



Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – 4:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 894 2402 7592

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I. CALL TO ORDER

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. Mr. Churchill called the meeting to order at 4 PM and offered his thoughts on the recent assault on the US Capitol, noting his deep and abiding commitment to equal rights under law.

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	X	
Charles Freyer	X		Gail Singer	X	
Robert Fox			Blair Stambaugh	X	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Wayne Weisman	X	
Esther Kaplan	X		Bonnie Young	X	

Also present were John Amenda, Becca Chazin, Ellyn Saft, Ms. Tini, Ms. Birnkrant, Ms. Smith, Ms. Lamilla, Coach Buchanan and Kevin Corcoran.

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Executive Director

- a Road Back Committee- Reopening update- Mr. Amenda began his report by reviewing the agenda and then discussing reopening. He reported that 70% of parents responding to a survey wanted the school to remain remote until Q4 in April. However, he planned for the learning center to reopen February 1 for 25-30 students who were most disengaged and needed structure to learn; teaching would still be done remotely, but staff would be in the building and aides would be in classrooms. Ms. Stambaugh raised concerns about the efficacy of remote teaching using aides. There would be weekly testing of students and staff in the building.

Parents will be surveyed again in February on the subject of a Q4 reopening.

Mr. Churchill noted that YSCS's insurers should be notified of its reopening plans, and Ms. Chazin said she would do so.

Coach Buchanan then reported on progress in high school placement, noting 38 students (approximately 1/3 of the 8th grade were already accepted to a high school, with many others awaiting a response to their applications. He noted the lack of participation from some families in the application process and there was discussion of the need to start working with both students and

parents in 6th grade to prepare them for a successful high school placement. Several suggestions were made as to how best to manage this process.

At this point, Mr. Amenda called on Mr. Corcoran for his financial report. He reported that a minimum of \$827,000 additional funding would be coming to the school under recently approved COVID relief legislation, and potentially substantially more, and that this aid would come with flexibility in use of funds to support student program and would be able to be used until September 2023. Some of this aid would take the place of what is expected to be reduced funding from the District in 2021-22.

Ms. Saft then gave a glowing development report noting that the goal for the year had already been exceeded, and then discussed preliminary planning for a Zoom event on March 24 with a panel to discuss remote teaching, and an in-person event in October hosted by Sanjeev Midha, James Lovett and their wives.

- b Long-term facility planning- Mr. Brind noted that the Building Committee was proceeding with its investigations but that there was nothing to be announced until at least the March meeting of this Board.
- c Mr. Amenda turned to applications for next year's 6th grade, noting that charter applications were down substantially all across the city. So far, with the lottery coming up soon, we have about 170 applications for 100 seats, but that the waiting list will continue to grow after the lottery has taken place.
- d Turning back to the Dashboard, he noted that Pennsylvania will again be seeking a Federal waiver from requiring the PSSA tests to be taken, and indications are that the Biden administration will grant the waiver. However, what we have found is that the efficacy of remote learning is not that dissimilar to in person learning, except for the most disengaged students which are the ones we hope to serve in the learning center if it opens as planned.

2. School Performance Committee

3. DEI Committee

- a Talent Recruitment / Hiring Practices- Becca Chazin presented talent practices and staff diversity. They are currently moving forward with staff committee to identify priority areas. Ms. Chazin went through the general talent cycle throughout year and explained how the school helps retain teachers. Talent recruitment starts in November and the school partners with other organizations that allow the school to source candidates who do not have certifications, but are pursuing teaching, career changers and teachers who are aligned with the school's mission.
- b Equity Audit- The school will be conducting an equity audit, a comprehensive benchmarking tool that assesses diversity, equity, and inclusion for schools and will provide our school with a baseline assessment of areas of strength, growth and opportunity that we will define and collaborate on together in development of a long-term plan. Surveys will be distributed to staff, students and families, and all school policies will be analyzed. The results will be used to develop short-term and long-term goals re: sustaining strengths and addressing gaps.
- c Discussion: Chapters 4-7 of White Fragility- The group discussed the assigned reading and ways to talk to students about race and social change and finding ways to push for social change.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
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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	X	
Charles Freyer	X		Gail Singer	X	
Robert Fox			Blair Stambaugh	X	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Wayne Weisman	X	
Esther Kaplin	X		Bonnie Young	X	

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

- 1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous- None**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OLD BUSINESS

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.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is expected that the Board will go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, legal matters and facility negotiation matters. No executive session was held.

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

- 1. Next Board meeting- Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

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	X	
Charles Freyer	X		Gail Singer	X	
Robert Fox			Blair Stambaugh	X	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Wayne Weisman	X	
Esther Kaplin	X		Bonnie Young	X	