

LNS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 6th, 2019

Attendees:

- *Present:* Abby Adams, Feyza Marouf, Cynthia Chang, Rebecca Blanchfield, Becky Bermont, Katherine Taunton-Rigby, Victoria Singerland, Kristen Ferris, Cara Shortsleeve, Lisa Parker, Jessica Kaplan, Liz Heald, Kerri Schubert, Christine Maggs
- *Also Present:* Emily Silet, Kord Jablonski, Nancy Fincke
- *Absent:* Anique Lebel, Mara Rus, Gina Cherco, Grishma Dille, Jessica Callow

Agenda

- Presentation: Becky introduced Kord, the new business director at deCordova, and Emily, head of learning environments.
 - Kord: We integrated on July 1st, strategic plans of Trustees and deCordova are essentially the same, 15 million was raised for integration, 13 went to endowment, 2 remains to deliver spectacular visitor experience, we are starting to study this in a structured way, how people move through the building, not many people get to the lab, a lot of people get to process gallery because next to restrooms, 20-30% parents have reached the lab. Lns is a unique asset that sits in middle of deCordova, how can we engage parents and children in a model of collaboration?
 - Emily: I oversee the learning spaces, process gallery on the 3rd floor, Lab on the 4th floor, early planning of outdoor learning space, cell phone audio tour in the park, my favorite is working with Lns, making the partnership visible, we created the voice box between cafe and courtyard, changes yearly, always looking for new and different ways to showcase the learning happening. We've had some staff shortages, but meeting with faculty and all the studios more frequently to figure out when it makes sense for us to go into the classrooms, have classes go up to museum or into the park.

- Nancy: first few school months spent building community, so less apt to go up to museum, although we are in the sculpture park a lot, by the time we are ready to go up to the museum it is only open three days
- Parent Comment: worried about unpredictable preschoolers around art
- Emily: happy to meet and take you up, break down that barrier, get people to the spaces. Lab was created two years ago, designed for families with young children, came out of experiences with LNS as space to hang out, touch things, go back out to the gallery and be refreshed
- Slideshow about the Lab: inaugural exhibition Pond, thinking of children and grown ups being teachers to each other. Last fall Sheila Pepe finding beauty in Chaos, stations based on creating sculptures out of ordinary objects and then the string room where visitors keep coming back and adding string, 1.5 yr old running under letting the string wash over his face, wasn't able to tie string but still have sensory experience. Last summer: repetition building with mosaics, camouflage and how animals use patterns. Current theme: Garden, based on exhibition, little greenhouse in there, as the world becomes more brown and white outside, visitors will be populating these rooms with their own collage.
- Emily: How can we better let LNS know that the Lab is here? How do we get more people up there?
- Question: how often does the Lab change?
Emily: twice a year
- Comments: When there is a change let parents know. More marketing or signage in the cafe?
- Emily: Only the door to Lab is labeled
- Comments: Can the entry person in kiosk let families know when new visitors? Advertising could include a postcard with description on the back, let visitors know there is a Lab connection to

exhibit. Saturday morning playgroup in the Lab? Free day for parents? If parking lot can be redone, spaces are too tight. Re Cafe: We haven't been back since we couldn't bring our own food so now we don't go up to the Lab. Don't feel comfortable because of the signs, staff not as warm to children

- Kord: We will remove the cafe signs tomorrow. Please tell us if you have ideas, all feedback welcome

Break

President, Abigail Adams:

- Annual Appeal letters: some donations received, continue to trickle in, we might do hearts again on the wall as reminder for parents, alumni appeal also went out
- Anniversary Gala: progressing nicely, should have received save the dates in your mailboxes at school, spread the word, fundraising component but also a celebration of school, over 300 alumni invitations went out. Mug with commemorative tree can be purchased, percentage of proceeds to LNS.

Secretary, Feyza Marouf:

Approval of September Minutes

Director's Report, Nancy Fincke:

Woodland Walk was a great day.

Enrollment: older school this year, our strategy is to market studio red. Open

House: 20 ppl, 8 tours. We have returning families who are coming for tours.

Getting the word out: not a hard sell once you come. A lot of schools don't have extension option for kindergarten. 2 co-ops in Concord moved to Lincoln Country Day, now families choosing LNS through word of mouth

Updates:

Vice President of Operations, Cynthia Chang

Parent survey will launch in January, results in March

Treasurer, Rebecca Blanchfield:

Despite withdrawals we've had additions, extended day chugging along, but tuition does not cover budget, so annual appeal/fundraising important, new auditor this year, saving 4k

Additional Questions/Concerns:

- Septic system update requested. Nancy: often when ground is saturated, can affect the septic system, pumped regularly, looking at holding tank.

Update received during the meeting: School closed tomorrow, backup contained to where tanks are, which is behind the playground/cafe area.

Board Members:

President: Abigail Adams

Secretary: Feyza Marouf

Vice President of Operations: Cynthia Chang

Vice President of Programs: Anique Lebel

Treasurer: Rebecca Blanchfield

Enrollment: Katherine Taunton-Rigby & Victoria Singerland

deCordova Liaison: Becky Bermont

Strategic Planning: Cara Shortsleeve & Kristen Ferris

PR & Communications: Christine Maggs & Jessica Kaplan

Room Parents: Lisa Parker (B), Mara Rus (Y), Gina Cherco (P),
Grishma Dille (R)

Staff Search & Development: Jessica Callow

Welcoming & Social: Liz Heald and Kerri Schubert