

**Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, May 8, 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		Alexandra Panichello	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Ira Brind	X		Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi	X		Renee Rosenbluth	X	
James Egan		X	Valerie Schwartz		X
Charles Freyer	X		Miriam Spector		X
Robert Fox		X	Blair Stambaugh	X	
Valerie Hanraty		X	Wayne Weisman	X	
Kevin Kan		X	Bonnie Young	X	
Sanjeev Midha	X				

Also participating were John Amenda, Kevin Corcoran from Charter Choices, Ellyn Saft, Katherine Reinert, Mario Dattilo

**III. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**1. Executive Director Updates- John Amenda**

- a **Dashboard-** John emphasized that the growth target for Math had already been exceeded, and that for reading was moving in the right direction; he expects testing results to meet this year’s targets as well; All measures are in the Green or at worst in Yellow. Importantly, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been accepted to a good high school
- b **School Bus Transportation-** Despite a number of verbal assurances that we could retain District bussing for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the District has terminated the person who offered those assurances but refused to put them in writing. We are told that all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have to use TransPasses, even if siblings in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are being bussed. This policy could impose a special hardship on SPED students. We anticipate the loss of students if they have to take multiple SEPTA lines to get to school, and/or transfer at unsafe stations. We are trying to determine if this SEPTA requirement is actually being applied equitably across the board. We are anticipating petitioning the PA Secretary of Education for relief if we determine that the policy is not being equitably applied and/or on the basis that this change in policy will expose a number of children to physical danger and is therefor a denial of their right to the education guaranteed to them by law. YSCS counsel reviewed the options open to the school with the Board by phone. A Board subcommittee will be formed to support Mr. Amenda in his efforts to remedy this situation before the start of the next school year.
- c **Summer Program-** PSP is again providing funding to enable Drexel’s student teacher summer program to be in residence at YSCS, as they did last year. The program will provide remedial

support to a number of current YSCS students, as well as its incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders between July 8 and early August this summer.

- d **2019-20 Fundraising Campaign and Fall Event**- Thanks to the success of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event in Fall 2018, and some subsequent donations, the school has surpassed its development goals for the current academic year. Its campaign for 2019-20 will target a raise of \$200K focused on Student Wellness- “Healthy Inside and Out” encompassing student health services, summer enrichment, sports, emotional support programming, emergency student assistance (food/clothing insecurity), academic interventions and counselling services.
- e **Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2019-20**- a schedule of proposed Board meeting dates was circulated to the Board for approval.

**2. Finance & Audit Committee**

- a **Financial Summary**- Kevin Corcoran reported on the school’s comparatively strong financial position, in relation to years past, pending a projected year-end reconciliation with the District and the collection of the PRCS receivable. Cash is at close to \$450K, and the school has a net margin of 2.7% and a current ratio of 3.6X.
- b **Financial Statements**- Kevin reviewed the most recent financial statements that had been vetted at a Finance Committee meeting a week prior. An engagement letter from Barbacane, Thornton, and Company LLP for the 2019 audit is pending signature by the school.
- c **2019-20 Budget**- Kevin also reviewed the draft 2019-20 budget and took questions regarding it. It will up for final approval at the next meeting. An increase of \$235K in Fund Balance is being projected, but that could be exceeded depending on the District funding experience.

**3. Development Committee**

- a **Development Report**- YTD Results—The goal for this year was \$250K. At present we have collected \$432K and expect to end the year with a total of \$477,500 in donations.

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

**5. High School Admissions Committee**

- a **Acceptance Review**- as reported above

**6. Governance Committee**- the Committee will consider the nomination of Randy Summers (parent of a current YSCS student and an alumna; policeman) to become a Board member.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Resolved that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting. Adopted unanimously by all Board members participating.

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

**V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

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

- a. 2019 Auditors- Barbacane, Thornton & Company LLP

- b. 2019-20 Budget
  - c. 2019-20 Staff Salaries as represented in budget
- Adopted unanimously, as presented, by all Board members participating.

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

**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 involving the Board and Mr. Amenda was held in which Mr. Amenda was urged to proceed with the senior staff restructuring that has been discussed for some time, and that will reduce the number of his direct reports from 10+ to about 5. That was followed by a brief Executive Session involving only Board members.

**XIII. IMPORTANT DATES—All Board members were encouraged to attend the following:**

1. Career Day – Wednesday, May 15, 2019
2. Student Showcase – Thursday, May 30, 2019
3. Next Board meeting – Wednesday, June 5, 2019
4. Graduation – Wednesday, June 12, 2019—Penn Charter School

**XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Adopted unanimously by all Board members participating.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	X		Alexandra Panichello	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Ira Brind	X		Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi	X		Renee Rosenbluth	X	
James Egan			Valerie Schwartz		

Charles Freyer	X		Miriam Spector		
Robert Fox			Blair Stambaugh	X	
Valerie Hanraty			Wayne Weisman	X	
Kevin Kan			Bonnie Young	X	
Sanjeev Midha	X				