

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees of
Young Scholars Charter School (“YSCS”)
May 10, 2017**

The meeting was convened on May 10, 2017 at 4 pm at Young Scholars Charter School. 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 Miriam Spector, Sanjeev Midha, Chuck Freyer, Kevin Kan, Tom Rebar, Dana Dwirantwi, and Board Chair Win Churchill. In addition to the Trustees, the meeting included guests from Young Scholars Melissa Campbell, John Amenda, Lauren Marlowe, and students April Brown (8th grade) and Amyni Bibbs (7th grade); prospective Board Members; and Kevin Corcoran from Charter Choices.

The meeting began with a welcome from Board Chair Win Churchill followed by a motion by Mr. Churchill, seconded by Ms. Spector to approve the minutes of the March 15, Board meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, as follows:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the March 15, 2017 meeting of this Board are hereby approved as presented to this Board.

Ms. Campbell then addressed Board questions about teaching procedures and the frequency of standardized testing. She reported that the faculty do not teach to the test, but do prepare individualized study packets for the students to help each student do his or her best in the tests. More generally, she noted that the target was to have 70% of the student body are projected to reach their MAP growth goal. At this point, 61% have achieved this goal in math and 69% in reading. The Board complimented Ms. Campbell on this record but asked her to continue to encourage the faculty to keep working toward the overall goal.

Ms. Campbell then introduced her students who were asked about their experiences at YSCS. Both said they appreciated the personalized attention they received from their teachers and were proud of what they were achieving. April was complimented on a project she led that will be highlighted at the upcoming Scholar Showcase on June 5. Ms. Young commented that on her visit to the school, she was impressed by how happy the students were, which she felt was a sign of a strong learning environment.

Other upcoming events include YSCS Graduation in Mitten hall on June 14 and the Symposium on Education and Inequality on October 11.

Mr. Amenda then reviewed the dashboard and enrollment numbers with the Board, noting the positive trending in the categories included there. He was pleased to report that 100% of the faculty for 2017-18 was already hired, and that 98% of the YSCS 8th graders had been accepted to high quality high schools. In answer to a question he replied that the school had tracked its last 5 classes through high school, but tends to lose track of them thereafter, and had only anecdotal records with regard to classes who graduated more than 5 years ago. John noted that he would welcome support that would enable the school to expand its transitional services to graduates as they enter and progress through high school. He is also considering a Facebook site

to help graduates stay in touch. Finally, he noted that some YSCS graduates would be back and teaching/mentoring at summer school this year.

Kevin Corcoran from Charter Choices walked the Board through the current financials for the school, the projections for where it will end the fiscal year and its 2017-18 budget and the assumptions on per pupil reimbursements and health costs for staff underlying it, answering all questions posed by the Board. YSCS has adequate cash to complete the school year and a small positive fund balance, even if it does not meet its full development budget for the year. The prospect for next year is that the school will make a significant addition to its fund balance. The budget will be up for formal approval in June after it has been public for 30 days

John reported that TD Bank had only been willing to offer a \$100,000 line of credit, but that Firstrust Bank was considering the school's request for a line of \$250,000 to cover delays in payments by Harrisburg in the coming year. The Board would prefer to get the larger facility in light of the budget stalemates that have occurred in Harrisburg in recent years.

After discussion of the school calendar, schedule, staffing model and personnel salaries for the 2017-18 school year, all were approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded, as follows:

RESOLVED, that the YSCS school calendar, schedule, staffing model and personnel salaries for the 2017-18 school year are approved as presented to this Board.

With regard to Development activities, it was reported that the April luncheon and student presentation had been highly successful, drawn some 40 attendees thanks in large part to the efforts of Ellen Churchill, and raised approximately \$25,000.

The prospective Board members all introduced themselves and discussed their backgrounds in education and how they developed an interest in YSCS. Mr. Ira Brind, who had also been nominated to join the Board was unable to attend. On motion duly made and seconded, all were elected to the Board unanimously as follows:

RESOLVED, that Emily Ashe, Valerie Hanraty, Bonnie Young and Ira Brind are each elected to the board of Young Scholars Charter School, effective immediately.

The Board also reluctantly accepted the resignations from the Board of Courtney Disston and Carmon Harvey; Certificates of Appreciation were sent.

The School Performance Committee reported on improvement in all aspects of the Special Ed program. John noted that next year the school would focus on improving the reading skills of its special ed students, rather than their math skills, due to the finding that students in the lowest percentiles of math achievement needed significant support in reading first to be able to access grade level math content.

Next John and Chuck Freyer commented on the extension of the lease for 900 Marshall Street, and its expansion to include the additional 4000 square feet in the building that the school

had never used. On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the new lease as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Lease from the Nicoletti Family Trust to YSCS for 900-918 N. Marshall Street is approved as presented to the Board, and that the Chairman or any other officer of YSCS is authorized to sign and bind YSCS thereunder.

Next, John reviewed the proposed new Academic and Business Services Agreement between YSCS and Paul Robeson Charter School for the Humanities and commented upon the services he and other YSCS staff would perform under it, assuring the Board that it did not impact their ability to perform their duties at YSCS. Mr. Midha noted a concern from the PRCs standpoint but agreed that YSCS should go ahead with it. On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the new agreement as follows:

RESOLVED, that the proposed new Academic and Business Services Agreement between YSCS and Paul Robeson Charter School for the Humanities is approved as presented to the Board, and that Mr. Amenda or any officer of YSCS is authorized to sign and bind YSCS thereunder.

Finally, after discussion and consideration, the Form 990 prepared with respect to YSCS for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 was approved unanimously on motion duly made and seconded, as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Form 990 for the YSCS 2015-16 academic year is approved as presented to this Board.

Mr. Churchill then opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

At 5:40, the Board adjourned to an Executive Session to discuss privileged and confidential legal matters; this session lasted until 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Churchill adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.