



Reach Cyber Charter School

Minutes

Reach Cyber Charter School

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 15, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Location

Meeting Location:
750 East Park Drive, Suite 204
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Trustees Present

Anthony Alexander (remote), David Taylor (remote), Marcella Arline (remote), Paul Donecker (remote)

Trustees Absent

Gail Hawkins Bush

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

Marcella Arline

Guests Present

Alicia Swope (remote), Amy Turner (remote), Amy Turner (remote), Andy Gribbin, April Kretchman (remote), Brandie Karpew, Caitlyn Bixler (remote), Chris Barrett (remote), Clara Keeports (remote), Cody Smith, Corey Groff, David Balogun (remote), Devin Meza-Rushanan, Erica Carroll (remote), Gregory McCurdy, Heather Berger (remote), Henry Balogun (remote), JD Smith, Jane Swan, Jill white (remote), Josh Hicks (remote), Karen Keith (remote), Karen Yeselavage, Katherine Rutkowski, Kelly McConnell, Laura Johnson (remote), LeeAnn Ritchie, Lisa Blickley (remote), Matt Ryan (remote), Maurine Hockenberry (remote), Michael Garman, Micheal Hinshaw (remote), Morgan Kutz

(remote), Patricia Hennessy (remote), Rachel Graver, Ronya Balogun (remote), Scott Stuccio, Sheryl Glasser (remote), Stacey Baker (remote), Stephanie Bost (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Roll Call

B. Call the Meeting to Order

David Taylor called a meeting of the board of trustees of Reach Cyber Charter School to order on Wednesday Feb 15, 2023 at 9:02 AM.
Marcella Arline arrived at 9:05 AM.

II. Routine Business

A. Approval of Agenda

David Taylor asked the Board to review the agenda distributed prior to the meeting. The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Approval to schedule a meeting of the Board of Trustees on March 15, 2023
- Approval to schedule a spring in-person meeting of the Board of Trustees

Paul Donecker made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
Marcella Arline seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

III. Oral Reports

A. CEO's Report

Jane Swan, CEO, welcomed the Balogun family, Henry, Ronya, and David to the meeting. David recently graduated from Reach CCS at the age of nine. David and his family shared information about the impact Reach had on their family and plans for David's future.

B. Staffing Update

Michael Garman, Director of Human Resources, reviewed current staffing with the Board highlighting the 795 current staff members and 85% of staff who are 10-month staff. Since the beginning of the school year, 93 employees have been hired and 37 have departed which represents a turnover rate of 4.6%.

C. Financial Report

Karen Yesalavage, Director of Finance, reviewed the school's financial statements with the Board. She reviewed the revenue and expense statements, advising on changes since the previous months' statements. Ms. Yesalavage further reviewed with the Board the school's balance sheet and current forecast.

IV. Consent Items

A. Approval of Items from January

Mr. Taylor asked if there were any items from the Consent Items that should be moved to Action Items for discussion, or tabled. No changes were noted.

- Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2023
- Approval of Staffing Report
- Approval of Pearson Invoice for January

Marcella Arline made a motion to approve Consent Items and to approve minutes from Reach Cyber Charter School on 01-18-23.

Paul Donecker seconded the motion.

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

V. Action Items

A. Election for the Treasurer position for the Board of Trustees

With the recent departure of Dave Biondo, a vacancy was created for the Treasurer position on the Board of Trustees. Ms. Swan shared that Marcella Arline was willing to serve in the Treasurer position.

Paul Donecker made a motion to elect Marcella Arline as the Treasurer of the Reach CCS Board of Trustees.

Anthony Alexander seconded the motion.

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

B. Approval of Compliance Policies

Jane Swan presented on new compliance policies. The following new policies were shared in the board packet.

- Wellness Policy on Physical Activity and Nutrition
- Administrative Search and Seizure Policy
- Corporal Punishment Policy

Marcella Arline made a motion to approve the policies as included in the board packet.

Paul Donecker seconded the motion.

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

C. Approval of Updates to Tuition Reimbursement Policy

Mr. Garman shared an action item seeking Board approval of two revisions to the school's Tuition Reimbursement Program for staff.

- The first revision is to expand the eligible programs and courses to include approved Intermediate Unit (IU) courses that are job-related and qualify for transferable college credit.
- The second revision provides policy guidance on the variety of tuition reimbursement repayment options for staff who separate from school prior to fulfilling their service obligation.

Anthony Alexander made a motion to approve the updates to the Tuition Reimbursement Policy.

Marcella Arline seconded the motion.

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

D. Approval of Agreement with GDC IT for in office equipment

Jane Swan presented a proposal with GDC IT to provide office equipment as included in the board packet.

Paul Donecker made a motion to approve the agreement with GDC IT.

Marcella Arline seconded the motion.

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

E. Approval of Contract with Staffing Firms

Mr. Garman asked for Board approval to enter contracts with three (3) staffing firms, which if approved and executed will provide the school additional services to increase recruitment and staffing efforts.

- **GHR** - This contract will provide candidate sourcing for direct placements in exchange for receiving a fee equal to 20% of the annual compensation for all placements filled by a GHR referred candidate.
- **Aspire** - This contract with Aspire Educational Service will provide on-demand contracted staff for hard to fill roles at our school such as Special Education Teachers and related services such as Psycho-educational evaluation, functional behavioral assessments, PCA/RBT and paraprofessionals.
- **Soliant** - This contract will provide Reach on-demand contracted staff to help with hard to fill roles at our school. Soliant charges a flat rate of \$80 per hour for Special Education teachers.

F. Approval of Spring Grocery Certificates for families

Rachel Graver, Chief Operating Officer, shared details of a proposal to replicate the fall gift cards to Reach families each Spring.

Marcella Arline made a motion to approve the proposal for spring grocery gift cards.

Anthony Alexander seconded the motion.

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

G. Approval of Agreement with Devine Partners

Scott Stuccio, Director of Outreach, shared a proposal to continue to partner with Devine Partners for media relations outreach.

Marcella Arline made a motion to approve the proposal to partner with Devine Partners.

Paul Donecker seconded the motion.

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

H. Approval of additional funding for High School Prom

Scott Stuccio, requested funding for a series of high school proms for Reach students in the amount of \$55,000 to cover the cost of venues, DJ, and parking.

Paul Donecker made a motion to approve funding for a school prom.

Marcella Arline seconded the motion.

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

I. Approval of Qualtrics Proposal

Rachel Graver shared details of a proposal to contract with Qualitrics for services related to surveying and analytics.

Paul Donecker made a motion to approve the proposal.

Marcella Arline seconded the motion.

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

J. Approval to add a March 2023 Board Meeting

Jane Swan requested to add an additional meeting of the Board of Trustees in March 2023. A meeting was approved for March 15, 2023.

Paul Donecker made a motion to approve the March 2023 meeting.

Marcella Arline seconded the motion.

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

K. Approval to add a spring time in person meeting of the Board of Trustees

An agreement was made to add an in person meeting to the schedule for the Board of Trustees on May 17, 2023, in Harrisburg.

Paul Donecker made a motion to approve an in person meeting for the Board of Trustees on May 17, 2023.

Marcella Arline seconded the motion.

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

VI. Information Items

A. School Success Partner (SSP) Update

Laura Johnson presented on behalf of the School Success Partner team and briefly reviewed collaboration regarding the enrollment process.

B. Introduction to Board on Track

Leo Inguaggiato of Board On Track, shared a presentation with those in the meeting highlighting the features and benefits of the Board on Track platform.

C. Update from Special Education

Greg McCurdy, Director of Special Education, shared that Reach anticipates exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold for PASA participation for the 2022-23 testing cycle and that the necessary justification information had been submitted to the Bureau of Special Education.

VII. Strategic Planning

A. First Semester Academic Update

Members of the Academic staff shared an update of the academic highlights so far in the 2022-23 school year.

- Dr. Kelly McConnell shared an information on the schools benchmark growth and school wide celebrations.
- Principals Cody Smith and Devin Meza-Rushanan shared updates from the high school and elementary school respectively.
- Katherine Rutkowski, JD Smith, and Andy Gribbon shared updates related to the math initiative, literacy gains, career readiness and STEM opportunities.

B.

Outreach Update

Mr. Stuccio shared an update from the Outreach team highlighting the number of activities hosted this school year and the number planned for the rest of the school year. He further shared the recent success of the school's public relations efforts.

C. National School Choice Week Update

Brandie Karpew, Board and Legislative Liaison, shared details from National School Choice Week, January 22-28, including the School Choice rally at the state capitol and the first annual School Choice fair hosted by PA Families for Education Choice.

D. Approval of MOUs and Proposals

JD Smith, Director of Career Readiness, reviewed the following MOUS included in the board materials.

- Approval of MOU with York Culinary Arts
- Approval of MOU with Weary Arts Group
- Approval of MOU with Jason Phillips Realty team

LeeAnn Ritchie, CAO, reviewed the MOU with Walden University included in the board materials for interns.

JD Smith, reviewed details of the MOU with Mercyhurst University for Dual Enrollment.

Andy Gribbon shared a cost proposal for the STEM, Math and OT kits to be used in the 23-24 school year.

Marcella Arline made a motion to approve the MOUS and Agreements found in the board materials.

Anthony Alexander seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Executive Session

A. Pursuant to 65 Pa. C.S. §§ 708(a)(1)

The Board entered into an Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. upon a motion being made, seconded and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present. The Board cited the following for entering into the Executive Session: Pursuant to 65 Pa. C.S. §§ 708(a)(1) – to discuss any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee and 65 Pa. C.S. §§ 708(a)(5) – To review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law. Board members present were: David Taylor, Paul Donecker, Marcella Arline, and Anthony Alexander. Guests present at the request of the Board were: Pat Hennessey, Jane Swan, Mike Garman, LeeAnn Ritchie and Rachel Graver. All others left the meeting at this time.

No action was taken during Executive Session. There being no further discussion and upon a motion being made, seconded and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present, the Board returned to regular session at 10:51 a.m.

Upon returning to the open meeting, a motion was made for an increase to the salary of High School Principal, Cody Smith.

Marcella Arline made a motion to increase the salary of Reach CCS Principal Cody Smith.

Paul Donecker seconded the motion.

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

IX. 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 10:52 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brandie Karpew