



**MINUTES OF THE 03/18/21 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
LENNOX MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY  
(A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation)**

**I. PRELIMINARY**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Bruce McDaniel, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order on the date, time and place set forth as follows:

**Time: 2:05 pm**

**Date: 03/18/21**

**Place: Via ZOOM teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.**

Dr. McDaniel welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for joining.

Board meeting was called to order after Dr. McDaniel read the following:

The Lennox Math, Science and Technology Academy (“School”) welcomes your participation at the School’s Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) is to conduct the affairs of the School in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our School. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided: This meeting will be by teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20. The Board of Directors (“Board”) and employees of Lennox Academy shall meet via the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to access this board meeting may do so at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81296853836>

Members of the public who wish to comment during the Board meeting may use the “raise hand” tool on the Zoom platform. Individual comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English, and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board of Directors may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupts the Board meeting.

**B. ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Andrade, SP	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>

Latuner, Karen	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
McCray, Steve	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
<b>Dr. McCray came in at 2:25 pm</b>		
McDaniel, Bruce	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
McMichael, Shuna	<u>      </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Stabile, John	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Vazquez, Celeste	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 02/25/21**

Mr. Stabile motioned to approve minutes from 02/25/21 meeting, second by Ms. Latuner. All in favor by consensus. None opposed.

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. McDaniel asked if there were any changes to agenda. Mr. Mena shared there are no changes. Ms. Andrade motioned to approve agenda, second by Ms. Latuner. All in favor by consensus. Motion carried unanimously. All in favor. None opposed.

**II. OPEN SESSION**

**A. COMMUNICATIONS**

**1. RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

a. 2019-2020 Financial Audit Presentation (Marcy Kearney/Vanessa Pineda) – Ms. Vanessa Pineda shared audit report for the year ended June 30, 2020. Ms. Pineda shared that there were no significant relationship nor findings and that Lennox Academy received the highest opinion possible – unmodified opinion. Ms. Pineda thanked Mr. Mena and Ms. Jimenez for aiding during the audit and shared how she has been working with the team in preparing for this year’s audit. Ms. Pineda commented how Lennox Academy is doing a good job making sure everything is in compliance with attendance reports and acknowledged templates developed. The board had no questions. Dr. McDaniel thanked Ms. Pineda for her report.

**2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

This is a presentation of information which has occurred since the previous Board meeting.

Mr. Mena shared information with the board regarding the items coming up for approval at today’s meeting to help facilitate any discussions.

- Draft Academic Calendar for 2021-2022 school year – as before, the calendar was in line with the LSD’s calendar as some of our students have siblings

within the district.

- Board Policy on Teaching Assignments – not something done before since charter schools had flexibility prior to AB1505. This is something new to charter, but not to the LSD. Lennox Academy was able to leverage charter flexibility in the past with regards to teaching assignments. With AB 1505 charter schools lost a lot of those flexibilities and were put in a position to adopt policies like other districts do when staff members have certain training that is not in line with their credential. Draft Policies and Procedures were reviewed, along with forms and documentation needed. Mr. Mena shared that one of the areas this would apply for would be for Engineering since there is no specific credential in Engineering. Mr. Rivas has a Physics Teaching Credential but is able to teach Engineering which align with his background and training, along with PLTW certifications; Ms. Delgado received PLTW certification through summer institute; Ms. Thompson has a psych minor and received College Board certification to teach AP Psychology; Ms. Jackson has a short-term staff permit and is in the process of finalizing her preliminary credential in special education – all are on the agenda for approval today. Dr. McDaniel had questions with respect to the composition of the committee and their role. Mr. Mena shared how he would also be part of that committee, and his role would be to bring it back for board approval. Dr. McDaniel had additional questions with respect to steps to take. Mr. Mena provided further clarification. Dr. McCray asked if policies were similar to Davinci's. Mr. Mena responded that Davinci was not looked at specifically when developing goals, but they are consistent with LSD and other charter (Environmental).

Mr. Mena shared that he had additional items to share with the board, but he will hold his comments until the reopening of school discussion.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Non-agenda items: no individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, Board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the Board may give direction to staff following a presentation.

No Oral Communications

B. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

- a. Approve the 2019-2020 Financial Audit

It is recommended that the Board approve Agenda Item B.a.

Motioned: Mr. Stabile

Second: Ms. Latuner

All present in favor by consensus. None Opposed.

- b. Approve the 2020-2023 agreement with Christy White & Associates to provide audit and tax services.

It is recommended that the Board approve Agenda Item B.b.

Discussion: Dr. McDaniel asked if there was a fee increased from the previous agreement. Mr. Mena responded affirmative, but that it was very minimal (\$453 difference, 4% pretty standard). Dr. McDaniel also inquired about the length of contract. Mr. Mena responded that it is typically a 3-year agreement; this will be second year of 3-year term. Dr. McDaniel commented how it would be good to get a bid after the 6th year. Mr. Mena shared how even though it was a 3-year agreement, we had the option to select another auditor. No further discussion.

Motioned: Dr. McCray

Second: Mr. Stabile

All present in favor by consensus. None Opposed.

- c. Approve the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar.

It is recommended that the Board approve Agenda Item B.c.

Motioned: Mr. Stabile

Second: Ms. Latuner

All present in favor by consensus. None Opposed.

- d. Retroactively approve Board Policy on Teaching Assignments, Plan for Teacher Assignment Options & Establishment of the Committee on Assignments for the 2020-2021 academic school year, to allow flexibility in local teaching assignments outside of the teacher's credential in accordance with Education Code §44258.3 and Education Code §44258.7.

It is recommended that the Board approve the amended Agenda Item B.d.

Motioned: Ms. Andrade

Second: Dr. McCray

All present in favor by consensus. None Opposed.

- e. Retroactively approve the following teacher assignments based on Education Code §44258.3 for the 2020-21 academic year (Board Policy on Teaching Assignments):
  - i. Jose Rivas – Engineering Digital Electronics and Engineering Design and Development

It is recommended that the Board approve the amended Agenda Item B.e.

Motioned: Ms. Latuner motioned to approve based on the number of years teaching, education and expertise.

Second: Dr. McCray

All present in favor by consensus. None Opposed.

- f. Retroactively approve Ana Jackson to teach Math 180, Read 180, English, and Credit Recovery Lab for the 2020-2021 academic year, for a maximum of one year, in accordance with Education Code 44258.7(cd). Teaching assignment limited to maximum one-year period under Short-Term Staff Permit, with no option for renewal unless proper credentials are in place.

It is recommended that the Board approve the amended Agenda Item B.f.

Motioned: Mr. Stabile

Second: Ms. Andrade

All present in favor by consensus. None Opposed.

- g. Discussion on the re-opening of school for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Mena shared presentation that included the following information:

1 Year Later Celebrations – Over 98% daily attendance; zoom experts & low incidence of zoom bombing; plethora of online tools to help engage students; in addition to excellent online instruction, students have experienced virtual assemblies, competitions and ASB sponsored social activities; genuine concern for student well-being, tools such as Rhithm to help identify student in need of support; support staff on site to help with tech issues, address parent and student concerns and prepare facility for safe return.

A comparison of current cumulative case and vaccination percentages was also shared. Lennox continues to have a higher case rate than neighboring areas, and lower vaccination rates. 88% of staff have been vaccinated.

Information was also shared with respect to status of school re-openings in the area.

Several elementary programs in the area have opened for in-person instruction (Hawthorne, Wiseburn, Lawndale); LSD has not opened and currently has no date for re-opening, but there may be further discussion after the spring break; High School programs are geared to open throughout the county in early to mid-April (Hawthorne Academy, Animo). Mr. Mena shared how incentive funding to re-open schools may be the reason some are fast-tracking their opening of some schools (there will be a 1% decrease for every day after April 1 that the school does not open... this would translate to approximately \$240,000 for LMSTA (May 15<sup>th</sup> is the cut off for funding).

LMSTA Leadership Team (representative from every department) met and what evolved from there was consensus that we would try to establish a plan that would be the least disruptive to the flow of what has been done this year (a lot successes) through remote learning. All were in agreement that trying to design a hybrid model would result in too much of a disruption and a reduction of minutes since we would need to have smaller cohorts and would be a higher demand on teachers. If we were to come back, we would need to phase it in, so we are really looking at 25 days of instruction before finals (mainly May), so a proposed plan presented to all stakeholders is that we would keep the same schedule Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, but that we could address SEL through TA on Wednesdays on campus. Dr. McDaniel asked about scheduling and group size. Mr. Mena responded that we would still need to keep social distancing in mind when scheduling students and classroom space. Ms. Andrade asked about SEL curriculums. Mr. Mena asked Ms. Jimenez to comment. Ms. Jimenez shared how the thought would be to focus on Character Strong Team Advisory Curriculum that staff has already been introduced to – focus on relationships, team building and making that connection with students; no new curriculum would be introduced, just focus on using tools already in place.

Results from all stakeholders were shared. Students – 432 students responded (all grade levels) – 71.3% of students report to have adjusted to remote learning and prefer to complete the year this way, 25% have adjusted, but they would like to return. 42% of students would not feel comfortable returning once a day to school (37.5% felt comfortable returning to school once a day for TA and thought it was a good idea to transition back). 246 Parents responded to survey – 30.1% would feel comfortable sending their child once a week for TA and believe it was a good way to transition back. 44.3% of parents did not feel comfortable sending their child. 53

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**AGENDA**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**LENNOX MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY**

Staff members responded – 45.3% felt comfortable going back once a week for TA and believed it was a good way to transition; 41.5% did not feel comfortable returning.

The following considerations were shared –

- High percentage of students that would prefer to stay remote
- High percentage of stakeholder not feeling safe to return for in-person
- High percentage of parents concerned with logistics/transportation if schedules have to change
- Concerns with spring break and families not following travel restrictions
- Concerns about supply of testing kits for students/staff
- Upgrade to MERV-13 filters to improve ventilation is still on hold due to lack of supply
- Challenge and demand on teachers to switch gears for potentially 25 schools days

#### Recommendation

Continue remote learning after spring break; re-think approach of bringing students back on campus for in-person opportunities – address the 30% of students who want in-person opportunities; work with staff that expressed interest in developing in-person opportunities for students (academic intervention, AP sessions, after-school program...); start sport program (baseball/softball as early as next week); keep a close eye on high schools in the area that open after spring break and share data with board at April 29th meeting.

Dr. McDaniel inquired about spring break. Ms. Andrade asked about field space for athletes and transportation. She was concerned about fitting all students in a van. Mr. Mena shared how we would need to work with coaches to ensure all safety measures are being properly taken including PPE and social distancing requirements. Field space is always a challenge, but hopefully the middle school is available since they are not currently using the facility; games will also be a challenge within the league as many other schools have not committed, so not sure if there will be games, but at least students will have the chance to condition, or may play the same school a couple of times; Ms. Andrade asked if no other schools commit, would we consider having inner competitions within the team; Mr. Mena responded that could be something to be considered. Ms. Latuner asked if sports would be limited to baseball/softball. Mr. Mena commented how these two naturally lend themselves to more space, and they didn't have a season last year, so feel comfortable at least starting to condition with them; more are possible, but to be determined. Ms. Andrade asked about percentage of families that responded to the survey. Dr. McDaniel asked to go back to the recommendation slide. Dr. McDaniel commented that he believes the plan/recommendation was well thought out and that it makes sense, especially given the short amount of time left in the year; he likes the idea of giving the opportunity to those that want to come back; from his standpoint, he sees no concerns with proposed recommendation with how it has been laid out. Mr. Stabile recommended small groups/pilot program. Board discussed “babysitting” model out there; Mr. Mena shared how he is not a fan of the “babysitting” model but would like to see something more of an intervention, will brainstorm with staff who expressed interest in coming back. Mr. Stabile shared how it is



best to bring back a small group to work out all the kinks before bringing in a bigger group. Dr. McCray commented how he thinks the recommendation to identify the students that want to come back and have some more discussion with teachers to see what might work, is positive. Ms. Latuner echoed Dr. McDaniel’s comment on what an amazing job Mr. Mena did in polling student, staff, and parents; they applauded that a lot of thought was put into this. Ms. Latuner added that with 4 weeks left in the year and based on comments, she agrees that it would be too disruptive to come back and agrees with Mr. Mena’s recommendation. Ms. Andrade shared that she too was in agreement with Mr. Mena’s recommendation and shared concerns with hybrid model. Dr. McCray echoed approval of recommendation and provided kudos. He added how when students change systems, that changes their family systems too. Mr. Mena agreed and shared some of the student responses within the survey. Mr. Stabile noted how not going back would mean a loss of revenue, anything that could be done to recover that? Mr. Mena shared how it is not about the money, but the safety of students and staff. Further discussion around specifics needed for funding. Ms. Andrade asked if we could bring back students if the filters are still on hold. Mr. Stabile shared that he is vaccinated and ready to come back to help tutor. Dr. McDaniel asked Mr. Mena if he felt he had adequate direction from the board to proceed with recommendations? Mr. Mena responded affirmatively and summarized how it sounds like the board in agreement to move forward with baseball/softball and to work with the 30% of students who want some sort of in-person instruction. Dr. McDaniel asked about timeline for next year and when decisions needed to happen for that. Mr. Mena shared that we would be discussed at the May meeting (recommendations for next year’s format moving forward), but then will have more data for schools that have chosen to open and more data; discussion about possibility to hold summer bridge for two grades this summer; bridge may look different. Dr. McCray inquired about various funding opportunities. Mr. Mena shared how there were two different buckets of money and explain the difference between the two – one more for personal protective equipment and things of that nature, and the other one to help address gaps over the summer. Dr. McCray commented how LMSTA has been exceptional with regarding to attendance and pedagogy integrity, and how might be an opportunity to build a robust summer program. Mr. stabile asked about GANAS! Program.

Ms. Andrade approved recommendation made by Mr. Mena.  
 Ms. Latuner second it. All in favor. Non opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at **3:47** pm

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**Board Meeting Minutes Approval**

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 Board Chair or Board Secretary Name

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 Signature

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 Date