



Regular Meeting Agenda
 Tuesday, December 3, 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		Lois Pressman	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Tom Rebar	X	
Ira Brind	X		Renee Rosenbluth		
Dana Dwirantwi			Valerie Schwartz		
James Egan			Gail Singer	X	
Charles Freyer	X		Blair Stambaugh	X	
Robert Fox			Wayne Weisman	X	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Bonnie Young	X	
Sanjeev Midha	X				
Alexandra Panichello					

Also in attendance were John Amenda, Becca Chazin, Kristen Tini, Kevin Corcoran, Shakira Smith, Beth Birnkrant, Katherine Reinert, Elyn Saft and Mario Dattilo, as well as Anthony Bellmon (YSCS 2004) who is considering a role as Board liaison to YSCS alumni.

Mr. Churchill called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Amenda introduced his team and Mr. Bellmon.

Election of New Directors:

RESOLVED, that Paul Bucco and Esther Kaplin are hereby, on motion duly made and seconded, unanimously elected as Directors of Young Scholars Charter School, with immediate effect.

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

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Executive Director Updates

- a **Update from Expressive Arts Team-** Mr. Dattilo, Mr. Buchanan (Student Life/Athletics) and Ms. Caposecco (Art) presented. Some of the high points included the fact that 1/3 of the YSCS students are now engaged in athletics, and perhaps more could be if there was more money for transportation to the Phield House. Mr. Dattilo's placement efforts are bearing fruit, with a number of our eighth graders in the running for admission to independent schools and Cristo Rey, and other independent schools taking notice of YSCS. Spanish is returning to YSCS starting next week. There are 13 members of Student Council. YSCS now has 95 Expedition partners around the city, and the program is now driven by curricular connections (career, arts, service). Our eighth graders will travel to DC in the Spring.
- b **Dashboard Review/Power Goals-** Mr. Amenda reviewed the current Dashboard, and compared it to prior years at this time, noting all measures were green or yellow. His comments included: YSCS' target this year is to significantly reduce the % of below basic students; student attendance has been good, although there are a lot of tardys and attrition has been higher due to the lack of bussing; online grades have reduced attendance at parent teacher conferences, but he will investigate doing that by Facetime.
- c **Advocacy Update-** Efforts to cut funding to charter schools has been stymied in Harrisburg.
- d **Superintendent's Academy-** Mr. Amenda talked about his Action Learning Project during the Superintendents' Academy. He received kudos in the Superintendent's Academy for his success in integrating some models from high performing European countries at YSCS and PRCS in his project.
- e **Fall 2020 Fundraising Early Discussion-** The group concluded that we need a fundraiser next fall with a focus on academic achievement.
- f **Enrollment Data Analysis-** YSCS has one more year to fully enroll all three grades, after the addition of the additional seats, after which it will only overenroll to counter historic measures of attrition.
- g **Fresh food options for students-** More fresh salad options are being offered to the students this year; most kids are on free breakfast and lunch.

2. Finance & Audit Committee

- a **Financial Summary-** Mr. Corcoran reported that our 2018-2019 audit is clean and that we added \$457K to our Fund balance last year. He projects a further increase of \$150K this year.
- b **Financial Statements**

3. Development Committee

- a **Fundraising Update - YTD Results and Development Report-** We have exceeded the Annual Fund goal and if all pledges are collected will do the same in our overall goal for the year already.

4. **School Performance Committee-** There was a discussion about the expanded Special Education program (4 teachers plus counselors, etc.) and costs for services offered at YSCS and by outplacement.

5. **High School Admissions Committee-** Dr. Dattilo reported at the outset of the meeting.

6. **Governance Committee-** New Board members had been vetted by the Committee.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the October 7, 2019 meeting.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Tom Rebar	X	
Ira Brind	X		Renee Rosenbluth		
Dana Dwirantwi			Valerie Schwartz		
James Egan			Gail Singer	X	
Charles Freyer	X		Blair Stambaugh	X	

Robert Fox			Wayne Weisman	X	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Bonnie Young	X	
Sanjeev Midha	X		Paul Bucco	x	
Alexandra Panichello			Esther Kaplin	X	

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous

BE IT RESOLVED, by authority of the Board of Trustees of the Young Scholars Charter School, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that John Amenda, who is the Executive Director of the above named body is authorized and directed to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses(hereinafter collectively referred to as contract(s))with the Pennsylvania Department of Education(Department); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body consents to the use of electronic signatures by the above named individual and that no handwritten signature from the above named individual shall be required in order for any contract with the Department to be legally enforceable and that by affixing his/her electronic signature to an electronic file of the contract via the Department’s e-grants system, the above designated authorized individual shall have effectively executed and delivered the contract, binding the Young Scholars Charter School to comply with the terms of said contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no writing shall be required in order to make the contract valid and legally binding, provided that the Department and all other necessary Commonwealth approvers affix their signatures electronically and an electronically-printed copy of the Contract is e-mailed or is otherwise made available to the body by electronic means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will not contest the due authorization, execution, delivery, validity or enforceability of the electronic Contract under the provisions of a statute of frauds or any other applicable law. The Contract, if introduced as evidence on paper in any judicial, arbitration, mediation, or administrative proceedings, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other business records originated and maintained in documentary form and the admissibility thereof shall not be contested under either the business records exception to the hearsay rule or the best evidence rule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will notify the Department’s Bureau of Management Services promptly in the event that the above named individual is no longer authorized to execute agreements on behalf of the body electronically and that the Department shall be entitled to rely upon the above named officer’s authority to execute agreements electronically on behalf of the body until such notice is received by the Department’s Office of Chief Counsel.

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

No member of the public attended the meeting.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A brief Executive Session occurred in which members noted how much the restructuring of senior staff had accomplished for the school and for John Amenda.

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

1. Next Board Meeting- Tuesday, January 14, 2020

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

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