LION LEADERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

March Board Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2026

Board Members Present: Talal Rojas Nicholas Ober Julie Medler David Schatsky Ruth Jarmul Catherine Jessup Ana Maria Gomez Herb Fixler **Board Members Joining Remotely:** Rosann Santos **Board Members Not in Attendance:** Tony Stoupas Deborah Dumont	**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 Matthew Hittenmark, High School Principal Yashika Walker, High School Director of School Culture Richard Rowe, High School Assistant Principal Reaven Hernandez, High School College Counselor Dana Marvin, High School College Counselor **Members of the Public:**

Julie Medler, Board Trustee, called for a motion to begin the meeting at 6:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Talal Rojas and unanimously approved.

Julie Medler motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the February meeting minutes, which had been shared via email before the meeting. Ana Maria Gomez seconded the motion. The February meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Julie Medler called for a motion to vote on the CEO's compensation package, which was shared via email before the meeting. Catherine Jessup seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Celia Sosa, LION's Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the CEO report, which was emailed before the meeting. She shared that a visit from SUNY, originally scheduled for today, was rescheduled. She and the team feel prepared for this visit. She then shared the seminar and professional development that she led with K-12 Staff on curiosity.

Celia then discussed the admissions and enrollment update outlined in her report and where LION is with the current number of applications. She discussed the plan for the lottery scheduled for April 2nd and the communication plan thereafter.

Celia Sosa reported on the AI in schools training she attended. She highlighted work

already being done at LION that is supported by AI. She discussed the next steps that she and the Senior Leadership Team would take to continue learning more about AI in education, assessing tools, and what is next for LION in this realm. A board member asked about the specific tools we are using and how to ensure the information is accurate. Celia answered. There was a board question about what it means to be an educational leader in AI. Celia answered. There was a board question about whether LION should be budgeting for AI tools in next year's budget. Celia answered. There was a board question about what differentiation means in this context. Celia answered. There was a board comment about how AI could save teachers' time and customize learning for students.

Finally, Celia discussed an article that came out regarding the NY State and NYC graduation rates and how LION compares. She then turned it over to the high school team to present on post-secondary readiness.

Matthew Hittenmark, the high school principal, delivered his presentation on postsecondary readiness at LION. He began by introducing his team, then discussing research on the benefits of a college education. He then discussed the APPR College Preparation Goal that SUNY asks its charter schools to meet. He defined college readiness at LION, emphasizing the individual pathways that LION encourages students to follow.

Richard Rowe, the High School Assistant Principal, discussed the college access that LION provides. He shared how it was staffed and the ways access is provided at each grade level. Yashika Walker, the High School Director of School Culture, discussed LION's College Success program that follows alumni. She highlighted the alumni grant program and events that LION offers all alumni.

Matthew Hittenmark shared the post-secondary pathways of the most recent graduating class and how those percentages break down. There was a question from a board member about how these percentages have changed over time. Matthew answered. There was a board question about the success program and whether there was support beyond the financial assistance students were requesting. Yashika and Reaven answered that question. There was a board question about how the percentages broke down by gender and associate degree completion. Matthew answered, noting that LION's college graduation rates exceed those of peers of similar socioeconomic status. There was a board question about how LION, being a college preparatory high school, plays into the recruitment of students. Celia answered.

Finally, Matthew Hittenmark discussed how NY State's Portrait of a Graduate highlights an intentional shift to performance-based learning and assessment. He reminded the board of how LION was chosen as a PLAN pilot school. The board gave praise to the team and thanked them for their time.

Leslie Rich, LION's Chief Financial Officer, then presented her financial report, which was

shared via email along with LION's monthly financials before the meeting. Leslie Rich shared the February closed financials, noting the positive variance to budget due in large part to the increased enrollment. She shared some key performance indicators that LION tracks on a month-over-month basis. Leslie discussed the year-end projection, which did include an adjusted forecast. She discussed some ways LION is considering using its contingency. Leslie discussed where LION is in drafting the FY 27 budgets and when board members would see it. Finally, she discussed the upcoming RAMP implementation and FY27 offer letter timeline for employees.

Julie Medler then asked for committee updates. Maya Severns, Director of Marketing and Development, shared recent grant applications she has submitted and the two grant approval letters she received from previous applications. Celia and Keveney, Director of Communications and Strategic Projects, shared a redesign project update that included an alternative timeline LION will need to consider.

Julie Medler then called for a motion to enter into executive session. It was seconded by Nicholas Ober, and the board unanimously voted to move into executive session.

Julie Medler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. Talal Rojas seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Notes prepared by Keveney McCrillis.