



Young Scholars Charter School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday June 2, 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), B. Young (remote), E. Ashe (remote), E. Kaplin (remote), G. Singer (remote), I. Brind (remote), J. Brown (remote), J. Wang (remote), L. Pressman (remote), S. Midha (remote), T. Rebar (remote), V. Hanraty (remote), V. Schwartz (remote), W. Churchill (remote), W. Weisman (remote)

Trustees Absent

D. Dwirantwi

Guests Present

B. Chazin (remote), Beth Birnkrant (remote), C. Freyer (remote), Ellyn Saft (remote), J. Amenda (remote), K. Corcoran (remote), K. Lamilla (remote), Samantha Banks (remote), Shakira Smith (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 Thursday Jun 2, 2022 at 4:01 PM.

II. Board Discussion Topics

A. School Leader End-of-Year Overview- Challenges, Successes, Hopes for 22-23

Co-Principals, Beth Birnkrant and Shakira Smith gave updates on instruction and school culture. They talked about challenges, successes and their hopes for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Mr. Amenda reviewed key details with the Board on the following topics: Beat the Odds recognition, talent update, school-based planning committees, student enrollment, renewal application and advocacy. Philadelphia School Partnership identified YSCS as a Beat the Odds school. Their study showed that the school is making academic gains for students in high needs areas and YSCS students learned 39.2% more each grade than peer schools nationally and achieved 1.5 grade levels above peer schools nationally over a 10-year period. The recruitment team has supported school leaders in their retention of 95% of our current staff. The new staff model, designed by teachers, better meets the needs of students and is more sustainable for teachers. Planning committees with a focus on Curriculum, Special Education and School Culture are meeting regularly to inform program and develop a comprehensive professional development series to ensure effective implementation and regular progress monitoring. We are currently fully enrolled for next year and plan to maintain enrollment between 300-305 students.

C. Committee Updates: High School Admission & Alumni Engagement, School Performance & Curriculum, Development, DEI, Governance and Planning & Property

High School Admission & Alumni Engagement- Lois Pressman talked about priorities for next year and how to set goals for a successful high school admissions position. She mentioned the importance of the school's high school guide.

School Performance & Curriculum- Sanjeev Midha talked about how all performance goals are relatively positive when looking at the dashboard. PSSA results will come out in the summer.

Development- Ellyn Saft talked about the upcoming Fall event at the Fidler Club on September 28th. The team also exceeded the annual campaign fundraising goal. The team will also continue working on foundation work.

DEI- Valerie Hanraty discussed meeting with the school's Active Citizenship Committee and how the Board will continue to work on quarterly initiatives and figure out ways to champion the school committee.

Governance and Planning & Property- Ira Brind talked about how plans for the building are moving forward. Mr. Brind discussed the current policies that have been updated this past year. Ed Diasio is continuing to review and update the school policies and put them into a uniform template. This process will continue throughout the next several months. The updated Student Attendance policy is up for its final review and approval.

Win Churchill mentioned the Career Path Profile Project, an alumni project that is being worked on by an outside consultant, along with a small Board committee.

D. Financial Summary and Statements

Mr. Corcoran reviewed the school's financial summary. The school continues to meet every metric that the school district tracks.

E. Renewal Application

Mr. Amenda and the school team are working on the renewal application, which is due July 15. We are currently approaching and/or meeting all of the standards mentioned in the application, including academic success, organizational compliance and financial health and sustainability according to the ACE.

F. Facility planning, furniture, fixtures and equipment plan

Mr. Amenda talked about investing in new furniture for the school building this summer and how the team is working on plans to replace all current furniture and approach it in a more modular sense. This will encourage and promote collaboration and innovation.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to Approve the Regular session minutes from the May 3, 2022 meeting

W. Churchill made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 05-03-22.

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

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

A.

Student Attendance Policy- 2nd and Final Reading

W. Churchill made a motion to Approve the 2nd and final reading of the Student Attendance Policy.

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

B. 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar

W. Churchill made a motion to Approve the 22-23 board meeting calendar.

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

C. YSCS/PRCS Shared Services Agreement

W. Churchill made a motion to Approve the YSCS/PRCS Shared Services Agreement.

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

D. Updated ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance

W. Churchill made a motion to Approve the ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance.

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

V. 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 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Lamilla