



Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 – 4:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 873 7982 5500

Password: 421573

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. Mr. Churchill called the meeting to order at 4PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	X		Sanjeev Midha	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Alexandra Panichello	X	
Ira Brind	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Paul Bucco			Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi			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		

Present in addition were John Amenda, Kristin Tini, Becca Chazin, Elyn Saft, Kevin Corcoran, Mr. Stokes, Ms. Smith and Katherine Reinert

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Executive Director

- a Mr. Amenda began the meeting by introducing campaign speeches by candidates for and members of Student Council. He then referenced the dashboard and mentioned some key indications of the school's success despite COVID—93% attendance in online classes, 100% of students with internet access, continuation of computer science teaching and project-based learning, and the distribution of Pride Packs to facilitate student learning. Anti-bias training is moving ahead as is the availability of full-time nursing and therapeutics supports (on a remote basis) for students. Next Ms. Smith reported on progress with using data driven interventions to calibrate social and emotional supports for the kids; and on celebrations of and for the students. John built on her report, pointing out that in the professional development provided to faculty, it been decided to focus teaching on less subject matter but to address it in more depth, in light of the distractions inherent in remote learning to students of this age. Teachers are able to use the I-Ready software package to develop Personalized Growth Paths for each student, which assesses their academic growth by use of diagnostic data. This is particularly useful in helping students at the lowest academic levels in moving up in a short time. The package generates lesson plans and tracks for the students.

Mr. Amenda noted that moving parent conferences online had increased participation, and that high school placement efforts were moving forward apace, with 77 of 97 meetings with parents and students having been completed. Ms. Chazin noted that it will be hard to find replacement staff in this talent market, particularly if the school moves to a hybrid model.

- b **Road Back Committee-** Reopening update- Based on 262 responses, the results showed that about ¼ of the respondents had been adversely affected in their health or employment by COVID; and that over 50% would send their children back to school if it reopened for in person classes, if safe transportation could be arranged. Most importantly, only 6% of respondents felt that online learning was not successful. Current COVID statistics in Philadelphia are too high to permit reopening for all students, but the plan for bringing into school for in school instruction the 10-15% of students needing special attention (SPED, etc) is still going ahead beginning November 9, contingent upon positivity rates falling below 5%.
- c **School security insurance-** Ms. Chazin explained that this is extra liability coverage recommended by our broker to protect us in the event of an active shooter incident by providing counselling and crisis management services. The premium would be \$4200 annually using Indian Harbor Insurance. After some discussion, it was agreed that more investigation was needed; Mr. Brind volunteered to look into the coverage and cost.
- d **Employee Assistance Program options-** Ms. Chazin also reported on an Employee Assistance package, that would provide \$25K in life insurance for all staff and 5 counselling sessions for only \$1298, provided by Lincoln Insurance.

At this juncture, on a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Employee Assistance Insurance product from Lincoln Insurance at a cost of \$1298 annually is hereby approved and Mr. Amenda is directed to bind the coverage as soon as feasible and communicate this benefit to all staff.

2. Finance & Audit Committee

- a **Financial Summary-** Mr. Corcoran reported on financial matters, noting that the school received a clean audit (draft audit reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee), with only one minor recommendation in the auditors' management letter (the school will implement it); Young Scholars had \$1.3MM in cash at year end, after a generating net income of \$337K in 2019. He also noted that the school was on budget at the end of Q1

3. Development Committee

- a 2020-21 Fundraising Results- Ms. Saft reported that the school was doing very well this year, as had been the case last year. Materials for the annual appeal have been distributed and donor communications are planned

4. **School Performance Committee-** No report this month, other than what Mr. Amenda had already covered.

5. High School Admissions Committee-

- a **Progress, outlook and challenges-** Mr. Amenda had covered this topic as well.

6. **Governance Committee-** No report this month

7. **DEI Committee-** The committee, composed of Ms. Kaplin, Ms. Hanraty and Ms. Dwirantwi, has met and decided to commission an equity audit managed by an outside facilitator, with the intention of developing a 3-5 year plan to advance the mandate of the committee.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the September 10, 2020 meeting. On motion duly made and seconded the following was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that this Board hereby adopts and approves the Regular session minutes from the September 10, 2020 meeting.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	X		Sanjeev Midha	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Alexandra Panichello	X	
Ira Brind	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Paul Bucco			Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi			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		

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous

On a motion duly made and seconded the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Employee Assistance Program is hereby adopted and approved, as is the amendment to the Health and Safety Plan authorizing the School's Limited Capacity Learning Center.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	X		Sanjeev Midha	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Alexandra Panichello	X	
Ira Brind	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Paul Bucco			Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi			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		

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.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION- None required.

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

1. Next Board meeting- Tuesday, December 8, 2020

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN- The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	X		Sanjeev Midha	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Alexandra Panichello	X	
Ira Brind	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Paul Bucco			Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi			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		