

Regular Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 9, 2018

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. Churchill introduced Renee Rosenbluth and Valerie Schwartz, thanked them for their generous contributions of time, talent and money to Young Scholars and proposed them for membership on the YSCS Board and assignment to the Development Committee. On a motion made by him and duly seconded, the Board members present unanimously

RESOLVED, that Renee Rosenbluth and Valerie Schwartz are hereby elected to membership on this Board, effective immediately.

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

Also in attendance were Ellen Saft, Charter Choices, John Amenda and Becca Chazin.

III. UPDATES

1. Executive Director Update

Dashboard Review and Experience Month Updates

John Amenda began by discussing Experience Month which sends all students out to three expeditions for each Friday in May. The school has secured over 50 partner organizations to stimulate thinking about future careers. This is very popular with most students and costs about \$20K for the entire year of programming. Students go out in groups of 15-40. He also mentioned Career Day on May 22, when a variety of people will come to school to discuss their careers, and announced that Wells Fargo will be offering financial literacy classes to students starting next Fall.

Addressing the Dashboard, John noted that lowered attendance was primarily due to snow days, late bus transportation and a particularly cold winter; that YSCS would be returning to the quarterly marking period system in the Fall, as the experiment with trimesters this year had not been as successful as hoped. The school wanted to reduce the frequency of testing but moving to trimesters also reduced the frequency of progress communication and reward for achievement which was problematic for investment. Additionally, he shared that the availability of grades online was cutting into parent attendance at parent teacher evenings.

a Discussion Topics:

1. Charter Renewal Agreement –while YSCS has not yet received its charter agreement specifically, John reviewed some of the key concerns both he and YSCS counsel have identified with the new charter form being offered to schools; John also shared the names of the 57 charter schools which have provided feedback in solidarity for these reasons, including many of our top competitors, explaining that for once the charter community was banding together to reject provisions that are not authorized by the charter law. He expects that YSCS will also refuse to sign if agreeable terms are not met, and will enroll an additional 52 students in the Fall (for a full complement of 300), with PSP support. The approval of the amendment requesting these seats is pending approval.
2. Engaging Exude in Review of Safety Protocols—after a discussion of the services available from Exude, and recommended by our liability carrier, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board members present on a motion duly made and seconded:

Resolved, that Young Scholars shall contract with Exude to provide school staff Active Shooter Training and such other services as the Executive Director may deem appropriate, for a cost of up to \$5000.

3. Strategic Plan Update, Daily Schedule and Staffing Model—John Amenda next reviewed the School Strategic Plan with the Board, noting the emphasis on career readiness that is now part of both state and federal mandates to public schools. Board members offered suggestions for how to document YSCS's compliance with these mandates through the Experience Month program. He also noted some of the changes that will mark the new program and schedule that is designed to increase student engagement and time on task, such as introducing Spanish every day for 8th graders, moving to a balance of rigid structure and restorative culture focused on student leadership and ownership; providing all students a chrome book for in school use; the addition of a high school placement and alumni outreach specialist; the renting of gym space until YSCS is able to provide one to its students; and improvements to its marketing, fundraising and alumni engagement.
4. Special Education Staffing – Talent Pipeline Brainstorm—John noted that YSCS' SPED population had increased to the state average of 19-20%, and that the school was providing more pull-out classroom instruction to these students by moving to two supported sections and adding sped staffing for 18-19. Still, two SPED positions for next academic year remain open and are hard to hire for. The board offered talent pipeline solutions and ways to incentivize this high needs staffing area.
5. 18-19 Budget for tentative Approval. Mr. Weisman reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed fiscal 2019 budget and approved it. The Charter Choices representative then summarized the budget for the board, noting that using assumptions that include a 3% salary increase, a 6.7% health insurance increase, and the addition of a Development Director and other staff, YSCS should still be able to cover its expenses and add \$100,000 to its fund balance over the coming year. The Board will be asked to formally approve the budget at its June meeting.
6. 18-19 Health Benefits—John Amenda reviewed the benefits package offered to YSCS employees, and noted that it was very competitive with other schools in the city.
7. 20th Anniversary Celebration – Sponsorships- Ms. Saft, Ms. Rosenbluth and Ms. Schwartz then reported on plans for the school's 20th anniversary celebration on October 17 at the Study Hotel on the Drexel campus, with Drexel President John Fry as the speaker. Ms. Rosenbluth and Ms. Schwartz will serve as the chairs for the celebration, for which the Board is most appreciative. Ms. Saft also discussed the Sponsorship levels for the event,

and Mr. Churchill recommended that Board members dedicate their annual donations to the school to sponsorships of the event.

2. **Finance & Audit Committee**-Given earlier in the meeting.
3. **Development Committee** –Mr. Churchill noted that he and Mr. Brind had earlier in the afternoon interviewed a highly qualified candidate for the position of Development Director to whom the school intends to extend an offer.
4. **School Performance & Planning Committee**—No report
5. **Governance Committee**—No report
6. **HS Admissions Committee**-The Committee is proud to report 100% high school admission for the current 8th grade class.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members present unanimously

Resolved that the regular session minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting are approved as submitted and circulated to the members of this Board.

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

V. MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

1. 2018-2019 Budget

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members present unanimously

Resolved that after review and discussion, this Board directs the publication of the proposed 2018-19 budget in its current form pursuant to applicable rules and regulations, pending its formal approval by this Board at its June meeting.

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

Alexandra Panichello	X		Bonnie Young	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 attended the meeting.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A short Executive Session followed the end of the meeting.

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

1. HS Day – May 16, 2017
2. Career Day – May 22, 2017
3. Graduation @ Penn Charter – June 12 6:30 pm
William Penn Charter School
The Kurtz Center for Performing Arts
3000 W School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144
4. Final Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 6, 2018 (4PM)
5. Board Meeting Dates 18-19

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN The meeting was adjourned on a motion duly made and seconded, and approved unanimously by those present.

XV.

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	XX		Bonnie Young	X	