



Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 – 4:00 PM

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		Alexandra Panichello	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Ira Brind		x	Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi	X		Renee Rosenbluth	X	
James Egan		x	Valerie Schwartz	X	
Charles Freyer	X		Blair Stambaugh	X	
Robert Fox		x	Wayne Weisman	X	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Bonnie Young	X	
Kevin Kan		x			
Sanjeev Midha	x				

Additionally, John Amenda, Becca Chazin, Kevin Corcoran, Ellyn Saft, Kristen Tini, and Katherine Reinert attended the meeting. Today's meeting followed a 20-minute Meet and Greet session attended by the Board members present and the YSCS academic staff.

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Churchill recommended that Gail Singer be elected to the Board, giving a strong personal endorsement of her and her past service to YSCS. He also announced that he had earlier in the day received the resignation from the Board of Kevin Kan. Accordingly the following motion was made, seconded and adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, (i) that on the occasion of his resignation, this Board extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to Kevin Kan for his years of dedicated service and many contributions of time, wisdom and resources to Young Scholars Charter School, this Board and its committees. Kevin will always be welcome at YSCS, and the members of this Board look forward to his visits to observe the continued progress of the school for which he helped lay the foundation; and (ii) that on the recommendation of Chairman Win Churchill, Gail Singer is hereby elected to become a member of this board with an assignment to a committee of this Board to be made in the near future.

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Executive Director Updates- John Amenda

- a **2019-2020 Priorities and Start of School Updates-** Mr. Amenda gave the update report, referencing the Curriculum Guide distributed in advance to the Board, which stresses the Vision behind this year's curriculum, as revised in several respects around both academic and character education, in order to firmly place our students on a college/career readiness track.
- b **Evergreen Goals and Power Goals-** He then discussed the YSCS Impact 2019-2020 report in detail, explaining the key goals of the school: (i) providing the most comprehensive educational experience

to our students and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the program; and (ii) reclaiming YSCS' position as the top public middle school in Philadelphia.

To get there, among other things YSCS now has a 10 to 1 staff ratio, the lowest in the school's history; and has made investments in new curricula; as well as added instructional supports and increased preparation time for teachers. Specific annual and POWER goals around student proficiency in math, language arts and science have been set and are reflected in the Impact 2019-2020 report. High attendance (YSCS is fully enrolled with a 600 student wait list) and low suspension rates are also part of the plan.

Mr. Amenda then reviewed comparative results for YSCS against results achieved by the its charter school peers, The District and statewide in Pennsylvania, across each of the grades offered by YSCS, and identified positive trends but also room for improvement. Asst Principals Shakira Smith and Beth Birnkrant joined the Board to give their observations regarding their respective areas of responsibility. Finally, Mr. Amenda reviewed key take-aways for the Board, including the new recess area, increased emphasis on teacher professional development, the results of losing District bussing (minimal [6-7 students] negative impact from the loss of busses for the most part, and improved student engagement due to 8:40am start), the school's inability to provide class in Spanish due to the resignation of the Spanish teacher, the Drexel summer residency program and proposed Charter Law revisions.

At the end of his presentation, the following resolution was made, seconded and approved unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Goals for 2019-2020 put before this Board by Mr. Amenda are hereby adopted and approved.

2. Finance & Audit Committee

- a **Financial Summary-** Mr. Corcoran of Charter Choices reviewed the FY2018-19 financial results, characterizing them as 'strong'; reported on the smooth progress to date of the annual audit; and predicted a positive financial outlook for 2019-20 due to a sizable projected increase in reimbursement rates. The school's fund balance increased by almost \$460,000 over the just ended fiscal year.
- b **Financial Statements**

3. Development Committee

- a **Fundraising Update - YTD Results-** Pledges toward the fiscal 2020 goal of \$250K are already approaching \$200K, with the Fall Celebration still ahead
- b **2019 Fall Celebration-** Plans for the event on October 15 are well underway, and it promises to be a great success.

4. School Performance Committee

- a **2019-2020 Goals-** This subject having been covered by Mr. Amenda in his report, no further report was offered by the Committee.

5. High School Admissions Committee- This committee having met right before the Board meeting, Ms. Stambaugh reported on the fine work already done by high school counselor Mario Dattilo in identifying high performing students poised for independent school admissions, and his efforts on their behalf in meeting with them and their parents.

6. Governance Committee- No report

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES The following motion was duly made, seconded and adopted unanimously:
RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the Regular session minutes of the June 5, 2019 meeting.

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

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous

- a. 2019-20 Amended Budget
- b. HR Handbook 2019-20
- c. Student & Family Handbook 2019-20

The following motion was duly made, seconded and adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the 2019-20 Amended Budget, HR Handbook 2019-20, and Student and Family Handbook 2019-20, in the form put before an reviewed by this Board.

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

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

It is expected that the Board will go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, legal matters and facility negotiation matters. A brief Executive Session was held.

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

1. 2019 Fall Celebration- Tuesday, October 15, 2019
2. Next Board Meeting- Monday, October 7, 2019

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

XV. The following motion was duly made, seconded and adopted unanimously:

Resolved, its business having been conducted, this meeting is hereby adjourned at 5:20 pm.

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