



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Board of Trustee Meeting

October 2025

Published on October 18, 2025 at 10:50 PM EDT

Date and Time

Tuesday October 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM EDT

Location

15 Mulligan, Dr. South Hadley, MA 01075

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			6:00 PM
A. Record Attendance		LATRINA DENSON	1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		LATRINA DENSON	1 m
C. Read the Mission Statement		A member of the Board	1 m
PVPA offers its students intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.			
D. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	LATRINA DENSON	10 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
Please read minutes and prepare concerns or questions prior to the meeting			
Vote on Minutes: July 27, 2025			
Approve minutes for Board of Trustee Retreat 2025: Sunday, July 27, 2025 on July 27, 2025			
E.	Approval of Minutes	Approve Minutes LATRINA L DENSON	5 m
To amend the following minutes to include the executive sessions minutes for: March 4, 2025			
Minutes for Executive Session Meeting For Board of Trustee Members on March 4, 2025 PVPA Board of Trustees Exec. Session 3 4 25 Minutes (1).pdf			
F.	Approval of Minutes	Approve Minutes LATRINA L DENSON	5 m
To amend March 11, 2025 to include the attached letters for Alex Solis, Trish Hede, and executive session minutes.			
Executive Session MARCH 11, 2025.docx.pdf Board_Speech_3_11_25.pdf 2025_03_11_board_meeting_minutes (3).pdf Board_Letter_3-11-25.pdf			
G.	Approval of Minutes	Approve Minutes LATRINA L DENSON	5 m
To amend the following minutes to include the executive sessions minutes for: May 13, 2025			
2025_05_13_board_meeting_minutes (1).pdf MAY 13, 2025 Executive Session .docx (1).pdf			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
II. Public Comment			6:28 PM
A. Brief comments and/or questions welcomed.	Discuss	LATRINA DENSON	15 m
<p>Public Comment is a time for us to hear directly from the community. We genuinely value every opinion, as your feedback is crucial to our work as we provide service and support to PVPA students, families, and staff.</p> <p>Please note that the Board generally does not respond directly during Public Comment to ensure that we give full consideration to each issue before formulating an official response.</p>			
III. Head of School Report			6:43 PM
A. Brent's Report	Discuss	Brent Nielsen	15 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Opening of School ◦ Strategic Planning Committee 			
B. Title IX Policy Approval	Vote	Brent Nielsen	15 m
<p>The board of trustee will vote on the new Title IX Policy.</p> <p>Sexual Harassment_Discrimination Policy (updated 9_1_2025).docx (1).pdf</p>			
C. Administration of Medications Policy for 2025-2027	Vote	Brent Nielsen	10 m
<p>Draft Administration of Medications Policy 2025-2027 (1).pdf</p>			
IV. Board Committee Reports			7:23 PM
A. Finance Committee	Discuss	Marcy Conner and Neile Hede	15 m
<p>FY 25 Audit Report</p> <p>PVPA - FY25 Draft Financial Statements 10.5.25 (1).pdf</p>			
B. Governance Committee	Discuss	Azizah Yasin	15 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
--	---------	-----------	------

Welcome, Our New Members! And update on application process

V. President's Business 7:53 PM

A.	Board Retreat, November 18th 4-8pm	Discuss	LATRINA DENSON	5 m
----	------------------------------------	---------	----------------	-----

Retreat with Julia Bowen (4 hours), November 18th 4pm-8pm
Library Room (In-person ONLY)
Dinner Provided

B.	Charter School Renewal Meeting with DESE Charter School Renewal Meeting with DESE update	Discuss	LATRINA DENSON	10 m
----	---	---------	----------------	------

C.	Confirming meeting attendance	Discuss	LATRINA DENSON	5 m
----	-------------------------------	---------	----------------	-----

D.	Committee Recommended Assignments	Discuss	LATRINA L DENSON	15 m
----	-----------------------------------	---------	---------------------	------

- **Finance Committee:** Nei Hede (Chair), Thomas Roy
- **Governance Committee:** Azizah Yasin (Chair), Grace Bannasch, Ann Dargie
- **Friends of PVPA Liaison:** Emily Whitebear
- **Head of School Support and Evaluation Committee:** Latrina Denson, Azizah Yasin Matt Schmidt
- **Union Negotiation:** Latrina Denson, Azizah Yasin
- **Infrastructure and Facilities**

VI. Closing Items 8:28 PM

A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote		1 m
----	-----------------	------	--	-----

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: D. Approve Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:

Related Material:

Minutes for Board of Trustee Retreat 2025: Sunday, July 27, 2025 on July 27, 2025

APPROVED



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustee Retreat 2025: Sunday, July 27, 2025

Date and Time

Sunday July 27, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Location

Betty Shabazz Cultural Center
2 Dunlap Place
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

Welcome/ Breakfast will start at 8:30am

Trustees Present

Azizah Yasin, LATRINA DENSON, Neil Hede

Trustees Absent

Grace Bannasch, Sasha Viands

Ex Officio Members Present

Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

Non Voting Members Present

Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

I. Opening Items

A. Welcome/ Breakfast

B. Call the Meeting to Order

LATRINA DENSON called a meeting to order on Sunday Jul 27, 2025 at 9:06 AM.

C. Record Attendance

D. Read the Mission Statement

Read by Azizah Yasin.

E. Approval of Minutes

Neil Hede made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting June 2025 on 06-10-25.

Azizah Yasin seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Grace Bannasch	Absent
Neil Hede	Aye
Sasha Viands	Absent
Azizah Yasin	Aye

F. Minutes from March 11th - letter needed to be summarized per AGO. Motion to approve minutes from March 11, 2024 with amendments: Azizah Seconded by Neil. Approve unanimously.

G. Approval of Minutes

Azizah Yasin made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 06-24-25.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Grace Bannasch	Absent
Neil Hede	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Sasha Viands	Absent

II. Head of School Report

A. Approval of the Charter Renewal Application

Azizah Yasin made a motion to authorize Brent Nielsen to submit the application for charter renewal.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Neil Hede	Aye
Sasha Viands	Absent
Azizah Yasin	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Grace Bannasch	Absent

B. Additional Updates

Student Opportunity Act plan - a few amendments needed prior to submission of annual report. Due On August 1st. Annual Report also due August 1st. Details the items/programs that were updated this year.

New Department

New Region

Transportation - 16 buses, offer to all students - survey approx 295 responses. Possible new design of the parking lots and traffic flow for the future.

Data anomalies - Front Line to PS - SPED numbers incorrect. 22% to 15% puts is below required - required further explanation. October 1 numbers. Low income 23-24 was 44% down to 38%. Free lunch for everyone has changed the process - parents no longer filling out application - now direct certification and supplemental process. Misses those that fall between state services and being low income. Should be able to correct the issues. Also issue with ELL population - below the numbers of where we should be compared to S Hadley, Holyoke and Springfield. ELL is based on a test to qualify or comes to PVPA already qualified. We have focused on recruiting. Population is pretty balanced.

Charter renewal - Week Sept 8th site visit - more happening on line. Focus groups - Board, Staff and parents along with Administration.

Professional development schedule - Emily, Alyson & Loris have been working hard on putting this together for next year. Focus for the year will be classroom management/disruptive behavior.

Attendance and achievement on MCAS. Bolster math instruction. Part of culture has been that you could still get by without attending because of standards based grading.

Hoping transportation helps with attendance. Students considered chronically absent but has all A's - courses need to adjust for attendance. Trends in staff attendance as well that need to be addressed.

III. Election of Officers

A. Election of Officers 2025-2026

Azizah Yasin made a motion to elect slate of officers for 2025-2026 Latriona President, Azizah Vice President and Neil Hede Treasurer.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

A few member have left for personal reasons. Need to be on board for at least one year before a committee lead assignment. Azizah did reach out to Sasha and Grace and discussed options for positions. No clerk. Looking for options for clerk - recording meetings.

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

Roll Call

Grace Bannasch	Absent
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Sasha Viands	Absent
Neil Hede	Aye

IV. Retreat Topics and Activities

A. Team Builders/ Ice-breaker

MS or HS - favorite teacher or someone who inspired you.

Develop BOT Spotify play list.

B. Review Trustee Expectations

What does it mean to be a trustee?

Working in the best interest of the school

Collaborating with HOS

Role models

Spokesperson

Keepers of the process

What we are not:

Jury or court

Investigators or micro managers of the school

Experts

Norms - need to add - when on Zoom you must have your camera on and your focus needs to be on the meeting and not your surroundings/background activities. In person as norm - exceptions approved by Chair. To keep the integrity of the Board.

Remote attendance etiquette - be there in person - arrange for adequate private space with internet connection.

Conflict of Interest Law and Open Meeting Law.

Develop tool for recording required trainings/information.

C. Develop Trustee Goals for 2025-2026

Continue to grow the Board.

PVPA engagement and participation - calendar - representation at each event. Meet and greet times at PVPA - Brent to provide some windows for opportunities.

BOT spotlight with news letter/social media. Board on track - bio.

Schedules - annual agenda items - provides continuity.

Develop Strategic Planning Committee - ASAP - whole year to work on aligning: SAP, Accountability plan and SOA plan.

Communication transparency.

D. Break for lunch/snack

E. Wrap up additional retreat discussion, reflection, and closing exercise

V. Executive Session

A. "Executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(7)

LATRINA DENSON made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to GLc30A section 21 (a)(7) to review executive session minutes for Jan 14, Mar 4, mar 11, march 26 & May 16. Will return to open session.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

Brent is invited to remain for first part then will be dismissed.

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

Roll Call

LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Sasha Viands	Absent
Grace Bannasch	Absent

VI. 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 1:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Azizah Yasin