



Educating the next generation of lawyers and leaders

Board of Director Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Legal Prep Charter Academies (“Legal Prep”) was held at 6:00pm on January 20, 2022 via Zoom.

The following members of the Board were present:

Rather Stanton (ex officio), Sam Finkelstein, (ex officio), Jason Brown, Paul Chadha, Heather Fine, Wendy Friedman, Jose Isasi, Tom LaFrance, Laura Miller, Walter Pryor, Oscar Romero, David Susler, Bryan Westoff, Greg Wu and Elie Zenner.

Chaka Patterson, Mark DeMonte, and Latonia Foster were noticed absences.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board

VOTED:

To approve the draft minutes of the Board meeting from October 14, 2021 in the form previously circulated.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Executive Committee Report

Sam Finkelstein provided the Executive Committee update.

COVID Update: Legal Prep has started second semester fully in person. The school uses testing data to inform their decisions. The school’s positivity rate doesn’t warrant anything except in-person learning. There is good testing infrastructure in place. The CPS work stoppage did impact attendance for various reasons. With regard to positive cases, the quarantine period has been shortened now.

Charter Approval Process: Legal Prep is expecting CPS’s recommendation on January 24th. The CPS board will vote on the approval process on January 26th. Keisha Williams (parent) will be highlighted at a press conference prior to the board meeting on the 26th. There is likely to be an article coming out in the near future about Legal Prep – it is unclear if it is a positive or negative piece. It may reflect some discipline data – suspensions and expulsions, but Legal Prep has revised many of its discipline methods. There was a discussion around disciplinary measures in the school addressing what is and is not working.

PPP Investigation Update: This issue seems to have resolved itself. An OIG Report was released and concluded that the charter schools were well within their right to accept the money and did not find any fraud, waste, or mismanagement with the funds.

Litigation Update: Legal Prep is still waiting on a ruling on its motion to dismiss. The matter was fully briefed in October. This is moving slowly. CPS OIG has re-opened its investigation and is talking to Rather in February. Based on recent public reporting, OIG has been investigating how schools handle sexual abuse reporting and trying to determine if there was any cover up. So there is an assumption they will be following up on Legal Prep’s discovery and reporting of these matters. Rather is working



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with our attorney to prepare and feels confident in our discovery and reporting process. In fact, CPS gave Legal Prep real time feedback as to how well the situation was being handled.

Board Governance Committee Report

Walter Pryor gave the report. The Board Governance Committee is vetting two new potential board members - Brendan Barrett of Madison Dearborn Partner and Kris Keys of Exelon. The goal is to have both candidates join the board on or before the March meeting. The Committee will give more information about the process after the Board Governance Meeting. The Committee is still actively looking to identify people and fill the pipeline and welcome suggestions.

During the Board Retreat, the attendees focused on two important items for the future of the school. In re: the Action Steps and Three Year Plan - the document lays out plans to establish infrastructure to begin an Endowment Campaign and an effort to enroll 100 freshman annually by Fall of 2023. The plans have periodic milestones that the Board will be responsible for. There will be a new Endowment Committee and it will focus on individual giving and the campaign. The Enrollment Committee work will be handled by the Academic Excellence Committee. If board members are interested in working on the Committees, please let Walter, Sam, Jason and Rather know. If you are interested in leading a Committee or serving on the Executive Committee, please let them know as well. Every board member must serve on at least one Committee.

The Board must complete training by January 31st. The training information has circulated.

Associate Board Update

Elie Zenner gave the report. With regard to alumni support, this Committee sent out 25 care packages to alumni that are in college. The Associate Board is having its 10th annual Trivia Night on March 3rd in Lincoln Park. The Mentor Program has been taking place at Legal Prep successfully; however, the Committee plans to start recruitment for next year's mentoring this spring, wants to increase to their pre-Covid numbers, and ideally start meeting again downtown.

Academic Excellence Committee Report

Sam Finkelstein gave the report. Legal Prep is still utilizing CPS' School Quality Rating Program (SQRP), standardizes the way schools are viewed regardless of type. The current Board of Education doesn't like this approach to looking at schools so the District is creating a new ratings system. They have not provided any details yet. There is no system in place this year.

Current Data Review:

- Attendance: Positive developments, still need to improve
- Passage Rate: # of Kids passing all of their class – very good results
- 9th Grade on Track: Freshman who have not failed a core subject – very good results
- GPA: Trying to be above a 3.0. Grading system is still a work in progress, but has been successful so far and helping kids who were struggling before.
- Suspensions/Expulsions (Discipline data): When looking at last in-person school semester (fall of 2019), Legal Prep reduced their suspension by over 98%. There has been one expulsion for a student bringing a handgun to school. We supported him remotely so he was not completely derailed. The discipline data is much improved and meets metrics that were set.



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- FAFSA/College App (college related metrics): Easier to get done now that kids re back in school
- Enrollment: This has increased and has been a positive this year. On track for another normal sized freshman class in the fall which will continue to boost enrollment.

Finance Committee Report

Oscar Romero gave the report. The condition is solid overall. Legal Prep increased its line of credit from \$100K to \$250K. We don't anticipate using the line of credit but wanted to establish. The IFF loans were recalculated – the interest rate went down from 6.37% down to 6% - this is saving Legal Prep around \$200 a month for the next five years. With regard to CPS, they are keeping an eye on Legal Prep's financial score card. The school is meeting 3 of the 4 financial metrics. The Committee is projecting a \$150K surplus and is hoping the year will end strong. Ten thousand dollars is being put into a saving account each month so will be precursor for an endowment.

Development Committee

Legal Prep wants to re-double efforts on the recruitment piece. Enrollment number look promising for the fall but want to continue to build the pipeline and school's reputation in the community. This process gets active in March through Labor Day for enrollment for the next school year. The Law Programs ran smoothly and well. It is better than last year, but not as good as being in person. The annual appeal went well. Legal Prep raised about \$40K which is on par. With respect to board giving, the board is being asked to make a financial contribution of it's own. Fifty-three percent of the board has given. Eat.Drink.Give planning will start soon and the board should think about sponsorships. Jason Brown will be honored this year, and the event will likely be at Marshall's Landing on May 19th. The Golf Outing will be planned early this year in order to take it to the next level. Sadly, Lena Walsh left Legal Prep. She may join the Associates Board and will remain involved.

Other Matters

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H 2", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Heather Fine