

APPROVED



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 <https://cityonahill-org.zoom.us/j/81315100800>.

Trustees Present

Alekz Hirschmann (remote), Andres Tejada 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

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

Alekz Hirschmann	Aye
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Roll Call

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

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

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