



Regular Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, January 14, 2020 – 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	Phone		Sanjeev Midha	Phone	
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	Phone	
Charles Freyer	X		Gail Singer		X
Robert Fox		X	Blair Stambaugh	Phone	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Wayne Weisman		X
Esther Kaplin	X		Bonnie Young		X

Also in attendance were John Amenda, Becca Chazin, Kristen Tini, Kevin Corcoran, Katherine Reinert, Ellyn Saft and Mario Dattilo.

Mr. Churchill, who was on the phone, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and turned it over to Mr Rebar who was present at the meeting to chair it. Mr. Amenda introduced Mr. Stokes, Assistant Principal for Student Supports and Special Education, who has been at the school for 6 years. Mr. Stokes introduced 6 members of his team who described their roles and duties and took questions from the Board. He noted there were also contract specialists in several areas on the team.

Mr. Dattilo offered his report on high school placement, noting that 84% of the 83-8th grade has an acceptable placement. 67 placements were in District magnet and special schools and 3 were in parochial high schools. Some of the remaining 13 students are awaiting word on their applications to independent schools, expected in early to mid -February. Others will be assisted in applying to charter high schools

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Executive Director Updates

- a **Special Education Team Intro-** See above.
- b **Dashboard Review/Power Goals-** Mr. Amenda reviewed the dashboard, noting that test results are pending, but highlighting the positive variances as to unexcused absences (much better than last years) and low percentage of students with suspensions.
- c **PAWS for People Request-** This is a program to support students during stressful times, particularly standardized testing. The charity brings in dogs to help the students relax. John asked for donors to authorize a portion of their gifts being redirected to support the cost of this program.

2. Finance & Audit Committee

- a **Financial Summary-** Kevin Corcoran reported on a healthy financial picture, including the 3.4% margin (profit) achieved by the school so far this academic year, and the cash reserve of \$800,000 on hand (enough to cover cash needs for two months). He and Ms. Reinert also described in some detail the PA EITC program and circulated lists of approved businesses that Board members could approach if they have contacts in any of them. That list will be circulated to the entire Board.

- b **Financial Statements**

3. Development Committee

- a **Fundraising Update-** YTD Results and Development Report-as indicated in the dashboard, we have more than met our target for the year, thanks to the successful fundraiser in the Fall, a \$45K grant from the Perkins Foundation, and two grants from Harrisburg—a Safe Schools grant and a Smart grant that will pay for new computer equipment and training for staff. Mr. Churchill noted that a grant from PSP to support our new seats until they are filled by new students was still possible.
- b Ellyn Saft reported that the Fall 2020 event will likely be held the week of October 14 with a focus on STEM. The Committee and staff will be working this Spring to engage with new and potential donors attracted by the Fall 2019 event.

4. School Performance Committee- A report was submitted by the Committee and is included in the materials for the meeting.

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

6. Governance Committee- Nothing to report.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the December 3, 2019 meeting.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	Phone		Sanjeev Midha	Phone	
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	Phone	
Charles Freyer	X		Gail Singer		X
Robert Fox		X	Blair Stambaugh	Phone	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Wayne Weisman		X
Esther Kaplin	X		Bonnie Young		X

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous- NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS- NONE

VII. OLD BUSINESS- NONE

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT- No members of the public attended.

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, in which members commented on how much improvement was visible at the school this year

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

1. Next Board Meeting- Tuesday, March 10, 2020

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	Phone		Sanjeev Midha	Phone	
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	Phone	
Charles Freyer	X		Gail Singer		X
Robert Fox		X	Blair Stambaugh	Phone	
Valerie Hanraty	X		Wayne Weisman		X
Esther Kaplin	X		Bonnie Young		X