



# City on a Hill Charter Public School

## **Minutes**

## January 2024 Board Meeting #2

## **Date and Time**

Wednesday January 24, 2024 at 5:00 PM

This meeting took place remotely pursuant to a supplemental budget bill which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025 signed into law by Governor Healey on March 29, 2023. The meeting was held via Zoom at <a href="https://cityonahill-org.zoom.us/j/81315100800">https://cityonahill-org.zoom.us/j/81315100800</a>.

## **Trustees Present**

Alekz Hirschmann (remote), Andres Tejeda Soto (remote), Brooke Fincke (remote), Edelyn Contreras (remote), Gabriela (Gaby) DeLeon-Evora (remote), Jacqueline Bennett (remote), Kimberley Thai Small (remote), Ted Gildea (remote)

## **Trustees Absent**

Danielle Canty, Melisa Lemire, Michelle Allwood

## **Ex Officio Members Present**

Sonya Pratt (remote)

## **Non Voting Members Present**

Sonya Pratt (remote)

## **Guests Present**

Asha Ibrahim (remote), Jordan Lopez (remote)

## I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance

## B. Call the Meeting to Order

Ted Gildea called a meeting of the board of trustees of City on a Hill Charter Public School to order on Wednesday Jan 24, 2024 at 5:09 PM.

#### **II. Executive Session**

#### A. Executive Session

Ted Gildea, Board Vice Chair, announced that the Board would be entering Executive Session, citing purpose #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Gildea confirmed that he believed public discussion of the topics might have a detrimental effect on the School's collective bargaining position, noted that the Board intended to return to public session, and called for a motion to enter Executive Session.

Andres Tejeda Soto made a motion to enter Executive Session.

Alekz Hirschmann seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **Roll Call**

Melisa Lemire Absent **Edelyn Contreras** Aye Kimberley Thai Small Aye Jacqueline Bennett Aye Brooke Fincke Aye Michelle Allwood Absent Alekz Hirschmann Aye **Danielle Canty** Absent Gabriela (Gaby) DeLeon-Evora Aye Andres Tejeda Soto Aye Aye

Public Session ended at 5:14pm. Executive Session began at 5:15pm.

Alekz Hirschmann made a motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to Public Session.

Andres Tejeda Soto seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## Roll Call

Melisa Lemire Absent

#### Roll Call

Alekz Hirschmann Aye Gabriela (Gaby) DeLeon-Evora Aye Andres Tejeda Soto Aye Kimberley Thai Small Aye **Edelyn Contreras** Aye Danielle Canty Absent Jacqueline Bennett Aye Brooke Fincke Aye Michelle Allwood Absent Ted Gildea Aye

Executive Session ended at 5:40p. Public Session began at 5:41pm.

## **III. Amendment Discussion and Vote**

#### A. Amendment Discussion

Next, Gildea directed the attention of the Trustees to the Amendment Discussion. Jordan Pina, Chief Operating Officer, projected the School's amendment request and began to describe the process of an amendment to a charter.

She noted that there are two general types of amendments, with some being decided on by the Commissioner of Education and others being evaluated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Pina noted that City on a Hill's amendment request to update its grade span from 9th through 12th grade to 11th through 12th grade was one that belonged to the latter category, and that that the Board would need to vote to direct School leadership to submit the amendment request on their behalf.

Trustees inquired as to the timeline for potential approval, and Pina shared that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) was hoping to present this to BESE at their late-February meeting. She also noted that School and Board leadership had spoken with the Charter School Office (CSO) and the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association (MCPSA) about the amendment as it related to the School's plan to operate an upper school model in school year 2024-2025 and the Board's intention to elect not to seek renewal of the School's charter.

#### **B.** Vote to Approve Amendment Request

Andres Tejeda Soto made a motion to approve City on a Hill's charter amendment request to modify the School's grade span served, and to direct School Leadership to submit the request to the Commissioner of Education on the Board's behalf and work with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on any subsequent related technical changes.

Alekz Hirschmann seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **Roll Call**

Gabriela (Gaby) DeLeon-Evora Aye Edelyn Contreras Kimberley Thai Small Aye Danielle Canty Absent Ted Gildea Aye Michelle Allwood Absent Jacqueline Bennett Aye Melisa Lemire Absent Alekz Hirschmann Aye Andres Tejeda Soto Aye Brooke Fincke Aye

## IV. Closing Items

## A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Ted Gildea

## Documents used during the meeting

- 00. CoaH Enrollment\_School Design Amendment Request (Cover Letter)\_January2024.docx.pdf
- 01. CoaH Enrollment\_School Model Amendment Request (Commisioner Letter)\_January2024.pdf