

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees of  
Young Scholars Charter School (“YSCS”)  
August 17, 2017**

The meeting was convened on August 17, 2017 at 4:00 PM at Young Scholars Charter School, immediately following a “meet and greet” between Board members and new and returning faculty at the end of several days of professional development for the faculty. This Board of Trustees meeting was held in accordance with Public Meeting Law i/a/w/ Section 4 of the Sunshine Act. Attending in person or by phone were Trustees Winston Churchill, Dana Dwirantwi, Emily Ashe, Sanjeev Midha, Chuck Freyer, Wayne Weisman, Tom Rebar, Ira Brind, and Bonnie Young. In addition to the Trustees, the meeting included guests from Young Scholars Executive Director John Amenda, Principal Melissa Campbell, Ellyn Saft, Charlene Caposecco, Brooke Silvers, Lauren Marlowe and Kevin Corcoran from Charter Choices.

The meeting began with a welcome from Chairman Churchill, who then introduced four candidates for election to the Board. The prospective Board members all introduced themselves and discussed their backgrounds in education and how they developed an interest in YSCS. On motion duly made and seconded, all were elected to the Board unanimously as follows:

*RESOLVED, that Alexandra Panichello, Lois Pressman, Blair Stambaugh and Judi Temple, are each elected to the board of Young Scholars Charter School, effective immediately.*

Following that, Mr. Amenda and Principal Campbell reviewed the Academic Model for 2017-18 with the Board, noting the addition of time in the schedule for College and Career Planning for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and Employment, built around the “Four C’s”—Communication/Confidence; Critical Thinking; Creative Innovation; and Collaboration. Then Instructional Specialist Ms. Silvers explained the new “portfolios” program and its potential for helping students, parents and others track and take pride in a student’s academic and personal growth during their time at YSCS. Ms. Caposecco next reviewed the goals of the College and Career Rotations in preparing students for admission to careers in the work force after completing their academic careers, and the potential for involvement by YSCS parents and supporters in exposing students to different career options. She also explained the thinking behind the Experience Weeks programming and the new emphasis on getting students out into the community as an adjunct to their classroom experiences.

Mr. Amenda then turned to a review of the dashboard, highlighting the few areas where goals had not been achieved and reviewing the steps to be taken to achieve them this year, as well as the whole goal setting process that the administration had gone through over the summer. Following that, he gave a thorough review, primarily for the many new and recently elected Board members, of the history of YSCS and its achievements, as well how it is organized to succeed. In the course of that, he explained the work of the Regional Services team at both YSCS and Paul Robeson Public Charter School in Trenton, NJ.

He next reviewed the status of the buildout of the new space in the building, to be used as the “Sixth Grade Wing” and for special ed services, under the new lease signed in the Spring of 2017, noting that its expected completion date is now late September or early October.

He noted with respect to enrollment that while the school was fully enrolled, and indeed overenrolled (in relation to their charter in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades), it had intentionally reduced the size of the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year to reduce 6<sup>th</sup> grade class size and focus on accelerating the academic growth of these students which consistently come to YSCS performing several levels below grade.

Shifting to financial matters, Kevin Corcoran reported on the growth of YSCS' fund balance (now over \$200,000), despite a painful 4% reduction in payments from the SDP this year. He noted the improvement in the school's current ratio, although it remains well below our goal, and the pending execution of a \$250,000 line of credit with WSFS to provide the school with liquidity in the event of interruptions in the payment flow from Harrisburg and/or SDP. Finally, he noted that the fiscal 2017 audit was well underway, and that the SDP charter renewal team had reviewed the school's finances already, without any negative comment.

Mrs. Marlowe addressed development activities, noting that YSCS had recently kicked off its Directed Giving campaign (\$350,000), to supplement the Annual Fund campaign which seeks to raise \$250,000 this year. The school's needs have been prioritized and allocated between the two campaigns. Mr. Churchill reviewed plans for the upcoming Forum on October 11, addressing the critical importance of an excellent middle school underpinning to the success of students in their high school and college careers. The panel at the Forum, which he will moderate, includes noted authorities on the subject, engaged at both the local and national levels.

Mr. Freyer noted he would be in touch with all the new directors, on behalf of the Governance Committee, to discuss their committee assignments.

**Approval of Minutes:**

By a motion duly made, seconded and approved unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2017 Board meeting:

*RESOLVED, that the minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting of this Board are hereby approved as presented to this Board.*

**Motions for Approval:**

- Mr. Amenda then reviewed the 2017-18 Student and Family Handbook, which remains generally in the form reviewed and approved by the Board in previous years.
- He noted the requirement for Board approval of the Line of Credit with WSFS Bank and the authorization of himself and Finance Committee Chair Tom Rebar to sign the documentation.

After discussion of these matters, both were approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded, as follows:

*RESOLVED, that the YSCS 2017-18 Student and Family Handbook is approved as presented to this Board, and that Executive Director John Amenda and Treasurer Tom Rebar*

*are hereby authorized to execute such documentation for the WSFS Bank \$250,000 Line of Credit as they deem necessary and appropriate to obtain the bank's commitment to fund such line on the terms previously approved by this Board.*

The floor was then opened for public comment; there was no public comment. There was a brief Executive Session to approve a small litigation settlement, and the meeting was then adjourned at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles C. Freyer, Secretary