

**Lowell Alumni Association  
Minutes of the Thursday, September 17, 2020  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Video/Telephone Conference**

**Call to Order**

President **John Trasviña** called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

A roll call of all persons in attendance was taken.

**Approval of minutes**

**Mark Mosheim** moved to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. **Bill Black** seconded the motion. There were two corrections: **Bill Black** stated that **Eric O'Brien's** (non Board member) name should be added to the list of the members of the Finance Committee in the “**Treasurer’s Report and Finance Discussion**” section. **Tony Quang** requested to have his attendance status changed from excused to present attending via teleconferencing. The motion passed by voice vote and the minutes were approved as corrected with two amendments.

**Debra Jones** moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020 Special Board of Directors meeting. **Leon Blum** seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the minutes were approved. **John Trasviña** thanked Secretary **Anita Payton** for her work and collaboration on the minutes. **Anita** thanked **John** for his work on the minutes and thanked **Terry Abad** for his contribution to the minutes.

**President's Report and Principal's Report**

**John Trasviña** stated that the President’s Report will be done in tandem with the Principal’s Report.

**John** reported on working with Legal Committee members, **Mark Steiner** (Chairperson), **Lisa Clay** and **Gerri Rosen-Park** about the feasibility and legality of adding a “good citizenship” requirement to eligibility requirements for LAA scholarships. **John** will follow up with Principal **Dacotah Swett** to find out the Lowell Administration’s views on the proposal and whether there were any practical or legal obstacles to implementing it. The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Handbook is also a reference regarding privacy issues. Will move forward and report back.

The Lowell Alumni Association (LAA) worked with the Lowell Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) president on providing materials for incoming students.

We are waiting for SFUSD to decide when students will be returning to campus and under what conditions. Also looking at how the LAA can help regarding greater safety, more access and more services.

**John** reported that he wanted to discuss the name change issue facing Lowell. The Board of Education has appointed a committee to review and examine the potential of changing the names of many San Francisco public schools. Lowell is included on the list of schools in which the committee has decided to remove the current name from the school. Other school names on the list include Dianne Feinstein Elementary and Balboa, Mission, Lincoln, and Washington High Schools. Lowell has joined with other alumni associations in questioning the timing, inclusivity and historical accuracy of the committee’s activities as well as its failure to include any Asian Americans on the committee despite the city being about 40% Asian American. **James Russell Lowell** was deemed by the committee to support genocide or be a white supremacist despite his record as an outspoken abolitionist, inspiration to the NAACP and Dr. Martin Luther King and opponent of the US/Mexico War. This matter will continue to be addressed throughout the fall.

**John** stated that we are working to educate the committee about **James Russell Lowell's** historic significance against slavery and in support of human rights and influence on these matters to the present day. He was wrongly placed on the list.

**Debra Jones** discussed reviewing the Alumni Board that is located outside of Meyer Library. **Debra** made a motion for the removal of the picture of **Julius Kahn Class of 1879**, a congressman who represented San Francisco in the early 1900s and whose legislation extended the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1902. The motion was seconded by **Mark Mosheim** and passed by voice vote. Principal **Dacotah Swett** agreed to get the key to the cabinet and have **Julius Kahn's** picture removed.

Principal **Dacotah Swett** reported that she has been in contact with the School District Office of Equity almost daily to increase teacher professional development on race-related matters, including anti-racism. Every teacher has made their own anti-racist teaching goal. We are working with Office of Equity regarding:

- Title IX report
- Social Media
- Bullying
- Anti-Semitism incident by a student

Lowell does not have jurisdiction over social media. We can try to educate but we cannot punish. Punishing would violate the students' freedom of speech. SFUSD no longer gives students a citizenship grade on the report card. Grades now apply only to academic achievement.

In response to the President's report on whether Lowell can assist LAA in determining which students may have failed to meet "good citizenship" standards for scholarships (should such a system be approved by the Board), the principal stated that LAA can submit names of scholarship candidates for the administration's review and they could provide back names of those scholarship applicants who have not been found previously to the review to have committee an infraction related to racial or gender discrimination or misconduct.

Lowell has a newly formed equity committee: The Coordinated Care Team. Part of the mission statement declares: To assist delivering lessons, to deal with issues

We need to dismantle any systemic racism that we find at our campus.

Scheduled classes/activities occur between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Classes are 35 minutes long. Also, everything takes longer online. We don't expect to go back into the building this semester. The classrooms are currently being used by teachers from other schools that have issues with their Wi-Fi at home.

There are at least two Lowell Assistant principals on campus each work day.

**John Trasviña** asked Principal **Swett** how the LAA can help. What does the school need from the LAA?

Principal **Swett** responded that they may need help when the students return to campus.

We are trying to get to a place in which we are more proactive than reactive.  
This is the second year for the current administration team.

The school will not have an 8<sup>th</sup> grade night. Current enrollment is down to 2803. **John Trasviña** thanked **Principal Swett** stating that the LAA is grateful to her for all her efforts. Principal **Dacotah Swett** thanked the LAA for its support.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Betty Lee** thanked the Finance Committee for helping to review the Tax documents. The Tax Return has been submitted.

The members of the Finance Committee are:

**Terry Abad**  
**Bill Black**  
**Leon Blum**  
**Betty Lee**  
**Eric O'Brien**  
**Gerri Rosen-Park**  
**John Trasviña**

There has been a large deposit made on behalf of the Library Renovation Project.

**Betty** reached out to our investment advisor who responded that our investments are performing well and as expected.

**Betty** thanked **Terry** for his help in the drafting of the budget.

**Betty** added that the LAA is looking for help in bookkeeping. If anyone knows of someone with a background in bookkeeping please notify **Terry Abad** or **Betty**.

**John** thanked **Betty** and the Finance Committee. We are planning to present the budget at the November Board meeting.

## Reports of Standing Committees

### **Audit:**

Chairperson **Carolina Picazo** discussed retaining the same auditing firm that the Board had used previously. Working with the same auditor would provide a discounted fee for the LAA. Also discussed was circulating the Audit Engagement Letter to the Board.

**Carolina** made a motion for the Board to enter into an agreement to pay an amount not to exceed \$17,000 to the same firm used in the past to conduct a two year audit. The motion was seconded by **Bill Black**. The motion passed by voice vote.

**John** stated that this audit is not required by law because of the amount of donations LAA received but it is a self-initiated requirement that demonstrates good stewardship to the Lowell community and prospective future donors to LAA.

### **Grants:**

Committee Chairperson and Vice-President **Mike Ugawa** reported that he anticipates that there won't be as many requests for Grants Committee funding as in previous years since the pandemic limits school activities that typically might be funded. Nonetheless, there may be other needs and requests for LAA funding. The committee may adopt a rolling process to consider grant applications as they are received in order to accommodate funding needs.

**John** thanked **Mike** and added appreciation for being flexible and adaptable to the situation in supporting all the school's needs.

### **Diversity Equity & Inclusion:**

Committee Chairperson **Orpheus Crutchfield** reported that he is in the process of scheduling meetings with the various presidents of the under-represented student clubs. **Orpheus** also has a meeting scheduled tomorrow with Assistant Principals **Isaac "Jandro" Alcantar** and **Joe Dominguez** to discuss the needs of

the students. **John** added that Asian American students should also be included in DEI and thanked **Orpheus** for the committee’s work.

**Scholarship:**

Chairperson **Joyce Tom** reported that LAA awarded 115 scholarships in a total amount of \$226,000. **Joyce** thanked **Terry Abad** and **Betty Lee** for processing and distributing the award payments. 100 checks have been distributed.

**Terry** added a comment about the extraordinary group of students this year. Thank you notes have been received from many of the students.

**Legal:**

Committee Chairperson **Mark Steiner** reported on the Scholarship eligibility issue (described more fully in the President’s and Principal’s reports). The committee is reviewing the feasibility of requiring good citizenship as an eligibility criterion for LAA scholarship awards. **Mark** reported that Principal **Dacotah Swett** indicates that she is receptive to the proposal.

**John** noted that we passed a motion to explore this issue but we have not yet decided on what changes, if any, to make.

**Old Business:**

**Library Renovation Project**

Library Renovation Project Co-Chair **Joyce Tom** reported that the renovation is progressing in a timely manner. She did a walk through with Co-Chair **Mark Budak** and (SFUSD) Project Manager **Mary Fung**. There is work going on with the flooring and lighting. It looks amazing!

**John** thanked **Joyce Tom** and **Mark Budak** for their work and determination.

**Mark Steiner** made a motion to adjourn. **Kate Lazarus** seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

**Attendance**

Board and Executive Director present attending via Teleconferencing unless otherwise indicated: E= Excused; A=Absent)

Abad	González	Picazo
Anderson Emeritus Director (A)	Han	Quang
Black	Hayward	Rosen-Park
Blum	Jones	Shinbori Emeritus Director (E)
Bohan	Kress (A)	Steiner
Budak	Lazarus	Swett
Chen (E)	Lee	Tom
Clay, A (E)	Liaiga-Anoa’I	Trasviña
Clay, L	Margolis	Ugawa
Crutchfield	Miyamoto (A)	Wax
Ehrman Emeritus Director (E)	Mosheim	Ye
Gómez-Rexelius	Payton	

Respectfully submitted  
 Anita Payton  
 Secretary, Lowell Alumni Association