LION LEADERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

November Board Meeting

November 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Meeting to be held at 830 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474

715 Village Lane, Orient, NY 11957
18 Goodfriend Drive, East Hampton, NY 11937
127 Dune Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
211 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024
670 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10025
2697 Deerfield Road, Sag Harbor, NY 11963

https://lioncharterschool-org.zoom.us/j/3114956870

Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule - 2023-24 School Year

July 24th	August 28th	September 18th	October 23rd
November 20th	December 18th	January 22nd	February 26th
March 25th	April 15th	May 20th	June 24th

LION LEADERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

November Board Meeting Agenda
November 20th, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Meeting to be held at 830 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474

https://lioncharterschool-org.zoom.us/my/mccrillis

- Vote on October's Board Meeting minutes (5 mins)
- Discussion and vote on the nomination of Julie Medler to the Board of Trustees (10 mins)
- Operational & Academic Strategy Presentation & Discussion (45 mins)
- Review of the January Board Retreat agenda & assignments (15 mins)
  - January the 27th from 9:00 - 4:00 PM at 830 Hunts Point Ave.
- Finance Report (15 mins)
  - Quarterly Investment Review
  - LION Endowment Update
- Development and Marketing Report (5 mins)
  - Giving Tuesday
- Committee Meeting Reports (10 mins)
- Public comments
- Adjournment

Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule - 2023-24 School Year

July 24th	August 28th	September 18th	October 23rd
November 20th	December 18th	January 27th Retreat	February 26th
March 25th	April 15th	May 20th	June 24th

LION LEADERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
CHARTER SCHOOL

November Board Meeting, November 20, 2023

Board Members Present: Tony Stoupas Ruth Jarmul Nicholas Ober Susan Engel Susan Fine Tom Sturtevant Dan Marcus **Board members not in attendance:** Deborah Dumont **Board members attending virtually:** Herb Fixler David Schatsky	**Others LION asked to be in Attendance:** Celia Sosa, CEO Sherrie Henry, COO Lex Zain, CAO Keveney McCrillis, Executive Assistant to the Senior Leadership Team Maya Severns, Director of Marketing and Development **Members of the Public:** "Martinez"

Tony Stoupas, board chairman, called for a motion to begin the meeting at 6:03 PM. The motion was seconded by Daniel Marcus and unanimously approved.

Tony Stoupas then motioned to approve the October meeting minutes, which were shared before the meeting via email. Daniel Marcus seconded the motion. The October meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Tony Stoupas then opened a discussion about board nominee Julie Medler. She has visited the school and attended a nominating committee meeting to field questions. Chairman of that meeting, Herb Fixler, stated he was impressed with her background and supported her nomination. Julie Medler's resume and cover letter were shared before the meeting, as was her contact information, along with the encouragement to contact her to ask any questions. Tony Stoupas and Susan Engel echoed their support for her nomination. A board member asked about what committees we would see her joining. Tony suggested the finance and education committees, given her background, but that he would look at committees if she were approved for nomination. Tony asked for CEO Celia Sosa's opinion. Celia gave a glowing recommendation. Tony Stoupas called for a motion to nominate Julie Medler for LION's board of trustees. Susan Engel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Tony then added some follow-up comments about previous action items. Within the next month, the nominating committee will schedule a meeting to discuss the expansion of our board, likely in the new year. We will also report on the development of a leadership council as soon as Maya Severns, Director of Marketing and Development, returns from family leave.

Chief Executive Officer, Celia Sosa, then explained the new process that LION took to identify strategic priorities this year and what that would look like next year as they would begin that work during the summer of 2024.

Chief Academic Officer Lex Zain presented on the Academic Strategic Priorities for the 2023-2024 school year. She highlighted the academic goals around college and career readiness, absolute proficiency in math and ELA, talent management, and school culture. She has shared the school culture rubric with the education committee. A board member posed a question about the goals, if they were each associated with a theory, and whether they could equate the goals with means and ways board members can either help ensure that the goals are met or help change the goal. Tony explained that the board had discussed these things during the education committee meetings. Celia explained that some of the information requested is also on the board dashboard and site. There was a suggestion that we may want to have a board orientation for new members. There was a board question about the steps LION would take to achieve these goals. There was an ask from another board member for a summary of the steps we would take. There was a board question about teacher ratings and proficiency. Celia stated that she can share those. There was a question about the school culture rubric. Lex shared it focused on teacher proficiencies, school-wide systems, and classroom proficiencies. There was a board question about whether what was presented is for their information or for review/questioning. Tony responded that the board's job is to hold LION to the goals presented.

Chief Operating Officer Sherrie Henry presented on the Operational Strategic Priorities for the 2023-2024 school year. She highlighted this year's focus on a comprehensive assessment of our operations and general management, targeted planning, and implementation of any needed urgent changes. The five focus areas are compliance, financial management, safety & facilities, staffing, and systems development. There was a question from a board member about how we will balance our budget, given that we are losing money. Sherrie stated that the plan for next fiscal year assumes that we will no longer receive the ESSR or COVID relief funding. She said she would discuss this with the finance committee in their next meeting. Celia shared that LION has an early draft of the budget for next year already. A board member suggested that the goals shared were ambitious and that there was a lot to get accomplished in a short amount of time. Sherrie shared that these items include things that will not be finalized until fiscal year 2025. Tony asked that Celia share the feedback she received from SUNY about our dashboard. Celia shared positive feedback from Jim Ford and Jeff Wasbes and that it is seen as an exemplar of a charter school dashboard. She stated that we are going to continue to build out our dashboard.

Tony asked the board to look at their roles on this board as providers of oversight and then handed it over to Executive Assistant to the Senior Leadership Team Keveney McCrillis to discuss the agenda and pre-work for the board retreat set to take place on January 27th.

Sherrie Henry then began her finance report, which was shared via email before the meeting. She discussed LION's financial performance for the month of October; LION ended the month with a net surplus above projected net income. She also shared information about the quarterly investment findings discussed during the finance committee. It was positive, but our investment firm noted a potentially challenging year ahead. Sherrie then shared information about the endowment which will be a quasi-endowment and not a true endowment. A board member asked about the terms of the quasi-endowment. Sherrie explained that it was to LION's benefit as it was

not restricted in perpetuity, gave the board more discretion, and would incur minimal fees.

Maya Severns, Director of Development and Marketing, began her development and marketing report, which was shared via email before the meeting. She reminded the board of the conservative fundraising targets for this year. She emphasized that Giving Tuesday is next week, and they have set a fundraising goal for that event with a match from two donors. Maya asked that board members send their pledges for this year by Monday. She said board members will receive fundraising materials by the end of the day tomorrow. She stated mail was going out to thank donors from 2022-2023. Maya shared some website updates that were made and are continuing to be made. A board member asked about who would receive thank you letters.

Tony Stoupas asked if there were any committee meeting updates. Nick Ober mentioned that as chair of the HR committee, he would be instituting regular meetings beginning in the new year. Tony restated that he was going to update the committees. He also shared that Nick Ober would be the new secretary for the board. Celia shared a brief facilities update, including that LION received an updated and approved design for the auditorium renovation. She spoke about her connection with the Bronx Space Planner and local elected officials.

Celia also gave a brief CEO update, including the recent expulsion of a student, which has been appealed; Tony and the board will review that decision. She stated that we submitted the APPR earlier in the month and committed to uploading a summary and the actual report. Celia stated that we are focused on student recruitment and are planning to engage a former employee to assist in that work. She reviewed again that we have a draft of the budget for next year.

Tony discussed the culture rubric, which came up earlier in the meeting. He asked that we include a school culture discussion in an upcoming board meeting. Keveney will look at where we can fit that in, and going through that rubric would be a part of it. There was a board question about LION events that board members can attend. Keveney committed to including an updated copy of events with the board materials each month.

Tony Stoupas opened the meeting for public comment. A member of the public, a tenth-grade parent, volunteer, and former employee wanted to make a public comment. She discussed her opinion of the K-12 family program and LION's presence in the community. Tony asked that the member of the public send him her bullet points and subjects she wants to discuss. He will provide some time to discuss with her.

Tony Stoupas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. The motion was seconded by Dan Marcus and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Notes prepared by Keveney McCrillis.