

**Regular Meeting Agenda**  
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 – 4:00 PM

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**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-Mr. Weisman, YSCS Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4PM in the YSCS Art Room**

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

**III. UPDATES**

**1. Executive Director Update**

- a Dashboard Review and School Updates-Mr. Amenda reviewed the Dashboard noting that the school’s progress toward its academic growth goals was trending similarly to last year, although weather issue had impacted attendance recently. However, Mr. Amenda expressed some concern about whether the student culture fully reflected the revised school vision and would be working with Ms. Campbell to assure that the right balance was being maintained by the new teachers at the school between restorative practices and high academic expectations.

- b Update from last board meeting discussion topics: Enrollment Increase/Amendment Submission, Transportation, YSEOF—Mr. Amenda reported that despite some conflicting instructions from the Charter Office, our application to the SRC for an increase to 300 in student seats had been submitted, including evidence that we had sufficient applications to fill all 300 seats. The plan would be to accept 100 students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but maintain the current 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at 90 students until they graduate, after which those grades would also have 100 students.

Following up on a topic from the last meeting, Mr. Amenda reported that our counsel has advised that the District cannot deny us bus transportation and require our students to use Transpasses, due to their age and other considerations. Mr. Amenda also noted that while we expect our charter to be renewed, we will need to decide if we join the other 17 schools which have refused to sign their charters because of the inclusion by the SRC of provisions contrary to decisions in Pennsylvania courts regarding census limitations and other matters. If we do not sign, we should be able to receive payment for the 300 students; but if we accept a lower cap in the charter, we would only be paid for a census not to exceed the cap. That decision need not be reached until we receive our charter renewal approval.

Mr. Amenda also reported on the success of the sports initiative launched this year, with our track team competing for inclusion in the Penn relays, and our soccer and basketball teams off to a good

start. Minimum GPA scores are a requirement to participate in sports, and it is hoped this will be a powerful incentive for good academic performance.

c New Discussion Topics:

1. **Budget Preview – Staffing Model @ various enrollment scenarios.** There was a lively discussion of various alternatives for increases in staffing for 2018-19, with the Board cautioning Mr. Amenda about adding too many new staff, given the expected teacher turnover and the impact that could have, and the possibility that an unexpected situation that could take us into the red for the year if all additional anticipated revenue is absorbed by new staff. There was also discussion of how to introduce a meaningful foreign language program in Spanish, and the need for a second special education teacher due to the increase in emotionally disturbed students in the school. Ultimately, the decisions on staffing were left to Mr. Amenda, who indicated he appreciated the Board’s cautious approach and would follow it.
2. **18-19 Regional Support Team staffing**—Mr. Amenda reported a concern that he was not able to devote as much time to YSCS as he would like due to his responsibilities at PRCS, although once the PRCS principal came back from an imminent maternity leave, that school would be fairly close to self sufficiency from a supervisory standpoint. The Board recommended that Mr. Amenda look to hire an experienced assistant or deputy who could do the things at both schools that he does not now have time to get to do, using some of the shared services budget to pay for that hire. Mr. Amenda thanked the board for that authorization.
3. **Career Day, HS Day and Experience Month Expeditions** – Career Day will be May 22; High School Day will be May 16. Board Members are invited to participate in High School Day mock interviews and to suggest additional placement for Careers day, or to come and speak to the students about their careers.
4. **Leveraging EITC Approval**- Mr. Amenda confirmed the school’s approval for receipt of EITC funding from Harrisburg, and solicited advice on how to promote this program among our supporters.
2. **Finance & Audit Committee**-the Committee met last week to review financial results and believes that we are trending toward a positive addition of about \$300,000 to our fund balance by year end. It was also reported that it is no longer permissible for the District to come out with revised and reduced reimbursement rates late in the school year as they have done in the past, with serious adverse impacts on YSCS.
3. **Development Committee**-Ms. Saft recognized Ms. Ashe and Ms. Panichello and thanked them for their amazing leadership of Young Friends; the successful beginning of a musical program using the donated piano; and the upcoming YSCS 20th Anniversary celebration scheduled for October 17, 2018 at the Study Hotel on the Drexel campus, potentially with Drexel President Fry as a speaker
4. **School Performance & Planning Committee**-although the proposed relationship with SpringBoard met Mr. Amenda’s requirements, the faculty at YSCS believe they can do as good or a better job, and at lower cost, and will be given a chance to do so this summer; Mr. Midha reminded the board that parental engagement was key and the main driver of SpringBoard’s success
5. **Governance Committee** -No report
6. **HS Admissions Committee**-All students have been satisfactorily placed in high schools, and the Committee is discussing various staffing alternatives for this function going forward

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Board approve the Regular session minutes from the January 17, 2018 meeting. Adopted unanimously on motion made by Mr. Freyer and seconded by Mr. Rebar.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Board Member	Approve	Deny
Winston Churchill			Alexandra Panichello	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Ira Brind	X		Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi			Miriam Spector	X	
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		

**V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

1. 2018-2019 Calendar-Mr. Amenda reported that the school would be returning to academic quarters, rather than the trimester system tried this year, as the faculty believed that quarters allowed for more opportunities to review and issue progress/report cards and student incentives; the 2018-19 school year would commence August 20, 2018 and conclude June 14, 2019; Saturday school would be continued.
2. 2018-2019 Daily Schedule the school day would include math, reading, science, global citizenship, art, Spanish and PE/health classes and run from 7:40-3, followed by extracurriculars and sports
3. 2018-2019 Staff Model and Salaries-increases from 0-3% were proposed by Mr. Amenda

The Calendar was approved unanimously on a motion duly made by Mr. Freyer and seconded by Ms. Stambaugh. At the suggestion of Mr. Brind, the Daily Schedule and Staff Salaries proposals were accepted unanimously but provisionally on a motion by Mr. Freyer, seconded by Mr. Rebar, subject to the distribution to the Board members by staff of more details of both. Should no objection thereto be received by Mr. Amenda by the end of March, the Daily Schedule and Staff Salary proposals will be deemed approved.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Board Member	Approve	Deny
Winston Churchill			Alexandra Panichello	X	
Emily Ashe	X		Lois Pressman	X	
Ira Brind	X		Tom Rebar	X	
Dana Dwirantwi			Miriam Spector	X	
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		

**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 attended the meeting

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A student disciplinary matter was discussed with Mr. Amenda in Executive Session.

**XIII. IMPORTANT DATES**

1. Career Day – May 22, 2017 (sharing early for your calendars and requested participation)
2. Graduation @ Penn Charter – June 12

**XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN -Made by Mr. Freyer and seconded by Mr. Rebar, and given unanimous approval at 5:45PM.**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Winston Churchill			Alexandra Panichello	x	
Emily Ashe	x		Lois Pressman	x	
Ira Brind	x		Tom Rebar	x	
Dana Dwirantwi			Miriam Spector	x	
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		