

APPROVED



Pharos Academy Charter School

Minutes

Pharos Academy Charter School Board Meeting (Zoom)

Date and Time

Thursday August 18, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Location

Pharos Academy Charter School
1001 Intervale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10459

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

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: August 18, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 1005 Intervale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459 Zoom -

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

Other Location(s): <https://bronxlighthouse.zoom.us/j/5239033349>

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: 18 de agosto, 2022

Hora: 6:30 p.m.

Lugar: 1005 Intervale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459 - Zoom -
<https://bronxlighthouse.zoom.us/j/5239033349>

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

Trustees Present

J. Lopez-Molina (remote), J. Sowell (remote), R. Granado (remote), S. Jean-Jacques (remote), S. Sutherland (remote), T. South (remote)

Trustees Absent

B. Thompson, K. Shah, S. Beier, T. Perez

Guests Present

C. Russell (remote), M. Dorsey (remote), R. Keogh (remote), T. Brown (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Lopez-Molina called a meeting of the board of trustees of Pharos Academy Charter School to order on Thursday Aug 18, 2022 at 6:34 PM.

II. Board Governance

A. Approve Minutes

J. Lopez-Molina made a motion to approve the minutes from Pharos Academy Charter School Board Meeting on 07-21-22.

J. Sowell seconded the motion.

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

B. 22 - 23 Scholar Family Handbook

Handbook still in progress and will be ready for review in September 2022

Area of Attention:

Best steps are still in decision stages related to Social Media/Cyber Bullying.

DOE - Viewed our handbook during authorization and provided recommendations related to IEP and Suspension Procedures.

Language will be added in the handbook aligning with the recommendations from the DOE.

C. 22 - 23 School Safety Plan

Safety Plan Internal plan and public facing plan discussed.

Safety public facing plan is shared with families and remains available for 30 Days.

There were no questions or inquiries during Zoom sessions provided to discuss Safety Plan.

Safety training is performed by the following:

1. Extension training during Staff Professional Development
2. Monthly Meetings
3. Practice Drills

Safety related to doors and cameras are active and in place to support the safety and security of the Scholars and School Staff Members.

J. Lopez-Molina made a motion to approve the Public Facing Link to the 2022-2023 Safety Plan.

R. Granado seconded the motion.

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

III. Finance Committee Review

A. Finance Committee Report

Robert Keogh joined to support with any finance questions or concerns.

Finance committee met and reviewed the updated projection of the closing finances of the FY 22 School - Fiscal year - July1, 2021- June 30, 2022.

Projected financials closings were discussed in detail.

School has a strong cash position and there is no concern regarding financial health.

There is no concern with the financial procedures and policies that are in place.

Robert Keogh provided an update regarding the key components related to the projected financial closing position.

Three areas of concentration:

1. Reconciliation Billing variances related to student enrollment
2. Allocated grant funds and the timing of funds recognition
3. Facility repairs and insurance reimbursement

Grant budget funds reviewed and discussed to be reallocated to adjust the projected financials for the fiscal school year of 2022.

Formal budget amendment to be submitted to the state. Grant term runs from 2022-to 2023, which will offset the closing financial numbers.

No downside or risks related to the reallocation to offset the closing financials.

Sensitivity analysis, reconciling revenue & enrollment are steps for future financials.

Documentations will be available for the School Board for the next Charter Renewal. Memorializing this with a complete audit trail of activities will be available for this matter.

R. Granado made a motion to approve the July 2022 Financials 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. Expenses Over 50K, Navigating Forward

IV. COVID-19 Updates

A. COVID-19 Updates

Summer program was successful with little to no incidents.

Pharos Academy was recognized as a Stellar Summer School provider.

From Covid to Monkey Pox, the school staff will respond with the precautions in place from existing COVID-19 mandates.

School follows the guidance of the NYS Department of Education. School has learned good practices and will keep using these practices and follow the recommendations of the NYS DOE.

K-2 have been the most impacted by teachers wearing masks due to developmental and learning practices.

Moving Steps Forward:

Survey staff and parents to see where our community is and make the decisions based on that data.

V. Academic Committee Report

A. Academic Committee Report

End of the Year Instructional Report presented and discussed with the Board.

June & August On Time Graduation Rates presented at 80% with a projection of Year 2023 of 89%.

Regents Scores (Humanities)

ELA - 85%

Global - 89%

Regents Scores (Math)

Algebra 1- 51%

Algebra 11-33%

Geometry - 50%

Regents Scores (Science)

Living Environment - 66%

Chemistry- 18%

Physics- 4%

Numbers are lower than City and State.

The plan to increase the Math Scoring rates will be focused on getting Math In-Person classes 100%. Current 9th graders spent 7 & 8 Grade Mathematics during the Pandemic , which may have caused a loss in the fundamental learning.

In-Person, identify lagging skills, doubling up Math & Science academic support and reduce class sizes to lower the student-teacher ratio and offering after school academical support are the steps that will be pursued to increase the scores in Math & Science.

Teacher Shortage / Staffing not a concern at Pharos Academy Charter School. Currently fully staff, with an additional Mathematics Teacher.

Spanish Teacher additional teacher - vacancy

Physics - number of students testing across the City of NY, only 14,569 students took the Physics exam in 2018-2019. School recognizes that the Chemistry & Physics are two of

the most difficult courses in High School. It is an instructional challenge for the school, but the school will keep the classes and add support classes for Scholars who are lacking proficiency. Courses will be provided to scholars before they reach Chemistry & Physics classes.

Physics curriculum and educator review will be supported to confirm the method of instructional strategies and material presentation to the scholars.

Pharos 3-8 ELA Scores - 53% Proficiency rate is the Highest Rate of the School. The grade that struggles the most is 3th Grade.

Pharos 3-8 Math Scores - 35% Proficiency rate, which is a little lower than the desired rate.

Board

AfterSchool ,Saturday School, Bridge Classes, Pull Out Groups are among the options that can and will be considered to improve the scoring rates.

Putting all the interventions in one place for the Board to review is a suggested approach for Board review.

VI. Facilities

A. Facilities Update

Facility Update:

Manhole Fire - 1005 Intervale:

No injuries reported

Fire department has not provided the final report.

Fire Restoration completed at 1001 Intervale location.

VII. Executive Session

A. Personnel Matter

Executive Session Start at 8:08 PM

Executive Session End at 8:35 PM

Executive Agenda: Personnel Matter

VIII. 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 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dorsey