LION LEADERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

September Board Meeting Notice

Monday, September 22nd, 2025 6:00 – 8:00 pm

830 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474

Google Meet joining info
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/zwc-nqgq-eoj
Or dial: (US) +1 318-596-1082 PIN: 506 225 462#

715 Village Lane, Orient, NY
172 West 79th Street, New York, NY
80 Bay Street, Southampton, NY
3 Brooklands, Bronxville, NY

Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule - 2025-26 School Year

July 28th	August 25th	September 22nd	October 27th
November 17th	December 15th	January 24th *Board Retreat*	February 23rd
March 23rd	April 20th	May 18th	June 15th

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- Vote on August's Board Meeting Minutes
- CEO's Board Report (15 minutes)
- Finance Report (10 minutes)
- Development and Marketing Report (10 minutes)
- Academic Program Report from Principals (60 minutes)
- Committee Updates
- Public Comments
- Executive Session
- Adjournment

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September Board Meeting Minutes, September 22, 2025

Board Members Present: Rosann Santos Deborah Dumont Talal Rojas Nicholas Ober Julie Medler Tony Stoupas Herb Fixler **Board Members not in Attendance:** David Schatsky Ruth Jarmul Catherine Jessup	**Others 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 Ada Garcia, Middle School Principal Matthew Hittenmark, High School Principal **Members of the Public:**

Tony Stoupas, Board Chair, called for a motion to begin the meeting at 6:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Deborah Dumont and unanimously approved.

Tony Stoupas then motioned to move into executive session. Julie Medler seconded the motion, and the board moved into executive session. The board returned from executive session at 6:27 and voted unanimously to approve Celi Sosa, LION CEO's, progress against goals.

Deborah Dumont left the meeting at 6:28 PM.

Tony Stoupas motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the August meeting minutes, which had been shared via email before the meeting. Talal Rojas seconded the motion. The August meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Celia Sosa, LION's Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the CEO report, which was shared via email before the meeting. She shared that LION completed their APPR earlier in the month and shared highlights of that report, including measures met. There were no questions about the report, which was shared in its entirety.

Celia then discussed and shared the proposed teacher and counselor salary scale and asked the board to vote to approve these salary schedules for the 2026-2207 school year. Tony Stoupas motioned for a vote to accept the salary schedule. Nick Ober seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Celia Sosa then discussed faculty and student retention numbers and the reasons for attrition. She discussed the efforts the admissions team will take to mitigate student attrition, including a more localized approach. A board member asked about the "better enrichment" factor in student attrition. Celia answered that question. There was a question about whether 8th graders could

co-locate with the high school to mitigate attrition among 8th to 9th grade students. Celia stated that it would need more discussion and consideration, but the initial thought is that it wouldn't be possible.

Leslie Rich, LION's CFO, then presented her financial report, which was shared via email along with the monthly financials before the meeting. She discussed the negative variance at the end of August and the reasons for it. Leslie then discussed the current positive budget projection for the year, historical trends, and possible factors contributing to that positive budget variance. There was a question about Summer Boost and how it is released to LION. Maya Severns, Director of Development and Marketing, answered that question.

Leslie then discussed the updates made to LION's Financial Policies and Procedures. She then discussed the review of LION's retirement fund with TIAA Cref and its performance. She ended her report by discussing projects the finance team is working on, including the audit. There was a board question about the Director of Finance position and when it would be posted. Leslie answered that question.

Maya Severns then presented her development report. She asked the team to look at the latest edition of Character Matters. There was broad support for the publication. Maya went on to discuss the fundraising goal for this year and the different ways she was tracking it. Maya and Ada, Middle School Principal, discussed the World Scholars trip to Costa Rica that the Fall Social will fundraise for. Maya and Keveney McCrillis, Director of Communications and Strategic Projects, discussed the signage that will be added to 730 Bryant next month.

Maya then discussed LION's values campaign. She shared a promotional video that was made and asked board members to share this with their networks. There was a board question about visiting local businesses. Maya answered that question.

Ada Garcia, Middle School Principal, then began the academic performance report. She shared proficiency scores in 3-8 Math and ELA overall and for special populations. She highlighted the performance of specific grades, indicating that the longer students are at LION, the more proficient their scores. There was a board question about the 3rd-grade special education ELA proficiency scores. Ada answered that question. There was a question about 7th-grade MLL ELA proficiency scores. Ada answered that question. Ada then discussed the 8th-grade Regents courses and exam scores in Algebra I, Earth & Space Sciences, and US History.

Celia Sosa discussed what the team believes drove the elementary school's success, as well as what the elementary team plans to do this year to continue growing academically. Ada Garcia reflected on the middle school performance and what drove success there last year. She then shared the steps the team will take this year to continue its academic growth. There was a board question about institutionalizing the leadership team teaching a class. Ada answered that question. There was a board question about what Ada worries about in the next school year. She answered. There was a board question about what lesson was learned last year. Ada answered.

Matthew Hittenmark, High School Principal, discussed the high school academic program and highlighted the APPR metrics for graduation rates, college-readiness indicators, and college matriculation rates. He then discussed the PLAN Pilot program in which the high school is participating and the steps the teachers will take this year to advance project-based learning. Matt discussed the NYSED regulatory flexibility. There was a board question about the mentor school that teachers will visit as part of this work. Matt answered that question. He then reflected on the strategies that drove success at the high school last year and on what he plans to do this year to continue that success.

There was a board question about high school academic leaders who left last year, Matt answered. There was a board question about the structures of leadership teams at each division. Matt and Celia responded to that question. Finally, Matt discussed the seal of service and the seal of biliteracy that the high school would begin this year. A board member asked about what Matt worries about in the next school year, and Matt answered. There was a board question about what Matt learned from last year, and Matt answered.

Tony Stoupas thanked the team for their hard work this year and then asked for committee updates. Nick Ober gave an HR committee update. Keveney McCrillis gave a facilities committee update. Tony then opened the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments.

Tony Stoupas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Talal Rojas seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Notes prepared by Keveney McCrillis.