



## Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – 4:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 845 2325 8204

Password: 740500

Dial in: 646 558 8656

### 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.

### II. ROLL CALL

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

Also participating were John Amenda, Ellyn Saft, Kevin Corcoran, Katherine Lamilla, Becca Chazin, Kristin Tini, Shakira Smith and Beth Birnkrant. Mr. Churchill called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Amenda to review the agenda and make his presentation

### III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### 1. Executive Director

- a Dashboard review-Mr. Amenda reviewed the Dashboard highlighting the deficit in math, but pointing to strong teacher attendance, student attendance of 93% (there is some consistent student truancy for students in online learning and extensive interventions are in place), and the addition of E-Sports to engage students. He also reported that the high school admission process was well underway (HS counsellor has interviewed 85% of families), so that all application deadlines for various high schools should be able to be met.
- b Road Back Committee- Reopening update YSCS is scheduled to reopen our Learning Center for special needs and disengaged students on February 1, with some in person teaching for the general student body on March 1 (tentative). Mr. Amenda recommended that we follow the guidance used by other schools that conditions reopening on a transmission rate of less than 5%. There was discussion of various rates of transmission, but the conclusion was to stay with 5% but also take into account the results of a parental survey about to be taken (both as to family disruption from COVID and willingness to send children to school).
- c Organizational health survey results-The Board reviewed the summary of results presented and questioned Mr. Amenda about teacher morale, which he said was quite good under the circumstances.

There is effective teaching going on, but different styles are being used by different teachers, speaking to a need to continue to align on effective teaching methods while virtual. He does intend to expand professional development efforts for teachers and the Instructional Leadership Team is leading those efforts. Surveys will be conducted quarterly in the future, responded to for organizational improvement and individual follow ups will be had with each manager and direct report to discuss responses.

- d Long-term facility planning. Mr Amenda reported that the other school facility on the block had recently been sold and that PSDC, our landlord, had the YSCS building up for sale at a price of \$6.5MM, substantially in excess of its true market value. We have the ability to stay in possession for up to 7 years under our current lease, but there are several opportunities to either buy the building now, or have a third party (CSDC or Canyon Agassi) buy it and lease it to use with an option to purchase. The Charter Schools Office has told Mr. Amenda that a relocation of YSCS would be cumbersome and properties are limited, which makes this decision both important and timely. The Building Committee will convene later this week to discuss the options and make recommendations.
- e School security insurance. Ms. Chazin reported that the carrier for this proposed coverage at a cost of \$4263 was highly rated by A.M. Best, but that other schools, while evaluating it, had yet to purchase it. At Mr. Churchill’s recommendation, the Board directed Ms. Chazin to bind the coverage.

**2. Finance & Audit Committee**

- a Financial summary Mr. Corcoran reported on the school’s strong financial condition, outlined in his printed report circulated to the Board
- b Financial statements
- c Finalized audit

**3. Development Committee**

- a 20-21 Fundraising results Ms. Saft reported that donations were strong, and that if we receive, as expected, a particular grant that is made to the school annually by a generous donor, we will exceed our goal for the year
- b Annual appeal

**4. School Performance Committee**

**5. High School Admissions Committee**

**6. Governance Committee** -There was general agreement that we need to identify a former YSCS student who has now completed college and recruit him or her to the Board. We also need to improve the diversity of the Board. To that end, Mr. Amenda will prepare and circulate a Board member job description to share with prospective recruits.

**7. DEI Committee**

- a Assigned reading discussion-Mr. Amenda stimulated discussion of the reading assignments
- b Equity audit preview-Surveys will be initiated in December and January to assess a variety of topics in the DEI space, and to identify our strengths and weaknesses, leveraging the resources from the Mid Atlantic Equity Consortium.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** The following resolution was adopted unanimously by the members present: **Resolved** that the minutes of the Regular session minutes from the October 28, 2020 meeting are hereby approved.

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

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

**V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

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

**VI. NEW BUSINESS -None presented**

**VII. OLD BUSINESS- None raised**

**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**

No Executive Session was deemed necessary

**XIII. IMPORTANT DATES**

1. Next Board meeting- Tuesday, January 19, 2021

**XIV. A MOTION TO ADJOURN was adopted unanimously by all members present**

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