



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

May Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday May 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM EDT

Location

<https://zoom.us/j/98158607236?pwd=cG1OQkd2TTEvT2RWYTI4RXN4TzdBZz09>

Meeting ID: 981 5860 7236

Passcode: PVPA2022

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			6:00 PM
A. Record Attendance			1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order			
C. Read the Mission Statement			1 m
<i>PVPA offers its students intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.</i>			
D. Approve Minutes			5 m
E. Public Comment			20 m
II. Executive Director Report			
III. Board Committee Reports			6:27 PM
A. Finance Committee Report	Vote	Andrea Nathanson	20 m
Budget Presentation AY 2022-2023			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B. Governance Committee Report		Marty Espinola	10 m
C. Executive Evaluation Committee Evaluation Process Presentation			10 m
IV. Internal Stakeholders			7:07 PM
A. Staff Reports			15 m
B. Student Reports			20 m
V. President's Business			7:42 PM
A. Mask Mandate			20 m
B. May 2, 2022 Open Meeting Law Complaint from Laura Ortiz.	Vote		10 m
VI. Closing Items			8:12 PM
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote		
VII. Executive Session			

Cover Sheet

Approve Minutes

Section:

I. Opening Items

Item:

D. Approve Minutes

Purpose:

Submitted by:

Related Material:

2_8_22 Board Notes (1).pdf

2022_04_05_board_meeting_minutes (1).pdf

Attendance

Voting Members

David Potter (in person)
Jess Pompei (remote)
Sofia Gertoff Scanlon (remote)
Rick Pouliot (remote)
Andrea Nathanson (remote)
Marty Espinosa (remote)
Jenyka Spitz-Gassnola (remote)
Jenna Sardella (in person)
Shannon Materka (in person)
Shino Marta Yoshen (remote)
Maggie Solis (remote)
Tanya Ward (remote)
Latrina Denson (remote)

Non-Voting Attendance

Marcy O'Connor
Brent Nielsen
Kendrick T. Roundtree (remote)
Firas Hashmi (remote)

Absent

Jacob Rosenblum
Mindi Winter
Neil Hede
Fiona Yates

David calls the meeting to order at 6:09 PM

Mission statement read: *PVPA offers its students intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.*

Marty Espinosa moves to approve the minutes. Seconded by David Potter.

Discussion

Shannon notes that Jacob's name is misspelled in the notes
All members are now approved by DESE, including members voted on last week.

Vote

Sofia (yes)
Rick (yes)
Jenyka (yes)

Andrea (yes)
Shino (yes)
Jessie (yes)
Marty (yes)
Latrina (yes)
Tonya (yes)
Jenna (yes)
Shannon (yes)
David (yes)
Maggie (yes)

Motion passes unanimously

Public Comment - none

Executive Director's Report

Slide presentation of images from Paideia. Last Friday was the last day of the 14 days of Paideia for 2022. Votes tonight on the school calendar, most importantly the start and end dates for the school year. An exciting field trip is planned and needs to be approved by the board.

Every year PVPA has something called Paideia that occurs in between the fall and spring semester where many great things happen. Some of the things presented tonight included: exploring Studio Ghibli, Hands-on science, Mock Trial Team (very successful this year with 3 victories so far and another trial coming up next week), STARS (a musical written by a PVPA student) was very successful with three shows this past weekend, Backgammon and Chess, Stage Combat (formerly a class at PVPA), MAPS (music and poetry synchronized) where students collaborate with a school in Puerto Rico and put the poetry they create to music, Runway - Empowerment through Movement (students also created and modeled their own designs), Paper Mache and Pottery, Knitting and Crocheting, Humanities Intensive Paideia (credit recovery), Short Film Writer's Room (their work will be displayed in June), Rainbow Activism, PVPA Bake Off, Video Game Culture, Magic the Gathering. There was also a Paideia that worked very hard to add color to the newly painted hallways. Many murals were created, and all of the walls are now an amazing display of the hard work of students and staff.

The opportunity for students to provide feedback, make suggestions, ask questions was discussed last month. Brent did create a Google form, but some students have expressed a desire to have more anonymity around this process. A box will be housing a box where this can happen.

The main office is currently under construction. New furniture has been obtained and the desire is to create an inviting space. During February break, painting will take place. Murals will most likely be forthcoming and a new counter will be installed.

Covid updates: we are past the Omicron surge. The highest reported cases were 11 in one week (4 staff and 7 students). The last two weeks have had 2 students positive and it looks like there will be two reported this week. These cases are almost always traced back to family, and transmission is seldom related to the school. Everyone is doing what is necessary to prevent transmission. Our vaccination rates are very high. The vaccination clinic had 61 participants on January 21 and included first, second, boosters, and flu shots. Currently, 342 students (88%) have had their first shot. 332 (85%) vaccinated fully. 95% of staff are vaccinated. Routine pooled testing is still ongoing, but we have now adopted at-home testing. Pooled testing has 287 students enrolled. 81 staff members are also participating. The pooled testing will continue in conjunction with at-home testing. We have fewer students opting into the at-home testing (167). These numbers may move up incrementally in the next few weeks. This program does not cost the school anything and helps to limit the amount of time needed for contact tracing/quarantine. This should also cut down on the amount of time that students will need to be out of school.

Enrollment: As of today we have 391 students enrolled with 5 in the process of onboarding. We expect to be between 395 and 398 by the time the lottery for next year takes place. We are doing better compared to many area charter schools. Many students seemed to have left between January 1 and January 24. This is unprecedented and may relate to Covid fatigue. We are currently doing more to find out why students are leaving when they do. The lottery for next year will take place on Monday. We have the same number of applicants compared to previous years, but these applicants are currently skewing towards high school. If the 7th-grade waitlist is exhausted a supplementary lottery will be held.

Restorative Practice updates: we are in the final stages of onboarding a restorative justice coordinator. There has been a verbal acceptance, but a CORI check is still needed. They should be starting soon. Many things are planned including a two-day workshop for administrators to integrate restorative practice and PBIS. Some of this work has been done in the past, but this gives everyone an opportunity to continue this work and have updates regarding this practice and unite all admin on the same page. A six-hour online training module was purchased and will be completed by all staff. This will establish a baseline of knowledge and put everyone on the same page so that we can truly begin the work of restorative practice at PVPA. Students will be asked to help, especially student council members and those familiar with restorative practice. Brent has been meeting with a group whose focus is on helping new leaders at Charter schools and they are currently working on diversity and inclusion, and upcoming work will be focused on restorative practice.

The community handbook is being updated. The admin team is working together to make this happen. This is a big job but should be finished by the end of the week.

Brent has been hosting family information sessions, but attendance has been low.

A group met today to review the course catalog for next year. There are some significant changes that have already occurred and there will be more. The History offerings, in particular, have changed. All 9th graders will take World History. All 11th graders will take a Civics course and complete a Civics project. All of the History electives have been updated according to student interest and an effort to move away from US and Eurocentric History.

Tech theater opportunities for students are currently being thought about, especially with the creation of classes.

Relevant PD to support leadership, growth, and effective outcomes. PVPA has purchased an evaluation and performance tracking system. Electronic records will be maintained while an employee works at PVPA and can be transferred between supervisors should they change over the course of an employee's career. Artifacts, records of observations, PD, etc. are all tracked by this system.

Brent was invited to speak at the Amherst Rotary Club. During the application period for the lottery, Sandy did a lot of advertising, print media, and radio. Ads were created in both English and Spanish and the aim was to create a diverse showing throughout the valley. Sandy has been doing a lot to maintain our social media presence. We have started to host tours of PVPA prior to acceptance open to students and families considering PVPA.

The new PVPA website will be going live soon (a visual mock-up was presented). The layout should be more accessible, with information easier to find. It will be hard to miss the options to "apply" and "donate." The image on the site will be a live video. Events will be listed on the main page that also links to ticket purchasing without the need to use Eventbrite. Students will also be able to pay for lunch via this site. Forms can be created and disseminated to the community.

Votes

Proposed Field Trip for the BSU (presented by Kendrick) - out of state field trip to Washington DC (African American History Museum at the Smithsonian). Students are able to explore the museum for 3 to 4 hours and it is full of well-curated exhibits. The BSU is also considering a field trip related to the 108 HBCUs and a tour of these facilities. Itinerary: leave on 4/4 to Baltimore, explore two campuses and then travel to D.C. to tour another campus as well as the African American History Museum. Howard and Morgan campuses are part of this itinerary and Kendrick has begun reaching out to alumni in the area who might be interested in funding this trip.

Shino moves to approve an out-of-state field trip. Maggie Solis seconds the motion.

Discussion - Shino - how many students will be attending and how many adults will come?

Response - 15 students with 5 chaperones. Tonya reports that there is no longer a time limit at the African American History Museum. Shannon - how is the trip being funded? Kendrick -

fundraising is happening now. There are some funds leftover from last year (\$695). They currently need \$4000. The majority of this goes to accommodations and meals. The tickets are free. Jenyka - is there a platform for community members to make donations for this trip? Response - donations are being accepted and they can contact Marcy or Kendrick. David - have you considered a press release to share information about the event? Response - Dr. Shabaz at UMass has pointed the BSU to several publications where this can happen.

Vote

Shannon (yes)
Jenna (yes)
Shino (yes)
Maggie (yes)
Latrina (yes)
Jessie (yes)
Jenyka (yes)
Andrea (yes)
Marty (yes)
Rick (yes)
Sofia (yes)
Tonya (yes)
David (yes)

The calendar for next year needs to be approved. Items changing for next year include the number of days for Paideia (reducing from 14 days to 9). This is only a place to start and needs to be followed up with an in-depth conversation about ways to improve Paideia. School starts and ends around the same time as this year. The same number of curriculum days are present; however, a December curriculum day will be a half-day for students and a full day for staff. This will help to prevent us from going too far into June at the end of the school year. The first day will be 8/30 and the last will be 6/15 (final workday for staff on 6/16).

Discussion: Shino - why is Paideia being shortened? Response - the dates of Paideia are still being discussed. Approval of the calendar does not limit these changes from happening following discussion with students and staff. Less routine has led to some negative consequences and repercussions. Frustrations and "meltdowns" were more commonplace this year. Firas - PVPA has some things that make us special and Paideia is one of those things. It helps us to retain our status as a unique place of learning. Mock Trial would be adversely affected by the shortening, as much of this time is used for preparation for trials. Is there a way to reduce strain on teachers and find ways to make Paideia more structured? Sofia - echoing what Firas has said. Paideia offers many opportunities for students to have extremely diverse and valuable experiences. Is it possible to get student feedback before this decision is made? Shino - how was this decision made? Response - the union polled staff, but the poll was split almost 50/50. Students need to be involved in the final plan, but it must also be noted that there are things teachers and admin see that students do not. The increase in behavioral referrals

during Paideia is exponential, in some cases leading to hospitalizations of students. Students should be engaged in the type of experiences that happen during Paideia, but it must be done in a way that allows teachers more time for planning. Students, teachers, and admin need to find a solution that benefits everyone. Fiona - echoes Firas and Sofia. PVPA is enjoyable and unique to PVPA. Shortening Paideia will negatively impact the PVPA community. Jesse - as a parent of an 8th grader and a teacher the idea of Paideia is something vital to the PVPA community. Is there a way to return to the outreach programs that once took place during Paideia as a way to alleviate some of the stress on teachers? The programs are outstanding and make PVPA what it is. Rick - would like to learn more about the responses from the faculty response to the poll and echoes the idea that there should be feedback about Paideia from the students. Paideia seems like an important part of building community re-building community in the wake of Covid. More input is needed before we vote on this issue. Jenyka - has experience with this argument from both sides as an alum and a former employee. Jenyka echoes Jesse's thoughts about using Paideia as a means to interact with the greater community. The lack of structure is problematic and can lead to feelings of instability. This is an ongoing issue at PVPA, and a quick decision should not be made. Student voices need to be heard. More support for teachers could be implemented, more support could be given to the Mental Health team to support students. Can focus groups be implemented with students to get their feedback? Maggie - can there be more quantification or information provided? Why is Paideia a destabilizing time? How many students are being negatively impacted by this lack of stability?

Brent reports that there are many negative impacts of Paideia at three weeks. Teachers are in an untenable position regarding their daily schedule. We are also not meeting our 990 instructional hours requirement. Paideia is often discussed as problematic but has never really been effectively changed. The valuable things that occur during Paideia can still happen but in a new and more effective and engaging way. We need to understand how to do Paideia without negatively impacting any students.

The calendar vote includes 180 school days, 9 curriculum days, no changes to federal holidays or school breaks. It also establishes a start and end date for the school year but leaves the issues of Paideia unresolved.

Shino moves to approve the start and end dates of the calendar as proposed (see above). Shannon seconds the motion.

Brent would like to have the board vote to approve the calendar completely but without Paideia finalized. David suggests that we disseminate a calendar without Paideia, but not regarding the work that is ongoing.

Marcy offers a friendly amendment that we vote to approve the calendar with an amendment that explains the ongoing discussion surrounding the motion.

Shino withdraws her motion.

Jenyka moves that we approved a calendar but with a commitment that Paideia should be made to continue the discussion about Paideia and how it will look in the coming year.

Maggie suggests that Paideia should not be included on the calendar, but instead a note needs to exist that informs families that discussion is still happening about Paideia and the dates are TBD.

Firas suggests that we leave Paideia untouched on the calendar with the previously discussed note.

There is a hard date of March 1st for when the calendar has to be approved.

Brent stresses that Paideia can be changed regardless of the calendar being approved.

David moves that we approve the PVPA 22-23 calendar as proposed with a note that indicates the final dates and format of Paideia are subject to change. Shannon seconds the motion.

Vote

Shannon (yes)
Jenna (yes)
Andrea (abstain)
Shino (no)
Maggie (no)
Rick (no)
Sofia (abstain)
Jenyka (abstain)
Jesse (abstain)
Marty (yes)
Tonya (yes)
Latrina (yes)
David (yes)

The motion does not pass.

Maggie moves to adopt the calendar as proposed but without setting specific dates for Paideia, but instead including a note to explain that Paideia is under discussion and will have no more than 14 days. David seconds the motion.

Fiona makes a friendly motion to include the idea that we include that discussion will be collaborative and will include staff, students, etc.

Vote

Rick (yes)

Sofia (yes)
Latrina (yes)
Tonya (yes)
Jenyka (yes)
Maggie (yes)
Jesse (yes)
Marty (yes)
Shino (yes)
Andrea (yes)
Jenna (yes)
Shannon (yes)
David (yes)

The motion carries.

Finance Committee

Andrea reports that the committee met on 2/2. Marcy caught the committee up on the budget as it is affected at the state level. Numbers look good heading into next year. The governor's budget looks favorable for PVPA. The estimated tuition for next year is 7.2 million. The increased rate increases will add \$38,000 to the budget. Other increases are currently under discussion.

Governance Committee

Met early last month to review and propose the new members. They will meet again next week.

Long Range Infrastructure Planning Committee

No report

Executive Search Committee

The committee has been meeting weekly. The job posting was modified and approved. The posting has gone out. The larger community school survey was also modified and approved and will go out soon. The proposal from Civitas Strategies was reviewed. Since reviewing the proposal, Marcy has given the committee additional feedback and this was shared back with Civitas. They then submitted a revised proposal to address Marcy's questions. The committee will meet tomorrow at 5 and scrutinize this new proposal.

Executive Evaluation Committee

We are taking this year off due to the leader's interim status. We are instead looking to revise our evaluation process and developing a survey to help in the evaluation of the school head.

This will also serve as a rubric. We have great models about what has been done in the past and there will be something to report to the board in a few months. The governance community may wish to inform the board regarding pieces of the process for finding a new head of school. Clarity of process is important. Where does the board step in and take over?

Staff Reports

Shannon presents a question - as there will not be an evaluation of the head of school, will there be a way for teachers to add input about Brent as the current head of school and his candidacy to remain as the head? Will this potentially be unfair to other candidates? David reports that all information can be shared and considered in the process of interviewing and hiring the new head of school. It might not be appropriate to create a formal conduit for this information to be gathered, but it is certainly possible for staff to add input. Per Marcy, this will most likely happen during the actual interview process as there will be staff present.

Student Reports

Sofia reports that the student council is working on planning a second consent week event. This will be student-led training about the prevention of sexual assault. More information will be forthcoming. Firas thanks the board for adding World History and increasing global history offerings. Student clubs have been increasing their activity. A book drive is underway and candy grams are occurring. Firas also reports his support of the new PVPA website. Fiona also offers that they are always willing to answer questions about the student experience. And David asks that we move this to next month's meeting considering the time spent.

President's Business

Committee minutes can be shared with David. There are items and topics that are of record even if they are not in the minutes. These items have an impact on our community because they are observed and heard by the larger community. There has been a discussion about updating bylaws to prevent negative conversations of named persons from happening when said person is not present. Thom Vreeland and Sandra Courtney were discussed in negative terms related to the presentation of the job posting for the head of school, and this was unacceptable. This is a breakdown at the board level and David assumes responsibility and asks the board to keep this in mind as we consider policies for the future. Shout out to Stars! The Strategic Action Plan asks the board to continue conversations with the community and is looking to implement a suggestion box for staff/students. Teacher appreciation donations should be considered for official board business. Can we create an appreciation gesture for teachers that is owned by the board and becomes a tradition and can be planned for in advance? The PTO is helping to coordinate teacher appreciation efforts. Brent reports that Chris Fournier is running the PTO.

David moves that we go into executive session. Marty seconds the motion. It is unanimously approved.

Brent has been invited to the executive meeting. He accepts.

David moves to adjourn. Marty seconds the motion. It is unanimously approved.

DRAFT



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Minutes

April Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Location

PVPA 3rd Floor Conference Room

Join Online:

<https://zoom.us/j/98158607236?pwd=cG1OQkd2TTEvT2RWYTI4RXN4TzdBZz09>

Meeting ID: 981 5860 7236

Passcode: PVPA2022

Trustees Present

Andrea Nathanson, David Potter, Jacob Rosenblum (remote), Jenna Sardella, Jesse Pompei (remote), Maggie Solis (remote), Mindi Winter, Neil Hede (remote), Richard Pouliot (remote), Shannon Materka, Shino Yoshen (remote), Sofia Getoff-Scanlon (remote), Tonya Ward (remote)

Trustees Absent

LATRINA DENSON, Marty Espinola

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

Andrea Nathanson

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

David Potter called a meeting of the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School to order on Tuesday Apr 5, 2022 at 6:08 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

Maggie Solis made a motion to approve the minutes from March Board of Trustees Meeting on 03-17-22.

Sofia Getoff-Scanlon seconded the motion.

The minutes from the February meeting were not approved at the March meeting due to an issue with the minutes. This issue will be discussed in the interim, and the unapproved minutes will be up for approval as soon as possible.

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

Roll Call

Maggie Solis	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Jacob Rosenblum	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Absent
Tonya Ward	Aye
Shino Yoshen	Aye
David Potter	Aye
Richard Pouliot	Aye
Mindi Winter	Aye
Jenna Sardella	Aye
Marty Espinola	Absent
Sofia Getoff-Scanlon	Aye
Jesse Pompei	Aye
Shannon Materka	Aye
Andrea Nathanson	Abstain

Andrea Nathanson arrived at 6:12 PM.

D. Public Comment

Parent of a current student and accepted student

Parent wants to thank the school community for their work on keeping students safe. This parent asks the Board to extend the mask mandate until April 17th—the beginning of Spring break. Spring break will likely result in an increase of cases, so the Board should give the administration authority to reinstate the mask mandate.

Parent of two high school students

Parent asks for the immediate removal of the mask mandate and a move to a mask optional model. PVPA is the last school in Western Massachusetts that is forcing masks upon students.

PVPA Student

This student will have to go remote if the mask mandate is lifted. The health issues they face would force them to leave the building and attend classes remotely.

Speech Language Pathologist

Face-to-face interaction makes us human. A mask-optional system will improve the lives of students given the data.

PVPA Student

This student favors keeping the mask mandate, citing the omicron sub-variant across Europe (which will likely extend to the United States). This student got

COVID at the close of 2021 and experienced symptoms for months following their infection. Prevention is key, and mask-wearing is easy.

PVPA Alum and Parent

This person is a nutritionist and acupuncture specialist, so they are familiar with the interpretation of data. The data says that masks are absolutely ineffective. Individuals look foolish wearing masks.

Parent of a PVPA Student

This parent is immunocompromised and on chemo. They were seriously ill when they were infected with COVID, but they are supportive of lifting the mask mandate. Other efforts are more effective, the practices of which should continue into the future. COVID-19 is a new reality.

PVPA Staff Member

This staff member requests that the mask mandate be lifted. This staff member believes that staff and students should not be told that they must wear masks. There will always be COVID cases

PVPA Teacher

This teacher is speaking in favor of maintaining the mask mandate. Student mental health is a major concern here. Making masks optional would likely increase anxiety felt by a number of students. Teaching staff dealing with student mental health challenges are put under a lot of pressure.

PVPA Parent

This parent is a mental health worker who is immunocompromised and speaking in favor of maintaining the mask mandate. Masks do work—we can see this in the data. We need to protect our most vulnerable students and avoid dismissing their worries.

PVPA Parent

PVPA should follow the data that has caused many schools in the area to switch to a mask optional system. Many scientists and physicians are recommending one-way masking, which would still be possible under a mask-optional system. Masking can be harmful for students.

PVPA Parent

Rates of COVID are rising in the area, and it looks like the state as a whole is rising. Our COVID rates have been low *because* of our current masking system. Students and staff will be traveling during Spring break, and masking is necessary for safety.

II. Executive Director Report

A. Brent Nielson

All of the science tells us that masks, testing, quarantine, vaccinations, and hand-washing are important to reduce the spread.

Brent reviews the data shared with the board, [linked here](#).

PVPA is a fairly small school in terms of classroom sizes and space capacities. Our students are generally closer to each other than 3 feet.

Neil Hede made a motion to Move to a mask optional system on May second, at which point the administration will have full authority over reinstating a mandate as well as managing all other COVID-related safety measures.

Shino Yoshen seconded the motion.

Shannon

Many teachers will continue to wear masks if the mandate is lifting. Some teachers are very anxious, and some teachers feel that masks limit communication with students. Teachers want to watch the science.

Students

Safety is the most important component. We need to protect our most vulnerable student populations. COVID cases are on the rise, and the experts say that masks work. Mask mandates can be looked at like peanut allergies—not every school is peanut free, but PVPA is because giving up something simple is worth it for to keep students safe.

It is not time to remove the mandate, nor is it the time to make a decision about the date for mandate removal. Cases are up, and the new variant is prevalent among those cases. Removing the mask mandate at some point this year may make sense, but we should not set a date to remove the mandate before we are aware of the environment at the time of the removal.

The sample data that Brent shared shows that cases are rising. We need to maintain the mask mandate until the data suggests that we are in the clear to do so.

Andrea

In my time on this Board, it has always been important for us to listen to the community. The question is of our culture and what we value. It is important to listen to the voices of the community. We need to keep in mind that it is okay for PVPA to have a culture that is different from those around us.

Jesse

Thank you to the school community for everything that they have done to ensure safety.

Neil

The numbers that stood out to me most were the number of students, staff, and parents who did not respond. It seems that much of the community is somewhere in the middle on the issue.

Shino

When the survey was shared, the largest group indicated that a removal date by May first would be reasonable. Keeping the mandate after the break is necessary to ensure that we are looking at the progression of the data.

David

Thank you to everybody who has shared. My thought is that dictating a date right now feels unwise. Instead, I propose that we put the decision entirely within the hands of the administration.

Maggie

I appreciate the perspectives of everybody who has made a comment and recognize that PVPA is a unique community. My question for Brent is, are you comfortable with having this decision rest in your hands?

Brent

I think that the administration has done a good job making decisions so far. Making these decisions comes with a lot of feelings from the school community, and I am expecting to receive a lot of communication if I am forced to make an

unpopular decision. I believe that, at this point in time, it will be clear when a decision should be made and not particularly onerous to myself or the administration. Removing masks too soon may cause students to stray from other guidelines that have been keeping the community safe.

Neil

My motion was for, beginning on the second of May, the administration to have full authority to make a decision about masking. The administration would not *have* to move to optional if conditions do not allow for a safe return to a mask-optional school.

Andrea

Proposes an amendment to keep the mask mandate until May second, at which point the administration has the authority to determine whether PVPA remains mask required or moves to mask optional.
The motion did not carry.

Roll Call

Sofia Getoff-Scanlon	No
Andrea Nathanson	No
David Potter	No
Jenna Sardella	No
Tonya Ward	No
Marty Espinola	Absent
Mindi Winter	Aye
Maggie Solis	No
Neil Hede	Aye
Richard Pouliot	No
Shino Yoshen	Aye
Jacob Rosenblum	No
Jesse Pompei	No
LATRINA DENSON	Absent
Shannon Materka	Aye

David Potter made a motion to Maintain all current COVID-related health and safety protocols until at least May Second, upon which date the school administration will have authority to make any further decisions regarding these protocols.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

Jesse

I am confused about this motion. Is this saying that the administration may take any action to maintain or change COVID safety protocols after May second?

Brent

Yes, all safety protocols including mask mandates.

Sofia

Maintaining continuity in decision making is important. Keeping this decision with the Board is a good way to ensure that all members of the community are giving feedback in real time. The school administration is more than capable of making good decisions for students, but this decision should remain within this body.

Maggie

How have policies progressed so far? Have they been in the hands of the administration or the Board?

Brent

All COVID health and safety protocols have been decided upon by the administration. Most were also all federally mandates, and those that were not were based on recommendations from public health bodies.

RECESS (5 minutes) - 7:55 - 8:00

The motion did not carry.

Roll Call

Tonya Ward	No
Maggie Solis	No
Neil Hede	Aye
Jacob Rosenblum	No
Jenna Sardella	Aye
Andrea Nathanson	Aye
Jesse Pompei	No
Mindi Winter	Abstain
Richard Pouliot	No
Shannon Materka	Aye
Sofia Getoff-Scanlon	No
Shino Yoshen	Abstain
LATRINA DENSON	Absent
Marty Espinola	Absent
David Potter	No

Jacob Rosenblum made a motion to Leave all current COVID safety protocols in place until the May Board meeting, at which point the Board will reconsider the protocols.

Sofia Getoff-Scanlon seconded the motion.

Shannon

If this motion carries and we do consider the motion in May, we should bring specific data to support whatever decision will be made at the May meeting.

Maggie

My position on this issue is not particularly driven by data about what is safe at a population level. I am not making a decision as a public health individual. I am making a decision based on what students have shared during the past two meetings. These students want to prioritize keeping students safe, and I find that very compelling.

Andrea

I agree with what Maggie is saying. I am also in favor of handing this decision to the administration so that they can consider the data and make decisions in real time. Considering these issues on a monthly schedule seems like a slow process. These decisions, from my perspectives, should be made at an administrative level.

Mindi

We need to keep in mind that, when we are dealing with PVPA, we are dealing with a non-traditional system. Student safety should be our number one priority—if our students are telling us that they feel safer with masks, we should realize that we are hearing this because of the nature of our school district.

Firas

We should approve this motion to avoid a continuation of our undecided monthly meetings.

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

Roll Call

Shannon Materka	Aye
Maggie Solis	No
Sofia Getoff-Scanlon	Aye
Jesse Pompei	Aye
Shino Yoshen	Aye
Tonya Ward	Aye
Jacob Rosenblum	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Absent
Mindi Winter	Aye
Richard Pouliot	Aye
Andrea Nathanson	Aye
David Potter	Aye
Neil Hede	Abstain
Marty Espinola	Absent
Jenna Sardella	Aye

We have an opportunity to name one of our teachers as a recipient of a teaching award. PVPA has chosen to name Jenna Sardella as that recipient.

Jenna

I am honored and want to say that it is an privilege to interact with students every day.

III. Finance Committee Report

A. Andrea

N/a

IV. Infrastructure/Facilities Committee Report

A. David

N/a

V. Executive Search Committee Report

A. Mindi

The community interviews for the three finalist candidates is because we are awaiting confirmation from those nominated. The interviews for these finalists are April 11th, 12th, and 13th. All three will be brought in for full-day interviews, and there will be time for all constituency groups to meet with the candidates.

All Trustees should plan to attend the final sessions for candidates. Trustees will also be asked to deliberate and make a final determination as to the hiring process.

Jake

Please offer an online option for Trustees so that they have an opportunity to provide input.

Rick

Will the Board receive documents like Curricula Vitae?

David

Yes, once decisions are finalized

VI. President's Business

A. Board on Track contract renewal

If we can make a decision about this in May, that would be immensely helpful. We *need* to make a decision by June.

B. Summer Meetings & Retreat

There will be a retreat this year, but the Board does not plan to meet over the summer at this point. A doodle poll for retreat dates will likely be sent out in the near future.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Mindi Winter made a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:25.

Jenna Sardella seconded the motion.

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

Cover Sheet

Finance Committee Report

Section:	III. Board Committee Reports
Item:	A. Finance Committee Report
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	FY23 Proposed Budget to BOT 5-5-22-Revised.pdf

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School FY 23 Budget

Finance Committee on 5/5/22

Recommended Budget Based on 4% Increase in Tuition

PVPA Mission Statement

- Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School offers its students intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.

FY 23 Budget - Revenue

* Line items outside of salaries/benefits without known adjustments were level funded from FY22

	<u>FY22 Budget</u>	<u>FY22 Projected</u>	<u>FY23 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Budget (+/-) FY22 to FY23</u>	<u>% change</u>
Income					
Comm of Mass Sources					
4000411 · Per Pupil Income	6,307,912.00	6,372,683.00	6,715,990.32 1	408,078	6.47%
4000412 · Grants	550,354.00	598,109.00	550,354.00 2	0	0.00%
4000413 · MassHealth Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00%
Total Comm of Mass Sources	6,858,266.00	6,970,792.00	7,266,344.32	408,078.32	5.95%
Total 4000420 · Production Revenue	28,500.00	12,000.00	28,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Total 4000430 · Student Activities Revenue	70,000.00	42,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Total 4000440 · Auxiliary Revenue	27,950.00	30,000.00	32,950.00 3	5,000.00	25.00%
4000450 · Interest	8,500.00	5,000.00	6,000.00 4	-2,500	-29.41%
4000460 · Fundraising					
4000461 · Friends of PVPA-Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00%
4000462 · Friends-Annual Fund for PVPA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00%
4000463 · Contributions-Unrestricted	30,000.00	40,000.00	30,000.00	0	0.00%
4000464 · Contributions-Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00%
Total 4000460 · Fundraising	30,000.00	40,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00%
4000470 · Miscellaneous Revenue	2,500.00	32,000.00	2,500.00 5	0	0.00%
4000480 · Summer Program Revenue	0.00			0	0.00%
4000490 Rental Income	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0	0.00%
Total Income	7,029,716.00	7,135,792.00	7,440,294.32	410,578.32	5.84%

Revenue – Continued

- (1) Tuition:** 4% increase based on FY22 final tuition projection of \$6,457,683 with 392 students.
- (2) Grant revenue:** no increase in Federal Entitlement Grants over FY22 however ESSER III funds are still available for FY23 & FY24.
- (3) Auxiliary Revenue:** \$5,000 increase due to increased ridership on busses.
- (4) Interest:** Decreased by \$2,500 based on current trend.
- (5) Miscellaneous Revenue:** FY22 \$20,000 from MA Sick COVID Sick Leave will not continue into FY23.

FY 23 Budget - Expenses

* Line items outside of salaries/benefits without known adjustments were level funded from FY22

	<u>FY22 Budget</u>	<u>FY22 Projected</u>	<u>FY23 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>(+/-) FY22 to FY23</u>	<u>% change</u>	
Expense						
5200000 • Education Expense						
Total 5200500 • Salaries	3,081,139.47	2,832,670.42	3,098,700.85	1	17,561.38	0.57%
Total 5200560 • Taxes and Benefits	659,414.10	590,289.68	706,636.13	2	47,222	7.16%
Total 5200001 • Salaries and Benefits	3,740,553.57	3,422,960.10	3,805,336.98		64,783.41	1.73%
Total 5210600 • General Educational Expense	39,200.00	39,871.00	39,200.00		0.00	0.00%
Total 5220000 • Departmental Expense	42,220.00	30,013.34	34,520.00	3	-7,700.00	-18.24%
Total 5229500 • Grant Expenses	550,354.00	598,109.01	550,354.00	4	0.00	0.00%
Total 5200000 • Education Expense	4,523,527.57	4,221,553.45	4,565,410.98		41,883.41	0.93%
5245000 • Production						
Total 5245500 • Salaries	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	1	50,000.00	0.00%
Total 5245560 • Taxes and Benefits	854.27	901.98	5,359.67	2	4,505.40	527.40%
Total 5245600 • Production-Other	91,620.00	98,295.00	91,620.00		0.00	0.00%
Total 5245000 • Production	92,474.27	99,196.98	146,979.67		54,505.40	58.94%
Total 5250600 • Technology	41,559.96	41,420.00	79,380.00	5	37,820.04	91.00%
5300600 • Administrative						
Total 5300500 • Salaries	952,335.40	902,391.99	1,017,943.61	1	65,608.21	6.89%
Total 5300560 • Taxes and Benefits	153,436.23	210,464.71	227,322.96	2	73,886.73	48.15%
5300580 • Workers' Compensation Insurance	34,537.44	26,000.00	37,718.49		3,181	9.21%
Total 5300601 • General Administrative Expenses	62,500.00	74,500.00	69,000.00	6	6,500.00	10.40%
Total 5310600 • Recruitment-Students	8,200.00	8,200.00	8,200.00		0.00	0.00%
Total 5311600 • Recruitment/Retention-Employees	2,500.00	9,000.00	11,000.00	7	8,500.00	340.00%
Total 5315600 • Business Office Expense	30,100.00	43,750.00	29,100.00		-1,000.00	-3.32%
Total 5320600 • Board of Trustees Expense	42,250.00	34,250.00	42,250.00		0.00	0.00%
Total 5300600 • Administrative	1,285,859.07	1,308,556.70	1,442,535.06		156,675.99	12.18%

FY 23 Budget – Expenses (Continued)

	<u>FY22 Budget</u>	<u>FY22 Projected</u>	<u>FY23 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>(+/-) FY22 to FY23</u>	<u>% change</u>	
Total 5330600 • Development	6,000.00	5,500.00	4,000.00	-2,000.00	-33.33%	
5400000 • Facilities Expense						
Total 5400500 • Salaries	80,850.04	85,900.00	88,402.00	1	7,551.96	9.34%
Total 5400560 • Taxes and Benefits-Facilities	24,628.75	28,167.90	29,694.21	2	5,065.46	20.57%
Total 5400600 • Facilities Expense-Other	689,425.00	689,825.00	719,125.00	8	29,700	4.31%
Total 5400000 • Facilities Expense	794,903.79	803,892.90	837,221.21		42,317.42	5.32%
Total 5500700 • Depreciation Expense	112,000.00	112,000.00	114,000.00		2,000.00	1.79%
5600600 • Auxiliary Expense						
Total 5600700 • Transportation	143,550.00	179,050.00	180,800.00	9	37,250.00	25.95%
Total 5610000 • Food Service	21,946.34	29,112.56	63,311.44	10	41,365	188.48%
Total 5600600 • Auxiliary Expense	165,496.34	208,162.56	244,111.44		78,615.10	47.50%
5700900 • Other Expense						
5700901 • Bad Debt Expense	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00		0	0.00%
Total 5700900 • Other Expense	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00		0.00	0.00%
66900 - Reconcillation Discrepancies	0.00		0.00		0	0.00%
Total Expense	7,028,321.00	6,806,782.59	7,440,138.36		411,817.36	5.86%

Expenses – Continued

(1) Salaries:

- a. Step Increases for teaching staff (CBA contingency is triggered at +2% in tuition).
- b. 3% increase for non-teaching staff as required in CBA.
- c. 3% increase for non-unit members & Administrators.
- d. 3.20 FTE increase in staffing (1.2 Arts, 1.0 Production & 1.0 Reading Specialist).
- e. Return of Mentor Program stipends totaling \$12,500.

(2) Benefits:

- a. Health Insurance increase of 5.67%.
- b. Dental Insurance – increase of 4.4%.
- c. HRA – Plan design change to deductibles (increased from \$2,000/\$4,000 to \$3,000/\$6,000 for single/employee+1 and family).

(3) Departmental Expense: decrease of \$7,700 for new Math curriculum purchased in FY22.

(4) Grant Expense: Expenses match revenue as grants are reimbursable in nature.

(5) Technology: Increased \$37,820 moving to 1:1 laptop program - developing a replacement plan for all devices.

Expenses – Continued

- (6) General Administrative:** Membership to MCPSA increased to \$21,450 from \$13,009.
- (7) Recruitment/Retention of Employees:** Overall increase of \$8,500 to fund the ADP PVPA Career Center and recruitment activities as well as development of an employee retention plan.
- (8) Facilities Expense:** increase of 5.32% which includes increase to utilities and estimated increases for new contracts out to bid (janitorial, snow plowing, landscaping & HVAC).
- (9) Transportation:** \$37,00 increase estimated for new contract being bid in May/June.
- (10) Food Service:** increase due to absorbing 2.0 FTE lunch aide/safety monitor positions previously paid by ESSSER II funds

FY23 Net Income & Balanced Budget

	<u>FY22 Budget</u>	<u>FY22 Projected</u>	<u>FY23 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Budget (+/-) FY22 to FY23</u>	<u>% change</u>
Total Income	7,029,716.00	7,135,792.00	7,440,294.32	410,578.32	5.84%
Total Expense	7,028,321.00	6,806,782.59	7,440,138.36	411,817.36	5.86%
Net Income	1,395.00	329,009.41	155.96	-1,239.04	-88.82%

FY23 Salaries & Benefits

	<u>FY22 Budget</u>	<u>FY22 Projected</u>	<u>FY22 Difference</u>	<u>FY23 Proposed</u>	<u>FY22 Proj vs FY23</u>	<u>FY23 vs FY22 Budget</u>
Total Salaries	4,120,053.77	3,842,562.41	-277,491.36	4,299,542.46	456,980.05	179,488.69
Total Benefits	838,333.35	829,824.27	-8,509.08	969,012.97	139,188.70	130,679.62
Total Salaries & Benefits	4,958,387.12	4,672,386.68	-286,000.44	5,268,555.43	596,168.75	310,168.31
 Grant Salaries	 151,277.00	 346,289.00		 320,451.00		

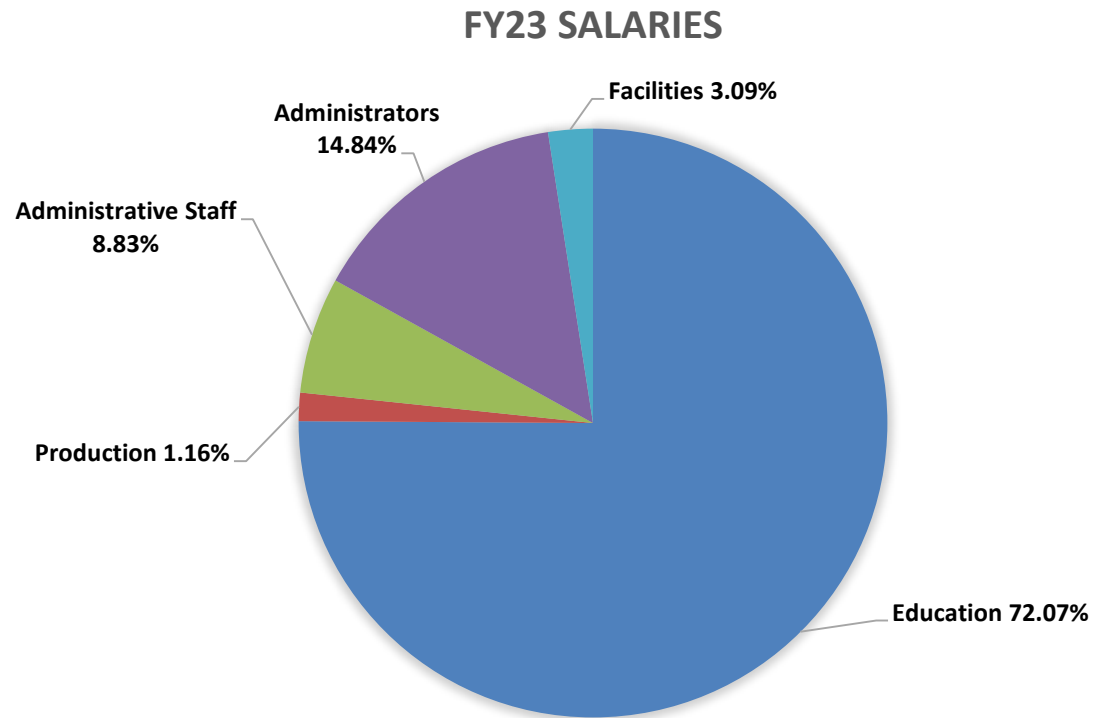
PVPA Salary Matrix 2020-2023

As agreed upon in the PVPA & International Union and UAW, Local 2322 - CBA - 2020-2023

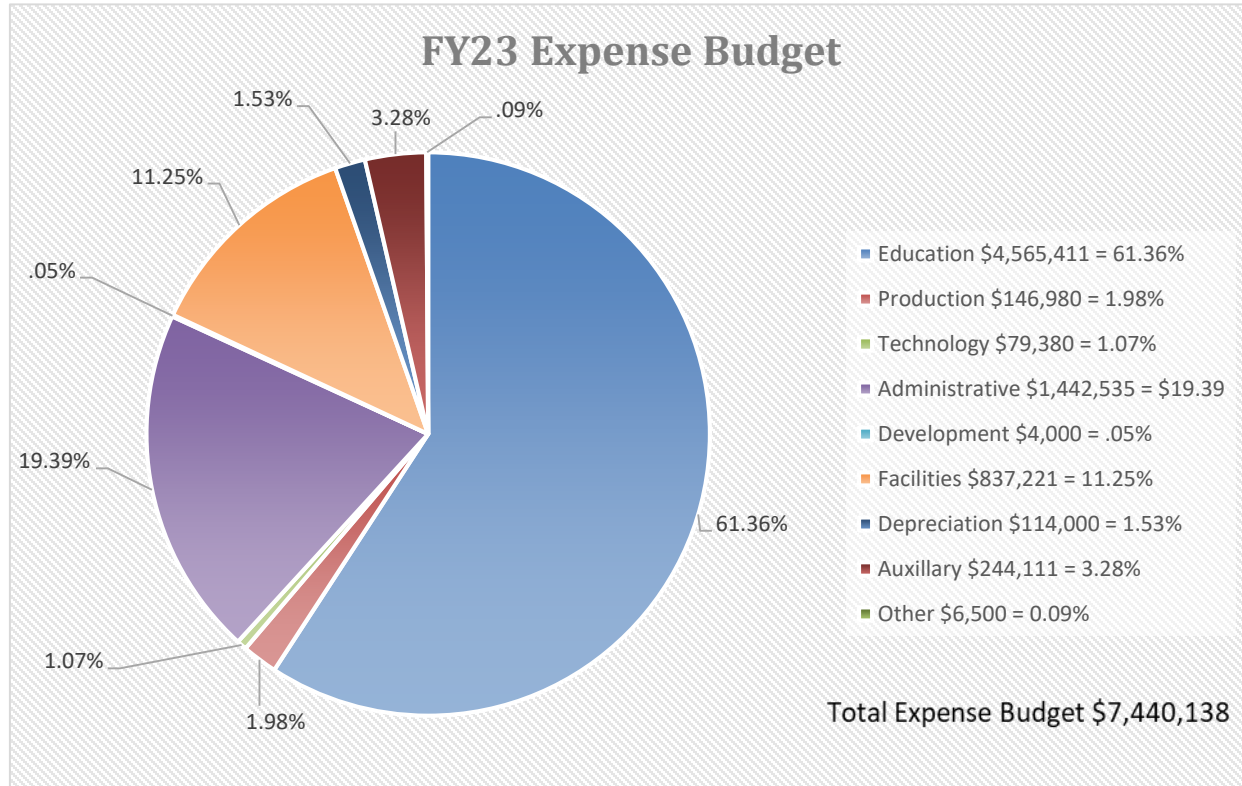
BA			MA			
STEP	2020-2023 CBA SALARY	Increase	STEP	2020-2023 CBA SALARY	Increase	MA over BA
1	39,990	3%	1	41,975	0%	5%
2	40,469	1%	2	42,493	1%	5%
3	42,528	5%	3	44,654	5%	5%
4	43,962	3%	4	46,160	3%	5%
5	45,226	3%	5	47,488	3%	5%
6	47,011	4%	6	49,362	4%	5%
7	48,420	3%	7	50,841	3%	5%
8	49,394	2%	8	51,864	2%	5%
9	50,864	3%	9	53,407	3%	5%
10	52,876	4%	10	55,520	4%	5%
11	53,955	2%	11	56,653	2%	5%
12	56,311	4%	12	59,126	4%	5%
13	56,632	1%	13	59,464	1%	5%
14	56,853	0%	14	59,696	0%	5%
15	60,000	5%	15	63,000	5%	5%

*Longevity Increase - Salary levels beyond Step 15 will receive Longevity Increase of \$1,000

FY22 Budget By The Numbers



FY22 Budget By The Numbers



PVPA – 5 Year History of Cash Reserves

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019***</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Cash (per Balance Sheet at June 30)	2,547,805	2,223,230	1,905,644	2,121,008	2,181,212
Operating expenses for 3 months	<u>(1,500,000)</u>	<u>(1,500,000)</u>	<u>(1,500,000)</u>	<u>(1,500,000)</u>	<u>(1,500,000)</u>
Balance	1,047,805	723,230	405,644	621,008	681,212

*** DESE late with 6/30 payment. Received \$321,022 in July

Capital Budget – Review FY20-FY22 With FY23 Proposed

Capital Budget - for FY20 - Approved (Outstanding)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Theater	Accoustical Theater Curtains for Side Wall	22,000	Part of original configuration - increased sound quality & sound proofing
	Facilities Project Design & Plans	25,000	Long-range Planning Committee recommendation
	Sub total	<u><u>47,000</u></u>	

Capital Budget - FY21 - Approved (Outstanding)

Lease-hold Improvements			
	PA System Upgrade	25,000	Current system 6 years old - out of warranty - safety concern - no bell system
	Total	<u><u>25,000</u></u>	

Capital Budget - FY22 Proposed - Approve by FC 3/2/21

Lease-hold Improvements			
	Closed Circuit TV System Upgrade	80,000	Unable to expand - poor video quality - possibly replacing complete system
	Room 129	18,000	Upgrades to accommodate Piano Lab (electrical and structural)
Equipment	Piano Lab (Keyboards/furniture/cables)	17,000	17 Keyboard stations complete with wiring and furniture
	Adjust for Restricted Donations	<u>-17,000</u>	
		98,000	
	FY20 Facilities Project Design & Plans	4,500	Bid received was higher than appropriated - Approved 4-7-22 meeting
	FY21 PA System Upgrade	9,122	Bid received was higher than appropriated - Approved 4-7-22 meeting
	Closed Circuit TV System Upgrade	<u>57,047</u>	Bid received was higher than appropriated - Approved 5-5-22 meeting
		<u><u>168,669</u></u>	

Capital Budget - FY23 Proposed

Lease-hold Improvements			
	3rd Floor Conference Rooms	25,000	Renovation to create 2 conference rooms
	School Counseling & Related Services Suite	30,000	Renovation on second floor
Equipment	Middle School Classroom Furniture	56,500	\$11,300 per room X 5 East Annex
		<u><u>111,500</u></u>	

Cover Sheet

Mask Mandate

Section:	V. President's Business
Item:	A. Mask Mandate
Purpose:	
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Mask Requirement Information - May 6, 2022.pdf county-level-positivity-rates-5-4-2022.pdf

South Hadley Mask Requirements

The South Hadley Board of Health recommends all eligible residents get vaccinated against COVID-19 accordingly. In support of the state Department of Public Health, the Board of Health advises that a fully vaccinated person should wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and not in your own home) if:

- you have a weakened immune system,
- are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or underlying medical condition,
- someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated.

For those who are not vaccinated, it is strongly recommended they continue to wear a face covering or mask.

Positive Cases by District

		May 4	April 27	April 15	April 7	Mar 31	Mar 24	March 16	March 9	March 3	Feb 17	Feb 10
Amherst	mask free 3/14	26/1	21/4	6/8	2/0	2/1	2/3	10/0	2/0	7/6	11/5	7/3
Amherst-Pelham	mask free 3/14	11/4	15/7	31/3	6/2	8/1	3/5	2/1	1/3	7/2	6/6	17/4
Belchertown	mask free 3/14	29/6	11/4	18/1	3/0	8/1	3/0	5/2	15/2	22/1	31/4	42/4
Chicopee	mask free 2/28	37/30	35/19	16/10	24/13	18/9	3/3	7/6	17/3	14/6	29/7	59/18
Concord	mask free 3/7	49/10	43/21	25/8	11/3	12/2	50/4	43/4	13/3	9/1	8/3	9/1
Easthampton	mask free 3/9	2/0	24/3	27/6	3/4	0/1	0/3	0/0	7/2	10/2	11/0	23/1
Granby	mask free 3/2	3/1	5/1	4/0	1/2	2/1	2/2	0/0	1/1	0/0	6/0	6/0
Hadley	mask free 3/7	No Data	3/1	No Data	3/0	3/5	15/4	7/3	No Data	No Data	No Data	5/0
Holyoke	Mask free 3/25	22/16	16/11	11/8	16/5	10/7	10/8	6/0	4/2	19/3	23/6	81/16
Northampton	mask free 3/28	53/11	45/11	24/6	21/2	9/3	6/0	3/0	5/0	8/0	7/1	16/5
Peabody	mask free 2/28	70/8	No Data	18/3	12/3	11/4	19/2	12/2	11/0	14/1	13/1	87/5
PVPA	Masks Required	3/2	3/1	2/2	1/0	0/0	1/0	1/0	2/0	1/1	2/0	2/0
South Hadley	mask free 3/7	4/0	No Data	31/7	16/6	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	11/0
Springfield	mask free 4/4	95/73	44/54	56/38	27/23	23/10	20/10	16/9	16/12	46/35	72/36	120/42
Wellesley	mask free 3/7	43/25	76/29	90/7	22/6	34/7	62/7	16/2	7/1	14/7	20/4	22/4
West Springfield	mask free 2/28	20/11	31/8	18/6	8/6	11/2	20/6	15/2	No Data	23/6	18/9	26/3
Westfield	mask free 2/28	30/18	2/0	10/9	6/1	6/4	2/7	3/0	8/5	15/0	18/12	14/0

Massachusetts 7-day Average COVID-19 Cases

January 11, 2022 - 24,723

March 13, 2022 - 701

April 4, 2022 - 1,237

May 5, 2022 - 3,113

CDC Community Risk Levels

Hampden - Medium

Hampshire - Medium

Franklin - Medium

Recommendations based on the CDC and Massachusetts DPH

All individuals regardless of vaccination status must continue to wear a face mask in the Health Office and anywhere indoors where it is not possible to maintain a distance of at least three feet from other individuals.

Individuals who are considered close contacts or who have tested positive must follow the isolation and quarantine guidance which includes wearing a mask in public for 5 more days after they leave isolation or quarantine on day 5, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition, face masks are strongly recommended in the following situations:

- A fully vaccinated person should wear a mask or face covering when indoors if you have a weakened immune system, or if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated.
- For individuals who are not fully vaccinated, it is important that you continue to wear a face covering or mask to help prevent you from spreading COVID-19 to other people.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard – Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Count and Rate of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Tests Performed in MA by County, January 1, 2020 – May 3, 2022

County	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 Days)	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 days)	Relative Change in Case Counts ¹	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)	Change in Percent Positivity ²
Barnstable County	36592	850	28.0	Higher	782775	13010	914	7.03%	Higher
Berkshire County	24944	977	55.2	Higher	807912	15934	1026	6.44%	Higher
Bristol County	152872	1687	21.1	Higher	2543445	35864	1757	4.90%	Higher
Dukes and Nantucket Counties	6961	74	18.3	Higher	132342	1230	77	6.26%	Higher
Essex County	210805	3194	28.6	Higher	4021450	54572	3439	6.30%	Higher
Franklin County	11133	270	27.1	Higher	410252	5537	290	5.24%	Higher
Hampden County	136568	2100	31.9	Higher	2316663	35480	2293	6.46%	Higher
Hampshire County	29625	963	41.9	Higher	1847988	38699	1018	2.63%	Higher
Middlesex County	343271	8396	36.9	Higher	11675186	176779	9109	5.15%	Higher
Norfolk County	137845	3116	31.1	Higher	3834881	55984	3364	6.01%	Higher
Plymouth County	118343	1572	21.3	Higher	2174087	32672	1692	5.18%	Higher
Suffolk County	221303	5271	46.5	Higher	8217284	118776	5697	4.80%	Higher
Worcester County	198028	3192	27.2	Higher	4769420	77106	3392	4.40%	Higher
Unknown ³	1642	27	*	*	491536	5215	27	*	*
State	1629932	31689	32.5	Higher	44025221	666858	34095	5.11%	Higher

Data are current as of 11:59pm on 05/03/2022; ¹Number of new cases occurring over the current two-week period (04/17/2022 – 04/30/2022) compared to the previous two-week period (04/10/2022 – 04/23/2022). **Higher**=number of new cases in the current two-week period higher than the number of new cases during the last two-week period. **Lower**=number of new cases in the current two-week period lower than number of new cases during the last two-week period. **No change**=number of new cases in current two-week period is equal to the number of new cases during the last two-week period. ²Change in percent positivity compared to the previous week's (04/27/2022) report. **No Change**= <0.10% difference in the percent positivity. ³Address information for these cases is currently being obtained. DPH calculates rates per 100,000 population using denominators estimated by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute using a modified Hamilton-Perry model (Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2011 through 2020, report, Oct 2016.) **Please note:** Data for these tables are based on information available in the DPH surveillance database at a single point in time. Case counts for specific cities and towns change throughout the day as data cleaning occurs (removal of duplicate reports within the system) and new demographic information (assigning cases to their city or town of residence) is obtained.

Cover Sheet

May 2, 2022 Open Meeting Law Complaint from Laura Ortiz.

Section:	V. President's Business
Item:	B. May 2, 2022 Open Meeting Law Complaint from Laura Ortiz.
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Laura Ortiz email OML complaint.pdf



David Potter <dpotter@pvpa.org>

5/2/22 Open Meeting Law Complaint regarding [Records request under Public Records and also under Open Meeting Laws for records relating to the 4/5/22 Board of Trustees Meeting held yesterday and it's exhibits and also 3/17/22 additional record; Records request under Public Records and also under Open Meeting Laws for records relating to the 3/17/22 Board of Trustees Meeting held yesterday and it's exhibits and Public Records Request:Governance; Agendas, Public Notices, Procedures, Fair Representation and additional Committees]

Laura Ortiz <ladeslortz@yahoo.com>

Mon, May 2, 2022 at 5:29 PM

Reply-To: Laura Ortiz <ladeslortz@yahoo.com>

To: Brent Nielsen <bnielsen@pvpa.org>, Marleen Conner <mconner@pvpa.org>, "dpotter@pvpa.org" <dpotter@pvpa.org>, "jrosenblum@pvpa.org" <jrosenblum@pvpa.org>, Laura Ortiz <ladeslortz@yahoo.com>

Cc: Mira Belenkiy <mira.belenkiy@gmail.com>

May 2, 2022

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School - Regional/District of our OML Complaint

Brent Nielsen Interim Director/Superintendent

and

Marlene Connor, Chief Financial Officer/RAO

and also

PVPA Board of Trustees President David Potter dpotter@pvpa.org

and

PVPA Board of Trustees Clerk Jake Rosenblum jrosenblum@pvpa.org

RE: 5/2/22 Open Meeting Law Complaint regarding [Records request under Public Records and also under Open Meeting Laws for records relating to the 4/5/22 Board of Trustees Meeting held yesterday and it's exhibits and also 3/17/22 additional record; Records request under Public Records and also under Open Meeting Laws for records relating to the 3/17/22 Board of Trustees Meeting held yesterday and it's exhibits and Public Records Request:Governance; Agendas, Public Notices, Procedures, Fair Representation and additional Committees]

Dear Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School and it's Board of Trustees and President Potter, CFO Connors, Interim Director Nielsen and Board of Trustees Clerk Rosenblum,

We emailed multiple requests for Meeting Minutes (MM's), Board of Trustees (BOT) exhibits and additional governance and public records and are not satisfied with the PVPA/BOT responses or being denied access to meeting minutes in a timely manner from the 3/17/22 BOT open meeting and have additional open meeting law complaints regarding the 4/5/22, 3/17/22 and other BOT open meetings, Agenda's, Public Notice, Procedures, Fair Representation and also additional Committee meetings as follows:

1. Pioneer Valley Performing Arts District (PVPA) and it's Board of Trustees (BOT) we believe violated the Open Meeting Laws by:

a) PVPA/BOT did not produce to us or electronically it's Meeting Minutes or the additional draft copy for the 3/17/22 BOT open meeting within either 10 calendar days or even 10 business days (despite requests for them under Open Meeting and Public Records laws)

b) PVPA/BOT despite multiple answers to us via email it didn't provide any written records response to our OML request for 3/17/22 Meeting Minutes and other exhibits until 4/21/22, and did not produce a copy of those MM's to us directly only made it that day available online their PVPA/BOT website page,

Therefore we believe all of this a) -b) was in violation of G.L. c. 30A, § 22(c), G.L. c. 30A, § 22(f) and also G.L. c. 30A, § 22(g)(2) and other Open Meeting Laws

2. Pioneer Valley Performing Arts District (PVPA) and it's Board of Trustees (BOT) Agenda's for their BOT open meetings for 4/5/22, 3/17/22 and prior open meetings we believe violated the Open Meeting Laws by:

- a) PVPA/BOT failing to appropriately notice the public within 48 hours that any anticipated "vote" would occur on those open meeting dates
- b) PVPA/BOT failing to appropriately notice the public within 48 hours that any additional "specific vote(s)" would occur on those open meeting dates, for example regarding "mask wearing" and/or "wearing masks until xx date" or "who would be delegated the decisions of student and staff mask wearing requirements" etc (despite those being many anticipated agenda items for BOT open meetings on 4/5/22, 3/17/22 and prior) and of specific additional votes it intended to create during those live open meetings for specific time frames of wearing masks or who would be delegated this authority to decide that etc and multiple times they intended to change the wording adding additional discussions and votes for all
- c) PVPA/BOT did not for a) or b) sufficiently detail what specific discussions and vote(s) would also be occurring regarding this and only noticed the public vaguely about "Mask Policy Updates" and denied the public the right to know that multiple votes would occur and/or be discussed and that multiple votes also regarding "mask wearing for students and staff" would be discussed and/or created additionally live at the meeting to have action taken on them of additional discussion and then voting etc,

Therefore we believe all of this a)-c) is in violation of G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a), G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b) and also 940 CMR 29.03 (1) (b) and other Open Meeting Laws by lacking sufficient detail and public notice (OML-2014-10 and OML 2013-16) within 48 hours and/or also include the topic details that any vote would occur and again what specific votes would occur as noted above and below and denied the public the ability to take interest in deliberations regarding such.

3. In addition Pioneer Valley Performing Arts District (PVPA) and it's Board of Trustees (BOT) during open meetings on 4/5/22, 3/17/22 and prior violated Open Meeting Laws by:

- a) PVPA/BOT added on additional agenda items and/or topics that were not sufficiently publicly noticed at all (less than 48 hours) and engaged in discussions for them
- b) PVPA/BOT engaged in actions like voting on a) by for example on 4/5/22 (1) delegating a transfer of it's BOT decision power (masks) to Interim Superintendent Brent Nielsen (at the time being a candidate for the permanent position of Director/Superintendent for PVPA) and also (2) also engaged in the action to vote on this decision although it was defeated
- c) We believe that these PVPA/BOT actions a) and b) were in direct conflict of interest to the Open Meeting Laws and State Ethics Laws by attempting to give a benefit to any candidate for position of employment and/or benefit to any actual district employee same (and note that subsequently Mr. Nielsen was given that permanent position of Director/Superintendent of PVPA and during the 4/5/22 open meeting agreed to accept this "benefit" not limited to delegation power in his current position as a districts employee if the board voted in favor)
- d) PVPA/BOT took action on agenda items not noticed on 4/5/22, 3/17/22 and prior (3) "making it mask optional for student population on 5/2/22" and other dates in March and April on 3/17/22 and prior "mask optional" and also (4) "to go optional on May 2nd but transferring the decision making to the PVPA administration (Mr. Nielsen) after that date on reinstating if needed" on 4/5/22 and other dates
- e) PVPA/BOT held a discussion and also the action of voting for b)(1), b)(2), d)(3) and d)(4) as well as changed the wordings of those specific votes multiple times during the live open meeting of these specific votes, and they seemed to occur without appropriate motions 1st or the separate voting on those motions prior to any BOT voting as a whole as required, and also by allowing multiple votes on the table on 4/5/22 and essentially the same on 3/17/22 and prior leading to chaos and confusion and the general public not even being able to follow along live and lead to inaccuracies noticed in the approved MM's for 3/17/22 (as 4/5/22 MM's are still not available as we send in this complaint despite 3 BOT meetings having occurred since)
- f) PVPA/BOT also took a 5 minute recess and yet continued to deliberate these d) (3) and (4) and also prior one(s): b) (1) and (2) on the table which were all still open and even the BOT got confused on what it was to vote on at times for 4/5/22, 3/17/22 and prior (as mentioned in the 3/17/22 finally released late Meeting Minutes regarding confusion around specific votes),

We believe that all of these a)-f) is in violation of G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a), G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b) and also 940 CMR 29.03 (1) (b) and other Open Meeting Laws etc and by lacking sufficient detail and public notice, being able to understand what would and had occurred (even during the live open meeting), adding on unnoticed topics and/or agenda items and holding actions like discussions and votes on them, not following proper procedures, and that were not within required 48 hours of notice (OML-2014-10 and OML 2013-16)

3. The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts District (PVPA) and it's Board of Trustees (BOT) 3/17/22 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, we believe additionally violated the Open Meeting Laws by:

- a) PVPA/BOT did not sufficiently detail the specific votes that occurred on these minutes,
- b) PVPA/BOT did not detail sufficiently and/or accurately specific discussions on every vote that occurred or was discussed on these minutes
- c) PVPA/BOT did not detail sufficiently and/or accurately it's specific vote wording that was changed live during the open meeting on these minutes
- d) PVPA/BOT did not detail sufficiently and/or accurately when we believe they failed to follow the proper procedures for motioning a vote prior to the full body trying to discuss those new unnoticed agenda items/topics and then vote on it on these minutes

e) PVPA/BOT did not also didn't provide sufficient details or accuracies on actions taken (even brought up at the last minute live during the meeting) nor record all votes they attempted to take on those minutes
f) PVPA/BOT also do not detail sufficiently at all any list of what Open Meeting Exhibit documents were utilized by that public body during this open meetings despite them utilizing South Hadley Board of Health Exhibits, and also the Exhibits of the statistics on the total counts of Covid-19 positive students and staff in the district or other community exhibits they relied on to discuss or take action with on those minutes
We believe that all of this a)-f) is in violation of G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a) and other Open Meeting Laws

4. The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts District (PVPA) and it's Board of Trustees (BOT) 3/17/22 Meeting Minutes (MM's) we believe additionally violate Open Meeting Laws showing that it's 2/9/22 Executive Search Committee MM's could not be approved because (1) containing inaccuracies surrounding the votes and (2) were not accepted because of discrepancies in the wording of the motions and amendments to the motions and (3) in addition over all the PVPA districts BOT webpage we cannot see prior Board of Trustees Meeting minutes for example here:

<https://app2.boardontrack.com/public/rP7tEC/meetingsList> for other BOT open meetings and also separate Committee meetings MM's and they're not being custodian appropriately online by PVPA/BOT for the general public to quickly access online the PVPA website link here in direct contrast to Open Meeting Laws

<https://app2.boardontrack.com/public/rP7tEC/meetingsList> and also (4) Here is a list partial list of PVPA/BOT and their committee Meeting Minutes not accessible online to the public as of 5/2/22 well past 30 days and/or next 3 public body meetings and not limited to:

Board Of Trustees 4/13/22, 4/12/22, 4/11/22, 4/5/22, 2/8/22 etc

Executive Search Committee 4/6/22, 3/31/22, 3/30/22, 3/29/22, 3/23/22, 3/16/22, 3/9/22, 3/2/22, 2/16/22, 2/9/22, 2/2/22 etc

Executive Evaluation Committee 3/7/22, 2/7/22 etc

Finance Committee 4/7/22, 3/2/22, 2/2/22, etc

Governance Committee 2/23/22, etc

We believe all of this (1)-(4) is in violation of G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a) and other Open Meeting Laws lacking sufficient details and accessibility and public notice etc (OML-2014-10 and OML 2013-16)

5. The 2021-2022 Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Board of Trustees members themselves makeup we believe is an Open Meeting Violation and additional State Laws and contains: (1) one or more PVPA Staff members paid by PVPA in voting positions and one or more in a non voting position same, and that it also in addition (2) contains person(s) that may be under the age of 18 identified as PVPA students and whom were given Board of Trustee voting rights and that (3) this voting power of the PVPA/BOT should have never been delegated away and (4) that this all impacts the general public students rights and in contrast to peer districts boards that allow representative student only persons and/or minor persons in non board voting positions and this all greatly impacted the votes by this Board of Trustees on 4/5/22, 3/17/22 and prior open meetings and favored the government itself and disenfranchised the people's rights to fair representations, We believe all of this (1)-(4) is in violation to G.L. c. 71, § 52 and also additional Open Meeting Laws and other state laws

What we feel would resolute our Open Meeting Law Complaints:

1) PVPA/Board of Trustees correct immediately all OML Violations regarding G.L. c. 30A, § 22(c), G.L. c. 30A, § 22(f), G.L. c. 30A, § 22(g)(2), G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a), G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b), 940 CMR 29.03 (1) (b) and all other Open Meeting Laws, as well as G.L. c. 71, § 52 and any other violations to State Ethics Laws or State Laws

2) PVPA/BOT moving forward agrees to not violate them again

3) PVPA/BOT provide access immediately electronic access to all outstanding Board Of Trustees, Executive Evaluation Committee, Finance Committee and Governance Committee etc Meeting Minutes (even in draft form)

4) PVPA/BOT agrees to allow fair representation on it's Board of Trustees and any Committees or Sub Committees etc and remove any members in conflict to Open Meeting Laws or State Ethics or any other State Laws and allows more general public seats on the Board over the age of 18

Thank you for your time and anticipated assistance to resolution our Open Meeting Law Complaints 1-5 above.

Kindest Regards,

Laura Ortiz

Individually filed
and also on behalf of Concerned Citizens

"I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people." ~ Maya Angelou



May 2 2022 PVPA BOT Open Meeting Law Complaint to AGO OML Complaint Form 2019.pdf
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