

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 5, 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, Becca Chazin, and Katherine Reinert.

In addition, we were joined at the start of the meeting by Assistant Principals Shakira Smith and Beth Birnkrant, who introduced themselves to the Board and summarized their duties (Achievement/Instructional Effectiveness and Student Support) under the new organization chart.

After calling the meeting to order, Mr. Weisman turned it over to Mr. Amenda to give his ED Update. He began by reviewing the school Mission and Vision Statements and the strong focus at the school on making breakthroughs in academic achievement over the next 3 years, through enhanced supports for both students and teachers, and increased clarity on measurements of achievement in all aspects of school operations.

### III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

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

- a **Dashboard-** The dashboard indicates that while growth is occurring the school is not satisfied with the rate of acceleration in math and reading achievement and will make targeted and aggressive improvements to curriculum and instruction in the upcoming school year; additionally, the introduction of additional coaches and teaching staff is intended to improve instructional delivery by teachers, a perennial problem due to staff turnover which the school is working to address and is showing progress with 97% staff retention for next year.
- b **Expeditions Highlights-** Turning next to the Highlights and Planning for 19-20 document, Mr. Amenda reviewed first some highlights from the year, including the almost 50 organizations which had hosted student Expeditions this year, as well as the success of Career Day, High School Admissions Day and the Sports Banquet attracting more than 70 families. He then reviewed in detail

the results of the school's SWOT analysis (attached) highlighting many strengths and opportunities, and the steps being taken to address the weaknesses and threats (including more prep time for teachers; more professional development time; twice as much time for student interventions; more teacher to teacher coaching; a new promising math program; and the presence of 3 Drexel student teachers in classrooms). Bottom line, the school will refocus itself on student achievement next year.

- c **School Bus Transportation-** John reported on the response from parents to the letter he had sent home last Friday about the District requirement that all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders take SEPTA to and from school, unless their IEP requires transportation; having a 6<sup>th</sup> grade sibling at YSCS or facing a particularly dangerous SEPTA experience could qualify a student for bussing on a case by case basis. 80% of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are affected. The response has been muted but not antagonistic. The school will, among other things, help facilitate carpools and the like at meetings over the summer, all in an effort to support families and reduce attrition due to transportation issues.
- d **Curriculum Guide 19-20-** Consistency is the watchword in the Curriculum Guide 2019-20 provided to the Board, in addition to the introduction of a new and more promising math curriculum.
- e **Dragon's Teach Middle Years + PRIDE Prep-** 3 new Drexel student teachers in classrooms starting in the Fall; Mr. Amenda also mentioned in this context a \$20K grant from PSP for the YSCS summer program which is funding a partnership with Drexel that will infuse multiple student teachers, leverage our most effective teachers as coaches and provide students in the summer program with intensive academic intervention; and our two Assistant Principals will participate in RELAY Graduate School of Education's National Principal Academy Fellowship to increase their effectiveness.
- f **Charter School Advocacy Talking Points-** see attachments
- g **School Safety & Security Report-** provided to and reviewed by the Board

**2. Finance & Audit Committee**

- a **Financial Summary-** The fund balance at fiscal year-end is projected to be about \$200,000, somewhat greater than at the start of the year; however, a larger surplus is expected in 2019-20 based on higher reimbursement rates (perhaps 10% for general ed) from the State.
- b **Financial Statements-** The Board reviewed again the 2019-20 budget prepared and explained by Mr. Corcoran of Charter Choices, before adopting it by resolution (below). The budget will allow for staff salary increases of from 2%-10% based on performance and compensation strategy, a curricular investment of approximately \$50K; and several new hires in math, science, special education and a social worker.

**3. Development Committee**

- a **Development Report-** YTD Results
- b **Fall Event-** October 15 at the Phield House, with the possibility of participation by college/professional athletes
- c **19-20 Campaign (In Support of Student Wellness) Materials-** provide opportunity for solicitation for these services in targeting a raise of \$215,000

**4. School Performance Committee-** Report time taken as part of meeting opening, updates included with narrative on performance within dashboard discussion

**5. High School Admissions Committee**

- a Acceptance Review- 100% acceptance rate

**6. Governance Committee-** No report

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Adopted unanimously: Resolved that the Board hereby approve the Regular session minutes from the May 8, 2019 meeting.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
--------------	---------	--------	--------------	---------	--------

Winston Churchill	x		Alexandra Panichello	x	
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	x		Bonnie Young		
Sanjeev Midha	x				

**V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

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

**a. 2019-2020 Budget**

Adopted unanimously: Resolved that the Board hereby approves the 2019-20 budget for YSCS as presented to and reviewed by this Board.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Winston Churchill	x		Alexandra Panichello	x	
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	x		Bonnie Young		
Sanjeev Midha	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**

A brief Executive Session involving the Board was held to discuss personnel matters, all staff other than Mr. Amenda were excused. That was followed by a brief Executive Session involving only Board Members discussing what had been presented to the Board at the meeting then concluding.

**XIII. IMPORTANT DATES**

1. Graduation – June 12, 2019, 6pm  
William Penn Charter School- Kurtz Center  
3000 W. School House Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19144
2. Fall 2019 Phield House Event – Tuesday, October 15, 2019

**XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Adopted unanimously: Resolved that this Board meeting is hereby adjourned at 5:30PM.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Winston Churchill	x		Alexandra Panichello	x	
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	x		Bonnie Young		
Sanjeev Midha	x				