

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 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. **The meeting was called to order at 4PM.**

### II. ROLL CALL

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

In addition, those present included John Amenda, Katherine Reinert and Mario Dattilo from YSCS and Kevin Corcoran from Charter Choices.

### III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### 1. Executive Director Updates

- a **Dashboard** - John highlighted positive academic growth as a result of the change to 50-minute math and reading periods in January 2019, and the expected further improvement from the more specialized math interventions coming in Fall 2019 as a result of the realignment of the math team; he also noted that the increase in short-term suspensions was a result of tightening up on behavior standards this year. John explained that as a result of the new PSP driven city-wide application process, YSCS' waiting list exceeded 800, but that some families whose older children had graduated from YSCS were no longer eligible for preference in the admittance of younger children. John agreed to seek a waiver or change in that procedure to allow for sibling preference.
- b **2019-2020 Calendar** - Approved after short discussion of the 183-day school year and expanded summer program
- c **School Bus Transportation** - John recounted the conversation he had had several months ago with the head of transportation at the District in which he was told verbally that YSCS would be grandfathered for bussing because the decision to provide bussing to certain Northeast Philadelphia schools but not to YSCS was somewhat arbitrary; but the verbal promise was never confirmed despite his requests for such confirmation. Ira suggested he visit the head of transportation as soon as possible and seek to get the necessary confirmation, pointing to the need to inform parents and staff of the plan for next year. Should the confirmation not be forthcoming, a lawyer letter will follow in quick succession.

- d **2019-2020 Daily Schedule and Staffing Model** - Several models have been considered and discussed with staff. The one deemed best is for school to start at 8:30 and dismiss at 3:40, with interventions at the end of the day, rather than the beginning. There was discussion and strong Board support for the idea of John stepping back from day to day operations to devote more time to strategic planning and curricular review, which will be possible as a result of elevating his most experienced staff to roles such as principal, assistant principal and coaches for newer teachers. John also noted that with a special ed population running at the same percentage as at the District, he was having to devote more tools and space to special support for these students—especially those who are emotionally disturbed.

**2. Finance & Audit Committee**

- a **Financial Summary** - Kevin Corcoran reviewed the school’s current financial condition and noted it was quite strong relative to recent years. The fund balance now is about \$570,000 and is projected to reach \$870,000 by year end.
- b **Financial Statements**

**3. Development Committee**

- a **Development Report** - YTD Results - John reviewed the strong results so far this year, as outlined in the Board package.
- b **2019-20 Fundraising Campaign** - He also reviewed the fundraising priorities for 2019-20, but clarified that the services identified as the basis for support would be provided to students as needed, with fundraising in effect reimbursing the school for these expenditures.
- c **PSP Growth Grant Update** - John reported that PSP has held up certain desired funding because of YSCS overall academic test scores, rather than its much more impressive academic growth scores. John hopes to resolve that issue with future test scores, and also in part in connection with the expanded summer program involving Drexel students which PSP is supporting.

**4. School Performance Committee – No report**

**5. High School Admissions Committee**

- a **Acceptance Review** - Mario Dattilo reported on his success in securing high school acceptances for all but one student (issue there is the mother wanting the student to attend school close to home), including several independent school placements (Shiple, Haverford and GFS) and 5-8 admittances to CTE (Votech) programs with the agreement of the students’ parents.

**6. Governance Committee – No report**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Resolved that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the January 30, 2019 meeting.

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

**V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

**1. Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous**

- a. 2019-20 Calendar
- b. YSCS Compensation Strategy

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

**VI. NEW BUSINESS** - A request for a Board calendar for 2019-20 was made; it will be prepared and circulate for Board review.

**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. **No members of the public were in attendance.**

**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 short executive session was held. John will clarify with the District how the subject matter discussed is to be reflected in the minutes.**

**XIII. IMPORTANT DATES**

- 1. Next Board meeting – May 8, 2019

**XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

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