

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 2017– 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-phone		Miriam Spector		x
James Egan		x	Blair Stambaugh	x	
Charles Freyer	x-phone		Judi Temple		x
Valerie Hanraty	x		Robert Fox		x
Kevin Kan	x		Wayne Weisman	x-phone	
Sanjeev Midha	x-phone		Bonnie Young	x-phone	

III. UPDATES

1. School Director Update

- a Experience Week and College and Career Rotation. After John and Ms. Campbell described the purpose and logistics of Experience Week, Jaden (6th grade) discussed his personal experience and how it impacted his personal growth. In the future, the school will do more to prepare the students to ask good questions during their experiences, and try to tailor the experiences to the career interests of the students. It will also try to engage more minority owned businesses in the program. In May, the school plans to offer a number of trips on Fridays, with different themes for each week.
- b Digital Portfolio Initiative. Ms. Silvers and Ms. Campbell reported that the development of the individual portfolios for students got off to a somewhat slow start, due to technology limitations, but that teachers are prioritizing reflection and feedback by students and that the process was building technology skills among the students. The school now boasts a 1:1 Chromebook ratio which will assist with the development of student portfolios.

2. Executive Director Update

- a Dashboard Review. In his review of the Dashboard, John focused on the impact of the admissions process on the changing nature on incoming 6th graders from year to year. Word of mouth and alumni families are the source of most applicants, but all are admitted on a first come, first serve basis. The school is considering a summer school program before 6th grade to try to address some of the academic deficiencies among our students that lead to their poor performance in 6th grade.
- b John noted several staff resignations, all for personal reasons, and said Ms. Campbell will be increasing her efforts to insure that the teaching staff remains fully engaged.
- c Enrollment Update

Grade	August	September	October	November
6	75	75	76	76
7	90	89	89	89
8	91	86	86	85
Total	256	250	251	250

- d Program Accomplishments September-December. Young Scholars was one of only two schools identified as a “School to Learn From”. Also, a very successful Young Friends event was held during the period, drawing a number of dynamic and engaging alumni of the school.
- e Renewal and Enrollment Amendment Update. There was a lively discussion about the pending dissolution of the SRC and its impact on the school, in light of efforts already being launched by the SDP to hobble the growth and effectiveness of charter schools. The consensus was that the return to City control would present significant challenges for YSCS, despite the wide acknowledgement of YSCS’ outstanding record. John and Mr. Churchill will try to make contact with City officials and promote the interests of YSCS.
- f Facility Update. With the completion of the buildout of the additional classroom and break-out room space at YSCS, the school has much better facilities for its incoming 6th grade students.
- g Org Chart Review and Proposed Mid-Year Staffing Changes. John discussed plans to relieve school leaders of some of their teaching responsibilities to allow them to focus on their leadership roles. He said the school is looking for a new 6th grade social studies teacher and an athletic director to restore PE and an athletics program, as well as someone to provide graduate support and replace Mr. Ernst as high school placement director (in the 1018-19 school year). A request was made by a Board member to distribute an org chart to board members to clarify the current structure.
- h A suggestion was made that we explore developing a shared services model with other high performing charter schools in the area. John indicated he would be open to such an approach. We are still hoping to pick up some additional seats in the renewal process, to make YSCS self-sustaining as PRCS is now.

3. **Finance & Audit Committee.** The school is projecting a fund balance of approximately \$250K by the end of the school year, even after completing repayment to SDP of certain amounts owed to it. The audit has been completed and the school obtained an unqualified opinion in the audit with positive comment on its strong management practices. To save money, YSCS is exploring moving some staff to the Foundation payroll, in light of the 32% of salary now required to be contributed by YSCS with regard to each employee in the PSERS pension plan.
4. **Development Committee.** Ellyn Saft reported on various grants that had been applied for or were in the process of being applied for (including Perkins, Malo, Hunter and Chapin). The need for all Board members to make contributions, which can then be referenced in grant applications, was emphasized.
5. **School Performance & Planning Committee.** Sanjeev suggested that Board members leverage existing connections with independent schools for the benefit of YSCS graduates.
6. **Governance Committee.** No report this month

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the September 13, 2017 meeting.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Board Member	Approve	Deny
Winston Churchill	x		Alexandra Panichello	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Lois Pressman	x	

Ira Brind	x		Tom Rebar	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Miriam Spector		
James Egan			Blair Stambaugh	x	
Charles Freyer	x		Judi Temple		
Valerie Hanraty	x		Robert Fox		
Kevin Kan	x		Wayne Weisman	x	
Sanjeev Midha	x		Bonnie Young	x	

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. Acceptance of Audit for Submission

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Board Member	Approve	Deny
Winston Churchill	x		Alexandra Panichello	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Ira Brind	x		Tom Rebar	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Miriam Spector		
James Egan			Blair Stambaugh	x	
Charles Freyer	x		Judi Temple		
Valerie Hanraty	x		Robert Fox		
Kevin Kan	x		Wayne Weisman	x	
Sanjeev Midha	x		Bonnie Young	x	

2. Approval of Staffing Changes

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Board Member	Approve	Deny
Winston Churchill	x		Alexandra Panichello	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Ira Brind	x		Tom Rebar	x	
Dana Dwirantwi	x		Miriam Spector		
James Egan			Blair Stambaugh	x	
Charles Freyer	x		Judi Temple		
Valerie Hanraty	x		Robert Fox		
Kevin Kan	x		Wayne Weisman	x	
Sanjeev Midha	x		Bonnie Young	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 followed to discuss several personnel matters requiring confidentiality.

X. IMPORTANT DATES

1. Teach for America Schools to Learn from Site Visit – Friday, December 15, 2017
2. Young Scholars Winter Recess – December 21, 2017-January 1, 2018
3. Career Day – May 22, 2017 (sharing early for your calendars and requested participation)

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

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		Miriam Spector		x
James Egan		x	Blair Stambaugh	x	
Charles Freyer	x		Judi Temple		x
Valerie Hanraty	x		Robert Fox		x
Kevin Kan	x		Wayne Weisman	x	
Sanjeev Midha	x		Bonnie Young	x	

Respectfully submitted,

Charles C. Freyer, Secretary