthly financials and the cash flow projections before the meeting. Leslie Rich discussed the positive variance for the month of June and final reconciliation of the budget which is still underway. She reported out on the finance KPIs all of which were good or excellent. She then provided an update on parts of the 730 redesign project that were completed or in process.

Keveney McCrillis, Director of Communication and Strategic Projects, gave an update on the 730 Bryant classroom redesign project and reviewed the updated budget shared via email before the meeting. Leslie reiterated that even if we were to go up to the maximum budget presented wouldn't bring LION into dangerous financial territory and would still meet all KPIs. There was a question about whether the decision to move forward would be from the facilities committee or full board committee. It should be discussed at facilities committee first and then presented to the board for a vote. There was discussion about risks versus cost. There was a board comment about the increase in budget in relation to the things that are happening in the world and the positive variances.

Leslie ended her report discussing the 403 B audit which was completed and the items on the horizon for the finance team. There was a board question about the positive variance and when we would be able to move towards the expansion budget and it's planned spending. Leslie Rich answered that question.

There was a question about the proposed new board meeting schedule and if there were any conflicts. There was discussion about the November's meeting. That meeting date will be revisited in September to be decided.

Tony Stoupas asked if there were any committee updates. There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Notes prepared by Keveney McCrillis.