



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 – 4:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 841 9111 0012

Password: 130164

Dial in: +1 646 558 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.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were John Amenda, Elyn Saft, Kevin Corcoran, Becca Chazin, Kristen Tini, Katherine Reinert, Beth Birnkrant, Shakira Smith, and members of the YSCS Social Studies team. The whole YSCS team joined at the beginning of the call to be congratulated by Mr. Churchill and the entire Board for the team's hard work and determination.

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Executive Director

- a Social Studies Content Team Introduction- The Social Studies content team introduced themselves. They talked about what they were working on, class priorities, and successes. Beth Birnkrant talked about the cohesive curriculum, teacher created materials, and the focus on writing through the social studies lens. To focus on writing, the content team is working with ELA teachers to improve writing across the curriculum. Moving forward, the team would like to make the curriculum more culturally relevant. They also talked about the shift to digital learning and what has been successful and challenging. They continued with a strong daily structure and stayed consistent with what they did in the regular classroom. A challenge has been fostering student discourse and debate. Next year, they would like to figure out how to work with local officials and participate in more community initiatives.
- b Distance Learning / Continuing Education Update- John Amenda went through the timeline of the distance learning process. On April 14, the staff shifted from review to continuing through curriculum. Report card conferences are happening virtually for Quarter 3. Families have appreciated the consistent structure and routine. Staff has had contact with 100% of families. The school purchased additional technology devices to ensure all students were connected. The staff was given a stipend for internet usage and 60% of them returned the stipend for a family assistance fund. Mr. Amenda also went through the daily schedule structure. Teachers are prerecording lessons and then going through them with students. He then discussed distance learning engagement statistics, highlighting

high attendance rates and strong student engagement. Mr. Amenda then talked about best practices and continuous improvements, including daily review of classroom practices, shifting focus on work quality and report card conferences. He concluded that the team is in good health overall. He conducted a “pulse survey” to see how staff was feeling about current situation. He also talked about 2020-21 planning. The school is anticipating state cuts and needs to raise funds to sustain programs and student supports. The school year will still begin on August 19th, whether that is online or in person. Different options for the school opening were discussed, including alternate schedules and distance learning.

- c Summer School Programming- The school is planning to offer summer school. They are prioritizing the program to be for 100 6th graders, as well as an enrichment opportunity for 7th and 8th graders. The program will also be used as remediation for students who are struggling and to help them move forward.
- d Re-Opening Options and Early Planning- Mr. Amenda went over this when giving the distance learning update.
- e 20-21 Event and fundraising- There will be no Fall event for reasons of uncertainty with the current situation. Ellyn Saft talked about how fundraising needs to sustain the school’s programs and secure students’ futures. Board members were encouraged to communicate with friends and families about the school. Mr. Churchill asked for 100% board participation.
- f SDP to now Eliminate Buses for 6th Grade- Mr. Amenda received a notification that the district is taking buses away from 5-6th graders which was addressed to 3 schools. District officials put together the following policy- if a student attends a K-8th school, buses will be available and if the student attends just a stand-alone 6-8th middle school then school buses will not be available. Mr. Amenda will be following up with the school’s attorney and figuring out how to get bus transportation for YSCS students.

2. Finance & Audit Committee

- a Financial Summary- Kevin Corcoran talked about this year’s financials year to date.
- b Financial Statements
- c 20-21 Draft Budget and Anticipated Impact of COVID-19- Items have been reduced in the budget to prepare for the next 2 years.
- d Balance Sheet

3. Development Committee

4. School Performance Committee

5. High School Admissions Committee

6. Governance Committee

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Regular session minutes from the March 10, 2020 and April 2, 2020 meetings of this Board are hereby approved.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	X		Sanjeev Midha	X	
Emily Ashe			Alexandra Panichello		
Ira Brind	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Paul Bucco			Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi			Renee Rosenbluth	X	
James Egan	X		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	X	
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V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous

- a. Charter Resolution- Opposing budget cuts
- b. 2020-21 Budget
- c. 2020-21 Staff Salaries as represented in budget
- d. 2020-21 School Calendar

On a motion made and duly seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: *RESOLVED*, that the Charter Resolution, 2020-21 Budget, 2020-21 Staff Salaries, and 2020-21 School Calendar are hereby approved as presented.

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

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 and Mr. Amenda reviewed and discussed school business, which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

- 1. Next Board Meeting- Tuesday, June 9, 2020

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Dana Dwirantwi			Renee Rosenbluth	X	
James Egan	X		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	X	