



Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – 4:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

<https://phillyscholars-org.zoom.us/j/82553511853>

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 J. Churchill	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Tom Rebar	x	
Ira Brind	x		Valerie Schwartz	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Gail Singer		x
Valerie Hanraty	x		Blair Stambaugh		x
Esther Kaplin		x	Wayne Weisman	x	
Sanjeev Midha	x- late		Bonnie Young	x	
Alexandra Panichello	x				

Also present- John Amenda, Becca Chazin, Katherine Lamilla, Kevin Corcoran, Charles Freyer, Ellyn Saft, Kristen Tini, Ed Diasio, Esq. (joined at 4:30pm)

Following roll call, the board watched a welcome video from Co-Principals, Beth Birnkrant and Shakira Smith. Teachers are passionate and committed as we navigate the opening under unprecedented conditions but do so with care and joy. Priorities include making instruction more relevant and project-based (partnering with Next Generation Learning Challenges), stabilizing enrollment and strengthening attendance, helping students acclimate to in-person learning, continuing COVID mitigation efforts. Staff relaunched sports and the school is partnering with the Phield House again for athletics and phys ed.

RESOLVED, that on the occasion of Renee' Rosenbluth's resignation and James Egan's conclusion of service, this Board extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to Renee' and James for their years of dedicated service and many contributions of time, wisdom and resources to Young Scholars Charter School, this Board and its committees. Renee' and James will always be welcome at YSCS, and the members of this Board look forward to their visits to observe the continued progress of the school.

III. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS

Topic	Facilitator(s)	Committee Connection
Instructional Time Template and Instructional Delivery Models for Approval- Mr. Amenda discussed different models of learning (full in-person/asynchronous/hybrid/virtual) and about the school's plans to prepare for all models based on public health conditions. The	John Amenda	N/A

<p>Pennsylvania Department of Education is allowing School Boards to adopt resolutions that affirm that instruction can be delivered in multiple models should public health conditions require anything but full in person learning.</p>		
<p>Policy Reorganization Preview and Discussion of Policy Revision Processes- Last year, the Board provided feedback that members would like a better understanding of all policies. Additionally, the school is going to use Board on Track to better knowledge manage our policies. Ed Diasio, an attorney at Wisler Pearlstein, joined the meeting and discussed policy-related matters and general guidance for programming. He is currently working on an audit of the school’s policies and getting all policy language in a consistent format.</p>	<p>Ed Diasio (4:30 PM) John Amenda</p>	<p>Governance and Policy</p>
<p>Board Retreat Follow-up; Confirmation of Committee Chairs; Establishment of Next Steps Related to Committee Goal-setting and Recurring Series of Committee Meeting Times and Associated Responsibilities of Trustees and School Management- Next steps following the Board retreat were discussed at this time. YSCS staff member will take minutes at each committee call, help with agendas, set annual goals and schedule all meetings. Mr. Churchill confirmed the committee members and chairs and discussed the Board’s role in preparing for the school’s next renewal in a year. Accordingly, the following motions were made, seconded and adopted unanimously: RESOLVED, (i) all committees and committee chairs are confirmed; and (ii) an ad hoc committee for the school renewal will be established with Mr. Churchill as Committee Chair and Wayne Weisman as a committee member.</p>	<p>Winston J. Churchill John Amenda Committee Members</p>	<p>Governance and Policy</p>
<p>Financial Summary and Statements- Mr. Corcoran gave an update on financial statements and the financial summary. The school started the fiscal year in a strong financial position. A draft report of the audit will be ready in late October.</p>	<p>Kevin Corcoran Tom Rebar Wayne Weisman</p>	<p>Finance</p>
<p>2021-2022 Annual Campaign- Mr. Churchill shared information about the 2021-2022 Annual Campaign and asked Trustees for annual contributions to support the mission of YSCS. He</p>	<p>Winston J. Churchill</p>	<p>Development</p>

also talked about engaging corporations and/or foundations that could accelerate the school's building project fundraising efforts.		
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IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- The following resolution was made, duly seconded and approved unanimously:
Resolved that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the June 8, 2021 meeting.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston J. Churchill	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Tom Rebar	x	
Ira Brind	x		Valerie Schwartz	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Gail Singer		x
Valerie Hanraty	x		Blair Stambaugh		x
Esther Kaplin		x	Wayne Weisman	x	
Sanjeev Midha	x- late		Bonnie Young	x	
Alexandra Panichello	x				

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous- The following matters and documents, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, were approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:

- a 2021-2022 HR Handbook
- b 2021-2022 Student and Family Handbook
- c Dissolution of Young Scholars Educational Opportunities Foundation
- d Conclusion of Service of James Egan as Board of Trustee Member, effective March 25, 2021
- e Confirmation of Wayne Weisman as Board Secretary to replace Charles Freyer
- f BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby expresses its support and approval of the administration adopting a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees and the addition of such policy to the 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan
- g Instructional Time Template Resolution

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston J. Churchill	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Tom Rebar	x	
Ira Brind	x		Valerie Schwartz	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Gail Singer		x
Valerie Hanraty	x		Blair Stambaugh		x
Esther Kaplin		x	Wayne Weisman	x	
Sanjeev Midha	x- late		Bonnie Young	x	
Alexandra Panichello	x				

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.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

1. Next Board meeting- Tuesday, October 26, 2021
2. Next Board Retreat- Friday, November 5, 2021

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston J. Churchill	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Tom Rebar	x	
Ira Brind	x		Valerie Schwartz	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Gail Singer		x
Valerie Hanraty	x		Blair Stambaugh		x
Esther Kaplin		x	Wayne Weisman	x	
Sanjeev Midha	x- late		Bonnie Young	x	
Alexandra Panichello	x				