



Minutes of the Legends Public Charter School Board of Directors

Date: March 26 2025

Time 6:03 pm, Microsoft Teams

Attendance: 55

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Charlette Butler-Strickland at 6:01 pm. Roll call was conducted by the Chair, and the following members were present:

- Charlette Butler Strickland
- Rasheid Scarlett
- Makiese DeVose
- Adia Jordan
- Airen Washington (Excused)
- Aminah Williams

The Chair announced that a quorum was present.

Department Reports

CEO Report (Presented by CEO Atasha M. James)

CEO James provided the CEO's update.

CEO James welcomed the Board and Community to this month's meeting.

Reminded the community that we are grounded in our 9 accountability goals.

Financial Update – Key Performance Indicators

- **Cash on Hand:** Projected to end SY24-25 with 23 days of cash (change from 23 last month).
- **Cash Balance:** Estimated at \$6.81M (adjusted from \$6.67M).
- **Net Income and Gross Margin:** Projected net income of \$3.3M (no change from last month) and a gross margin of 25%.
- Financial projections reflect recent staffing updates and the achievement of the enrollment goal of 897 students at \$14,124/student (flat funding).

The CEO presented the following updates:

- **Maryland Charter School Funding Crisis**
 - Due to the Blueprint for Maryland's future, PGCPs has decided to apply the overage cost of special education to charter schools.

Staffing Update (Presented by Portia Cameron)

Portia Cameron presented the staffing update for the 2024-2025 school year, highlighting the following key points:

- **Hiring Season for 2025-2026 School Year:** The school's hiring season for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year is officially underway. Legends Charter School is actively recruiting top talent for teaching positions in **Math, Reading, Science, and ELA/Humanities**.
- **Intent to Return Forms:** These forms were sent out to all current teachers and staff last week. It was emphasized that timely responses are important to assist with planning for the upcoming school year.
- **PGCPs Transfer Window:** The PGCPs transfer window is now open for eligible teachers interested in making a transition. Inquiries from educators looking to bring their expertise to Legends Charter School are welcomed.
- **Help Us Find Future Legends Educators:** Portia encouraged board members to help identify passionate educators or individuals interested in joining the Legends team. Whether as a teacher or an AmeriCorps Fellow, potential candidates are encouraged to visit the Legends website or send their resumes to **Portia.Cameron@LegendsSchools.org**.

SELAD/AmeriCorps Update (Presented by Ms. Ashari James)

Ashari James presented the AmeriCorps update, highlighting the following key points:

- **AmeriCorps Legends Fellows Program:**

The program is currently 96% staffed, with 23 Fellows, and continues to support grades K-3 with additional roles in Middle School. Key points include:

 - Fellows have completed their second **IMPACT Evaluation**, with the third evaluation scheduled to begin the week after the Third Quarter ends on April 3rd.
 - Fellows are on track to complete the required 1,700 hours (Segal Education Grant Award) by the end of the year.

- The **Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism (GOSV)** visited the Legends Fellow program on March 20th for an in-side audit and to see the work of the Fellows.
- We recognized **AmeriCorps Week** from March 9-15. Many board members, faculty and staff and Parents via the LPO sponsored the Fellows for lunch. They provided treats, notes and support all week which went a long way.
- **Hiring for Cohort Five:**
The school is in the process of hiring Fellows for the **2025-2026** school year. Nineteen of the 24 current Fellows are first-year participants, and almost all will be invited back for their second year. Prospective candidates are encouraged to apply via the Legends website.

Student Affairs Update (Presented by Ms. Anita Williams)

Ms. Anita Williams presented the Student Affairs update, highlighting the following key points:

- **Communication Flow for Parent Concerns:**
The following steps were shared for managing parent concerns:
 1. **Contact the Teacher:** Parents are encouraged to first reach out to the teacher for classroom-related concerns. Teachers have up to **72 hours** to respond. (We do not encourage this timeframe, we expect them to respond sooner).
 2. **Contact Student Affairs:** If the teacher does not respond within the 72 hours, parents can reach out to Student Affairs at **studentaffairs@legendsschool.org** for further assistance.
 3. **Contact the Principal:** If there is still no response, parents may contact the Principal for additional support.
- **Communication Journal (CJ) Expectations:**
Ms. Williams emphasized the importance of the **Communication Journal (CJ)** in fostering strong academic habits and accountability:
 - Parents are asked to **check the CJ daily** to ensure completion of homework assignments.
 - The CJ should be used to monitor the expected completion time for each assignment.
 - **Teacher's Stamp:** The teacher's stamp in the CJ indicates that the scholar has correctly recorded their assignments.

Legends EdVentures will be providing a summer program and information will be provided via ParentSquare starting tomorrow.

These tools and guidelines aim to improve communication and ensure scholars' success.

Operation Update (Presented by Mr. Antonio Barr)

Mr. Antonio Barr presented the Operations update, highlighting the following key points:

- Mr. Barr provided an update on the attendance rate:
 - 95.5% for the month of February
 - 3rd Grade has a high chronic absenteeism rate – 20%
- **Mr. Barr provided a Lottery Update for 2025-2026 School Year:**

The lottery for the **2025-2026** school year was opened on **November 1, 2024**, and closed on **February 7, 2025**. We're waiting for PGCPs to announce the results of the lottery to allow us to enroll scholars.

 - **771 students** applied through the lottery, with a focus on filling **100 kindergarten seats**.
 - Current grade-level enrollment and lottery numbers are as follows:
 - Kindergarten: 81 current, 200 lottery applicants
 - 1st Grade: 106 current, 68 lottery applicants
 - 2nd Grade: 105 current, 79 lottery applicants
 - 3rd Grade: 84 current, 74 lottery applicants
 - 4th Grade: 109 current, 61 lottery applicants
 - 5th Grade: 104 current, 64 lottery applicants
 - 6th Grade: 102 current, 124 lottery applicants
 - 7th Grade: 99 current, 43 lottery applicants
 - 8th Grade: 98 current, 16 lottery applicants
 - **Annual Goal:** The focus remains on student retention to maintain a strong, connected community, with the paper waitlist now open on the school's website.
 - CEO James mentioned that the Maryland and PG Alliance of Charter Schools are working closely with the PGCPs to follow the administrative procedures. They have historically not followed the AP and have impacted the ability to meet enrollment targets.
- **Mr. Barr provided several Operations Reminders:**
 - **Lost and Found:** Parents are reminded to label their child's items with their first and last names. Unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each month.
 - **Early Dismissal:** Parents should email **Earlydismissal@legendsschools.org** in advance with their student's name, grade, and preferred pickup time. A **10-minute grace period** is allowed, with the cutoff time remaining at **1:30 p.m.**
 - **Attendance Issues:** Inaccuracies should be reported via email to **attendance@legendsschools.org**.
 - **Lunch Balances:** Parents should ensure they add funds to their scholar's **My School Bucks** account weekly. Payments can be made at the school cafeteria or through online payment options. For assistance, contact **Natalie McKisset**.

Financial Education Update (Presented by Mr. Justin DeVose)

Mr. Justin DeVose presented the Financial Education update, highlighting the following key points:

- A **Global Youth Summit & Shark Tank** event will be held on **April 17, 2025**. Students will have the opportunity to pitch business ideas and learn about entrepreneurship and leadership. <https://www.equitynowinc.org/global-youth-summit>
 - Learn the basics of pitching and business building
 - Brainstorming with peers
 - Insider tips on creating a winning idea.
 - Grand prize of \$2,500
- Markey MAYHem event - Open, Fund, and Invest! Tournament from April 28 – May 28th
- **Building Wealth for Scholars:**

Mr. DeVose emphasized the importance of early investing to build wealth for students. Key actions to get started include:

 - **Begin investing as soon as possible:** Investing while young provides the best opportunity for growth over time.
 - **Decide how much to invest:** This is determined by the investment goal and the timeframe in which it must be achieved.
 - **Set up an investment account:** There are no minimum amounts required to open an account, and small amounts can be invested.
 - **Choose an investment strategy:** Tailored to savings goals, the amount of money needed, and the timeframe.
 - **Identify investment options:** Understanding each instrument and the risks involved is crucial.
- **Custodial Account Engagement:**
 - **Total Students Tracked:** 800
 - **Custodial Accounts Opened:** 272 (34% of tracked students)
 - **Custodial Accounts Funded:** 160 (20% of tracked students)
 - **Custodial Accounts Invested:** 125 (15.62% of tracked students)

The engagement statistics reflect growth in participation and investment over the years.
- **Increasing Custodial Investment Accounts:**

The goal is to achieve a **25% increase** in funded custodial accounts by the end of the fiscal year. Monthly online and in-person workshops will be hosted for parents and students, focusing on early investing and providing tutorials for independent guidance.
- **Upcoming Financial Education Sessions:**

Virtual Workshops on 3/27 for a better understanding of how the stock market works and to understand the importance of our focus to Open, Fund and Invest in their scholar's custodial investment accounts.



Academic Update (Presented by Principal Tanisha Dixon, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Ellegood, Ms. Towell)

Principal Dixon provided the academic testing update.

- Maryland Survey March 25-28
- MCAP begins April 7- May 23
- DIBELS EOY K-3 May 19-June 3
- iReady EOY Grades K-8 May 5- 23

Principal Dixon provided the Schoolwide ELA and Social Studies Goals for SY 24-25

Mr. Gregory provided the Schoolwide Math Goals for SY 24-25

Mr. Gregory provided the Schoolwide Science Goals for SY 24-25.

- We had 100% of eligible students take the MISA
- Confident that we are going to meet and exceed our goals for proficiency this year.

Principal Dixon discussed deliberate reading practices.

- Provided an update on Accelerated Reader: Students who read 25 minutes/day, within their just right range average 85% on their AR quizzes and grow 2x as much as students who don't.
 - o Provided a pizza party for the students with the most AR points.
- Provided various at Home Literacy Strategies

Mr. Gregory provided Math Strategies. We will assign math homework every night. We have two weeks to prepare for the grades 7&8 MCAP.

- General Math support
 - o Khan Academy
 - o Math is Fun
 - o IXL
 - o Cool Math 4 Kids
 - o Purplemath

Secretary's Report and Public Q&A (Presented by Secretary Aminah Williams)

Publicly Asked Questions and Responses



Upcoming Events

Please follow the PGCPs on social media and their website for updates.

New Business

None.

Chair Strickland thanked the team for the extensive report.

- She thanked the Academic team to their input for how to support our scholars with testing
 - o She encouraged parents to send snacks.
- She encouraged parents to attend tomorrow's PGCPs Board of Education meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm

Board Office Contact Information:

Office: 240-455-5900