



Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2020 – 4:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 871 5359 7767 Password: FPih9h Dial in: 1 646 558 8656; 498983

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

Additionally present and participating were John Amenda, Becca Chazin, Shakira Smith, Ellyn Saft and Kristin Tini from YSCS and Kevin Corcoran from Charter Choices.

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Executive Director

a 2020-21 Reopening and Readiness Update

Mr. Amenda began by reporting on parental appreciation for the school's ability to organize to serve kids virtually in the Spring and now again in the Fall. He noted that the 95-98% attendance online so far this Fall demonstrated parental interest and satisfaction. 100% of our students have computers and internet access. Both 7th and 8th grade classes are stable from last year. There were some withdrawals of new 6th graders but the spaces were filled from our waiting list. There will be mandated instruction Mon-Fri this year, which is different from last Spring. The school has distributed PRIDE packs for the quarter, and almost all kids have picked them up. There will be 40+ hours of Equity and Anti-Bias training during the year. Full time virtual nursing and counseling services will be provided. The Paycheck program has been restructured to reward academic engagement.

The earliest switch to a hybrid environment would be October 28, subject to further reviews; and teachers may be asked to teach from their classrooms if appropriate.

The school conducted a Family Survey: 30% of families have health directly impacted by COVID, and 60% are impacted financially. 88% of families rated YSCS as 'good' or 'excellent' in supporting learning. 88% of families want YSCS closed until significant health risk is past, but 52% might be interested in some in person presence of kids at school, due to child-care concerns.

In answer to a Board member question, John reported that meals are available at the school for all kids and the school will consider deliveries to families (by region)

- b 2020-21 Priorities and Evergreen Goals Discussion: Priorities are academic recovery and accelerated growth (involving more specific interventions based on data, and more feedback to students); and anti-racism (social and emotional support; 40 hours of staff training; school committee; and project based learning)
Evergreen Goals will be the same as last year, per the School Performance Committee recommendation
- c High School Placement Director Introduction: Devon Buchanan will serve in this role this year. He reported that 66 of 102 families had already scheduled meetings with him, pending an application deadline of November 1 (High School Fair); unanimous agreement that the Board High School Placement Committee should be continued.
- d Anti-Racism Update and DEI Committee Establishment: John reviewed the work and structure of the staff Committee and their efforts to embed anti-racism (systemic racism and white supremacy as it may appear in education settings) in the curriculum wherever appropriate. External consultant engaged to help with this effort.
- e Mr. Churchill solicited interest in the establishment of a Board DEI Committee; volunteers for the Committee included Blair Stambaugh, Valerie Hanraty, Dana Dwirantwi, Esther Kaplin and himself.
- f John proposed the development of a Board Planning and Engagement Calendar, which received broad support from the Board.

2. Finance & Audit Committee

- a Financial Summary-Mr. Corcoran reported that the school was is a good place financially at the moment with a strong bank balance and the annual audit proceeding well. It was decided that YSCS need not change auditor firm, but should change audit partners every 5-7 years (not timely as yet)
- b Financial Statements

3. Development Committee

- a 2020-21 YTD Results-already at 80% of \$250,000 goal; further report in the Dropbox

4. School Performance Committee

- a 2020-2021 Goals-See report provided in Dropbox

5. High School Admissions Committee

- a Devon Buchanan introduction-Mr. Buchanan introduced himself and took questions, as noted above.

6. Governance Committee-no report

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the June 9, 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		X	Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi	X		Renee Rosenbluth	X	
James Egan		X	Valerie Schwartz	X	
Charles Freyer	X		Gail Singer		X
Robert Fox		X	Blair Stambaugh	X	

Valerie Hanraty	X		Wayne Weisman	X	
Esther Kaplin	X		Bonnie Young	X	

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous

On a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the 2020-2021 HR Handbook and 2020-2021 Student and Family Handbook are hereby approved as presented to the Board; that the Anti-Semitism Resolution previously taken by consent of the Board is hereby ratified; that the Goals for academic year 2020-21 will remain the same as they were in 2019-20; and that a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee shall be established as a standing committee of this Board, with such membership and mission as is from time to time approved by the Board.

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. One YSCS faculty member attended the meeting virtually.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A brief Executive Session was held to discuss personnel matters

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

1. Next Board meeting- Wednesday, October 28, 2020

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN On motion duly made and seconded and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6PM.

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