



Young Scholars Charter School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday March 22, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Location

Zoom video conference

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.

Trustees Present

A. Hay (remote), B. Stambaugh (remote), E. Ashe (remote), G. Singer (remote), I. Brind (remote), J. Brown, J. Wang (remote), S. Midha (remote), T. Rebar (remote), V. Hanraty (remote), V. Schwartz (remote), W. Churchill (remote), W. Weisman (remote)

Trustees Absent

B. Young, D. Dwirantwi, E. Kaplin, L. Pressman

Guests Present

B. Chazin (remote), Ellyn Saft (remote), J. Amenda (remote), James Brown (remote), K. Lamilla (remote), Kevin Corcoran (remote), Kristen Tini (remote), Samantha Banks (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

W. Churchill called a meeting of the board of trustees of Young Scholars Charter School to order on Tuesday Mar 22, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

II. Board Governance

A. To approve James Brown as a Board of Trustee with the following terms: 3/2022-3/2025

W. Churchill made a motion to To approve James Brown as a Board of Trustee with the following terms: 3/2022-3/2025.

The following resolution was made, duly seconded and approved unanimously.

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

III. Board Discussion Topics

A. School Leader Update- Co-Principal Video

Mr. Amenda shared a previously recorded video by Co-Principals, Beth Birnkrant and Shakira Smith who both gave updates on instruction and school culture.

B. Open Discussion of Q&A re: Executive Director Narrative Update

Mr. Amenda reviewed key details with the board on the following topics: 2022-2023 Budget, 2022-2023 Schedule and Staffing Model, 2022-2023 Annual Calendar, Building Update, Fall Event and Fundraising and Policies Up for First Reading. Based on staff, parent and student feedback, we are changing staffing model and academic calendar next year. A school-based committee of leaders and teachers have met weekly to review feedback and data to make improvements to our schedule, program and staffing model. The needs assessment revealed a desire for lower student rosters and more time for daily math and reading instruction, more opportunity for leveled instruction in math and reading, more robust expressive arts offerings and additional co-teaching supports.

C. Committee Reports: High School Admission & Alumni Engagement, School Performance & Curriculum, Development, DEI, Governance

High School Admission & Alumni Engagement- Lois Pressman and Dana Dwirantwi mentioned the progress being made with high school acceptances. A list of high schools where students were accepted was sent to the board after the meeting.

School Performance & Curriculum- Sanjeev Midha discussed highlights from the MOY Impact Report. Academic and adult culture and performance management goals are on track. The main question from parents regarding next year's admissions is about the lack of bus transportation for 10- and 11-year-olds.

Development- Ellyn Saft talked about the annual fundraising event, which will take place on September 28th . The fundraising target for 2022- 2023 will increase by \$100,000 for a total goal of \$350,000, seeking to raise \$1,250/student to ensure sustained programming.

DEI- Alexandra Hay and Valerie Hanraty will be meeting with the school's Active Citizenship & Equity Committee to talk about ways the board can work with the school on DEI initiatives.

Governance- Ira Brind discussed three policies that are up for first review, including Service Animals in School, Public Participation in Board Meetings, Trauma-Informed Approach, as well as the final reading of the Student Expression policy.

D. Financial Summary and Statements & 22-23 Draft Budget

Kevin Corcoran gave an update on federal funds. Expenses are steady and we are meeting metrics by every margin. The school is in a healthy financial position.

E. Statement of Financial Interest forms and Policies for Review

Board members must fill out their financial interest forms for the 2021 calendar year.

Policies up for Review- Service Animals in School, Public Participation in Board Meetings, Trauma-Informed Approach- Board members will review these three policies and they will be put forward as motions for approval at the next board meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting on 02/01/2022

W. Churchill made a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting on 02-01-2022 Regular Board Meeting on 02-01-22.

I. Brind seconded the motion.

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

V. Motions for Approval- Policy / Governance / Operations / Miscellaneous

A. Amendment to the bylaws that will allow John Amenda, CEO, to be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the board

Motion to The following document, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, was approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:.

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

B. 22-23 School Calendar

Motion to The following document, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, was approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. 22-23 Draft Budget (inclusive of salaries)

Motion to The following document, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, was approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Student Expression Policy- 2nd and final reading

Motion to The following document, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, was approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Public Participation in Board Meetings Policy- 1st Review

Motion to The following document, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, was approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Service Animals in School Policy- 1st Review

Motion to The following document, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, was approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. Trauma Informed Approach Policy- 1st Review

Motion to The following document, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, was approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

H. Revised Minutes from September 10, 2020 Board Meeting to include Approval of LIEP Policy

Motion to The following document, after suitable presentation by Mr. Amenda and discussion, was approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded:.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VI. 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 5:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Lamilla