



Pharos Academy Charter School

Minutes

Pharos Academy Charter School Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday May 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Location

<https://bronxlighthouse.zoom.us/j/5239033349>

PHAROS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL **BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING**

All meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Pharos Academy Charter School are held in compliance with New York State Open Meeting Law.

Date: May 20, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom:

<https://bronxlighthouse.zoom.us/j/5239033349>

Meeting ID: 523 903 3349

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,5239033349# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,5239033349# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

PHAROS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
DE LA JUNTA ADMINISTRATIVA

Realizamos todas las reuniones de la Junta Administrativa de la escuela Pharos Academy Charter School conforme a la Ley de Reuniones Abiertas del Estado de Nueva York.

Día: 20 de mayo 2021

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Trustees Present

A. Abreu (remote), B. Thompson (remote), J. Lopez-Molina (remote), R. Granado (remote), T. Perez (remote), T. Wethington (remote)

Trustees Absent

J. Reyes, K. Shah, N. Jones, S. Jean-Jacques, S. Sutherland

Guests Present

A. Nann (remote), Andrew Swaby (remote), C. Russell (remote), M. Dorsey (remote), Sharon Beier (remote), T. Brown (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

II. Pharos Academy Charter School Staff Presentation

A. Pharos Academy Charter School Staff Presentation

Andrew Swaby- Middle School Technology Teacher

Provided history and current activities that he engages the scholars with.

III. PHACS Scholarship

A. PHACS Scholarship

5 School Applicants Brief Interviews:

1. Damian Zuniga

College Plans: Mechanical Engineering

2. Mariam Haidara

College Plans: The medical field is her first interest, helping others and knowing that she can help others.

3. Jems Hernandez

College Plans: Computer Science with Minor in Mathematics

4. Yen Hoang

College Plans: Computer Science - Cyber Security

5. Matthew DeJesus

College Plans: Electrical Engineering /Power Generation (MIT- Fusion Technology)

IV. Board Governance

A. Approve Minutes

J. Lopez-Molina made a motion to approve the minutes from April 2021 Pharos Academy Charter School Board Meeting on 04-15-21.

T. Perez seconded the motion.

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

B. Mentoring Opportunity

C. Genesys Works

D. MWC Recommendations - Project Plan/Next Steps

E. Board Member Resumes

V. Culture Committee Report

A. Culture Committee Report

Stacey, Tahina and Travis met to discuss:

End of Year Gift ideas - New innovative ideas - (Personalized engraved cutting board)

Bridge the gap between Board & Staff

Ask teachers to join the culture committee. One teacher from each school (Upper & Lower)

Space to have Zoom Coffee Meeting with Staff

Spend time with teachers, to discover what is happening with different teachers -

Listening Tour.

Finished Listening Tours- Findings will be presented at the next Culture Committee meeting.

VI. Finance Committee Review

A. Finance Committee Report

Finance Call :

First meeting with the new Financial Advisors

Reviewed April 2021 Financial Reports - In compliance with all financial governance and ratios.

The budget year runs from July 1- June 30. School is on track with a significant surplus.

May 2021 take away, we are good on financial governance and ratios.

The budget is usually approved at the May 2021 meeting, but the budget will be reviewed and approved at the June 2021 Board Meeting.

Public education funding anticipated in the future:

Funding can be used towards:

1. Sanitizing/minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
2. Addressing student needs

LIIF - Low Income Investment Fund

Funds set aside for loan reserve. 2019 Contribution was made to Bronx Holding Property Corporation. Funds are unrestricted and can be used outside of any restrictions.

Today, a vote was made at the BHPC meeting to present these funds to Pharos Academy Charter School operating funds.

FUNDING BUCKETS:

1. 2021 Budget 1.7Mil - Ahead of Budget - June 30
2. On top of normal Title Funding - COVID funding - 4 Mil
3. 412 K - LIIF contribution
4. Significant surplus from the previous years of surplus.

412K unrestricted funds - Are there any investment restrictions on funds

6 Items in addition to Promethean Boards and The Van, are already included in the budget.

Travis Brown presented future expenditures:

1. Purchase Chromebooks with Casing Protection (Grades 3-12)
2. IPAD's (K-2)
3. Urban Farming Project (Front Location -Lab/Farm & Rear Location - Green House)
Urban Agriculture Cooperative
4. Podcast Studio (Equipment Cost)
5. Shelving & Classroom Furniture
6. Modernizing Classroom

Network Hotspots are recommended to be added to the items to be replenished.

Podcast Recording Studio - Can it be rented out to support community relationships?

Yes

Partnering with NJ School - Lights On Program (9:00 PM- 12:00 AM)

Funds used for Operating Budget

Time Horizon - continues to 2023

R. Granado made a motion to Approve the April 2021 Financials.

J. Lopez-Molina seconded the motion.

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

R. Granado made a motion to Approve the purchase of the 6 items expenditures in excess of \$50K.

T. Perez seconded the motion.

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

R. Granado made a motion to Approve the Financial Policy & Procedures document as presented in the Board Packet.

J. Lopez-Molina seconded the motion.

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

B. Investment Account Update

C. Pharos Navigating Forward

D. Pharos Academy Charter School Fundraising

E. FY22 Budget Update

F. Financial Policies and Procedures

VII. Academic Committee Report

A. Academic Committee Report

Summer School approach

Options: Fully in person, remote, or a combination of both.

How can we engage our community to the needs of the scholars and concerns of the parents?

Plan: Survey Parents about how they feel about in-person and remote learning options.

Teacher (Summer School Burnout)

How can we support the Teachers that elect to support Summer School and Prepare the return to the FY22 School Year.

VIII. Principal's Report

A. Principal's Report

April 2021 Board Report

Attendance 95% Average of (K-12) In-person and Remote

The plan is to continue this attendance trend to May & June

655 Enrollment

660 Budgeted

-5 Variance

Assessment & Student Achievement numbers were discussed.

Peoples Policy Academy asked if they could use our space - Precinct 46.

Used our space over the past 3 Days.

Partnership with Food Bank of Harlem.

Once a week food to be given out to Family and Community.

Once a month - Hot food to be provided to the Community.

Beautification to the community has been taking place.

Teacher turnover has been stable. There have been no movement since the last report.

Graduation - 8th Grade will be virtual 12th Grade in person (Parents Preference)

June 25, 2021

IX. Benefits Update

A. Benefits Update

Month of July - Presentation of Benefits options to come

X. Facilities

A. Facilities Update

All facility activities are coming along nicely.

Signage picture presented to the Board.

XI. Board Member Interview

A. Board Member Interview

Dr. Sharon Beier provided professional and academic history.
Interests: Gardening, Academics, Scholar/Youth Activities
Culture Committee

XII. Executive Session

A. Board Member Interview

Executive Session - Board Entered into executive session at 9: 51 PM
Board Member interview discussion and voting for Sharon Beier.
Principal Evaluation discussion and voting
Scholarship Awards for ALL 5 Scholars
4 Year Scholarship Funding to be awarded to all 5 Scholars - \$1,500/Year
Executive Session - Board exited out of executive session at 10:30 PM
Matthew DeJesus - Awarded the Cortevo Scholarship

B. Principal Evaluation

PRINCIPAL EVALUATION

Principal evaluation reviewed and voting recorded.

XIII. Board Member Interview Vote

A. Board Member Interview Vote

J. Lopez-Molina made a motion to Accept Sharon Beier application as a Board Member.
B. Thompson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XIV. Principal Evaluation Vote

A. Principal Evaluation Vote

J. Lopez-Molina made a motion to Approve the Principal Evaluation for Travis Brown.
B. Thompson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XV. 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 10:31 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dorsey