



Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 4:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 835 4745 0676

Password: 540751

Dial in: +1 646 558 8656

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MR. CHURCHILL

This meeting is being held in compliance with Open Meeting requirements of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and is open to the public. Notices were duly posted and the meeting was advertised in The Philadelphia Daily News. Formal action will be taken.

II. ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	x		Sanjeev Midha	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Alexandra Panichello		
Ira Brind	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Paul Bucco			Tom Rebar	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Renee Rosenbluth	x	
James Egan			Valerie Schwartz		
Charles Freyer	x		Gail Singer		
Robert Fox			Blair Stambaugh		
Valerie Hanraty	x		Wayne Weisman	x	
Esther Kaplin	x		Bonnie Young	x	

In addition, those present included John Amenda, Becky Chazin, Ellyn Saft, Katherine Lamilla, Kevin Corcoran, Coach Buchanan, Ms. Birnkrant and Shakira Smith.

III. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS

Topic	Facilitator(s)	Committee Connection
1. Equity and Anti-Racism at Young Scholars Update	School Leadership & DEI	DEI
2. Dashboard Review/Comparative MAP Analysis	School Leadership	School Performance
3. Reopening Update	School Leadership	N/A
4. High School Placement	Devon Buchanan	High School Admissions
5. Retention and Reward	Becca Chazin, Talent/HR	N/A
6. Financial Interest Forms	Katherine Lamilla	Governance
7. Board Self Eval	Katherine Lamilla	Governance
8. Development Update	Ellyn Saft	Development
10. Financials and 21-22 Budget	Kevin Corcoran	Finance and Audit
12. Long Term Facility Planning	Building Committee	Building

Mr. Amenda reviewed the Board Discussion Topics, beginning with the Planning Calendar, and a review of the Equity and Anti-Racism Statement adopted by the Board and its implementation through Equity in Instruction, staff PD and a series of other aligned Actions in support of the mission, and the MAEC Equity Audit that is planned. He also reviewed the activities conducted

during BLM week in March. The school will provide anti-racism education to the Board and select a Board DEI Committee Leader.

He next discussed Board recruitment, requesting nominations of new members willing and able to meet the requirements set forth in the Board role description that has been circulated to all members.

Moving on to the Dashboard, he noted that while the current 7th grade's results are somewhat weak, as sometimes has happened, the rest of the school is performing in line with national results, particularly in math. Student attendance has held up well, and 70% of students are maintaining their prior year's performance levels in both math and reading as measured by NWEA MAP.

John next gave a reopening report, noting YSCS was ready for reopening and prepared to do testing weekly while following masking and distancing regimens, as well as hand washing, intensive cleaning and air purification. There will be contact tracing and quarantines when necessary. Performance of the Learning Center so far demonstrates that the students can and do follow the protocols. All YSCS staff have had the opportunity to be vaccinated through CHOP.

Convincing parents is another thing, however. Half of parents still indicate a preference for remote teaching through quarter 4.

Coach Buchanan reported that 86 of 100 8th graders were placed in good high schools, and he is concentrating on the remaining 14.

Becca led a discussion of various retention and reward strategies for YSCS staff. Mr. Churchill took this topic under advisement.

Katherine reviewed the requirements on the Board regarding Board Self-Evaluation forms and annual Financial Interest reporting to Harrisburg. All necessary forms have been distributed.

Mr. Corcoran gave an upbeat financial report, projecting a net at year end of almost \$900K. The 2021-22 budget calls for a 2% increase plus the addition of Spanish language instruction and another special education teacher and counselor.

Mr. Brind reported that a deal to buy the current building was proceeding, along with plans to build on additional classroom and recreational space in the form of a second floor within 2 years.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolutions were approved unanimously: **Resolved** that the Board hereby approve the Regular session minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	x		Sanjeev Midha	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Alexandra Panichello		

Ira Brind	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Paul Bucco			Tom Rebar	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Renee Rosenbluth	x	
James Egan			Valerie Schwartz		
Charles Freyer	x		Gail Singer		
Robert Fox			Blair Stambaugh	x	
Valerie Hanraty	x		Wayne Weisman	x	
Esther Kaplin	x		Bonnie Young	x	

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

On a motion duly made and seconded, the following YSCS policies were approved unanimously:

- a Current Events and Controversial Issues Policy
- b Exemption from Specific Instruction Policy
- c Gender Expression and Transgender Students Policy
- d Curriculum Review Policy

VI. NEW BUSINESS- None

VII. OLD BUSINESS- None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public wishing to address the Board of Trustees must state their name and are requested to limit their comments to three minutes. Please be aware that all Charter School employees retain the right of privacy and shall retain all rights against defamation and slander per the laws of Pennsylvania. The Board shall not be held liable for comments made by members of the public. Each member of the public will be given one opportunity to address the Board. No members of the public attended.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A brief Executive Session followed to discuss personnel related matters.

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

1. YSCS Virtual Panel – Wednesday, March 24, 2021
2. Next Board meeting- Tuesday, April 27, 2021

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

On a motion duly made and seconded, a motion to adjourn was approved unanimously:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	x		Sanjeev Midha	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Alexandra Panichello		
Ira Brind	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Paul Bucco			Tom Rebar	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Renee Rosenbluth	x	
James Egan			Valerie Schwartz		
Charles Freyer	x		Gail Singer		
Robert Fox			Blair Stambaugh	x	
Valerie Hanraty	x		Wayne Weisman	x	
Esther Kaplin	x		Bonnie Young	x	