

LNS Board Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022

Via Zoom

Attendees (based on Zoom participation list):

- **Present:** Mara Rus, Gabrielle Emanuel, Kate Brooks, Emily Lines, Laura Mellen, Vickie Slingerland, Abigail Flanagan, Clint Cherco, Greta Kaplan, Caroline Nordstrom, Annie Magee, Katherine Ruhl, Bryan Wynn, Lauren O'Neil, Mitch Brooks, Anique Lebel, Emily Beekman
- **Absent:** Sasha Dages, Emily Cardy, Kristie Fox
- **Also present:** Nancy Fincke, Andrew Alan West, Elizabeth Hoffercker, Nathaniel Heald, John Magee

President: Mara Rus

Welcome and Update

(see full notes below)

- Update on changes to the bylaws which are intended to bring our bylaws up to date with modern times

Secretary: Gabrielle Emanuel

Approved March 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Gabrielle Emanuel motions and Kate Brooks (and others) seconds

Director: Nancy Fincke

General Update

(see full notes below)

- May Day and Family Day are coming up
- Discusses plan for artist Marla McLeod to lead the experience on Family Day

VP of Operations' Update: Emily Lines

(See full notes below)

- Job and committee assignments will be announced in the next week or two
- Please meet with successor for Board jobs to make for a smooth transition and send any edits for the manuals/job descriptions
- LNS Annual Survey Results: While there are certainly important suggestions for improvement, and while it is difficult or impossible to keep everyone happy at all times, the school is beloved by the vast majority of its membership, and parents are pleased with the school's leadership. Most importantly, parents in all four Studios are extremely positive about their children's experiences at LNS.
 - Full results (see attached document)
 - Discussion of results (see notes below)

Gala Chair's Update: Abby Flanagan

- It was an incredible success, we had 85 parents, teachers and guests. It was a great turn out considering COVID.
- We still have some finances to work out but, in all, it raised about \$40k. It was much more expensive because of COVID (tenting and staffing) but still managed to make money. Almost 100% participation during the live ask – thanks to Kate Brooks.

VP of Programs' Update: Anique Lebel

- We are working on the 2022-2023 calendar for next year and will hopefully be finalizing that soon.
- We have spirit gear coming up – we ordered a bunch of items from LLBean with our logo. We are thinking of launching that next week. We will be taking orders, things like tote bags, blankets to sit outside.
- The cafe had opened up early to have studio coffee. With the hours of the café, it would be nice to open earlier. We will see what next year's schedule will allow for.

Call for Updates/Questions

(none)

**** FULL NOTES PROVIDED BY PRESENTERS

President's Update: Mara Russ

Welcome everyone to our May Board Meeting! I have just an update before we can move on to some others.

With the help of our awesome Legal Advisor, Kim Rajdev, we made some updates to the Bylaws that I want to inform you on. These updates do not require a Board vote as they are minor and really just attempt to bring our Bylaws up to date with modern times.

First, we edited the wording in the bylaws to make it more explicit that signed proxies submitted via email as a photograph or scan is permissible. Prior to that we were advised that our bylaws could be interpreted to allow for that but we thought prudent to be more explicit.

Second, we changed the requirement for the Nominating Chair. This year and in the past, the Nominating Chair was required to be both a Board member and an outgoing LNS parent. Many years there would be just one parent or so that fit this description. Thus, we removed the Board

member requirement and instead require just that the parent be an outgoing member of the LNS community.

Third, we changed requirements that notice be given for meetings etc in your physical mailbox at LNS. Now email is now a more explicitly allowable form of notice.

That's it! I would like to thank Kim so much for her help on this! She has been so great!

I now would like to pass it on to Gabrielle for approval of our March Board minutes.

Director's General Update: Nancy Fincke

Tomorrow is May Day. The refreshment will be popsicles. We will arrive at the hearts sculpture at 11:30.

We have Family Day coming up. Marla McLeod is an artist who has work on display in the museum will be in charge of this experience. She does oil paintings of black women and a big sculptural piece.

She's excited to do this work connecting to LNS Family Books. Marla will tour the studios and participate in a faculty meeting on May 18th to discuss what engagement could look like. On May 31st she will be visiting the studios and it will be an opportunity for children to use materials to create a representation of an aspect of their family.

Then on Family Day – June 4th between 9-11am – families will engage in the same process, paired with another family, asking each other questions and then creating a material representation of responses. The pieces representing families will then be joined to form a sculpture representing families at LNS."

VP of Operations: Emily Lines

New jobs for next year:

- Job and committee assignments will be announced in the next week or two
- Please meet with successor for Board jobs and fill them in on any important information. This is necessary to make for a smooth transition
- Please send any edits for the manuals/job descriptions
- Transition will be complete at the end of the school year

LNS Annual Survey Results presented:
(See attached document)

LNS Annual Survey Results discussed:

Bryan Wynn: What types of families are we looking for? Is there a danger in trying to be all things to all people? What is the core product: is it longer hours? Is there a specific customer segment that causes you to go further afield?

Nancy: LNS is looking for families that value relationships. It's not a quick experience. It takes people who want to give some time to this. The more you invest, the more you get out of it.

Mara Rus: This is why enrollment is important and being moved to be on steering.

Nancy: Our demographics have shifted dramatically. It used to be Lincoln dominant. This year, Concord and Lincoln are nearly equally represented (Lincoln -20, Concord-19). Lincoln & Concord combined represent 67% of enrolled families, the remaining 34% are from a combination of 6 surrounding towns. This translates to the importance of programming and welcoming efforts to bring the LNS community together on the LNS campus.

Vicki Slingerland: Each year, we reconsider whether we need to adjust what we are offering based on the applicant pools. Should we never adjust? What do we adjust?

Kate Brooks: We could do better at defining what is special about LNS. It's the relationships but also, it's the teaching. It's uncomfortable to sell ourselves but we should.

Laura Mellen: We were lucky in enrollment this year; we were able to prioritize families that wanted our philosophy. We had open conversations about what a co-op means to us. Some people opted out because of the commitment it took.