



# Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

## Board of Trustee Meeting

December 2025

Published on December 5, 2025 at 4:57 PM EST

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### Date and Time

Tuesday December 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM EST

### Location

**15 Mulligan Drive South Hadley, MA 01075**

or via zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84358817954?pwd=EiFSIFmITX6fy3bINHvC5ouCvMegBB.1>

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### Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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<b>I.</b>	<b>Opening Items</b>		<b>6:00 PM</b>
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- |           |                            |                       |     |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| <b>A.</b> | Record Attendance          | LATRINA DENSON        | 1 m |
| <b>B.</b> | Call the Meeting to Order  | LATRINA DENSON        | 1 m |
| <b>C.</b> | 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.**

- |           |                 |                 |                |     |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----|
| <b>D.</b> | Approve Minutes | Approve Minutes | LATRINA DENSON | 5 m |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----|

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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**Please read minutes and prepare concerns or questions prior to the meeting**

Approve minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting and Retreat on November 18, 2025

<b>II. Public Comment</b>			<b>6:08 PM</b>
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<b>A.</b>	Brief comments and/or questions welcomed.	Discuss	LATRINA DENSON	15 m
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Public Comment is a time to 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.

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.

<b>III. Head of School Report</b>			<b>6:23 PM</b>
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<b>A.</b>	Brent's Report	Discuss	Brent Nielsen	15 m
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Updates on school climate, productions, etc.

<b>B.</b>	2026-2027 Academic Calendar Approval	Vote	Brent Nielsen	10 m
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<b>IV. Board Committee Reports</b>			<b>6:48 PM</b>
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<b>A.</b>	Finance Committee	Discuss	Marcy Conner and Neile Hede	15 m
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<b>B.</b>	Governance Committee	Discuss	Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	15 m
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- Governance Committee meeting update
- New note-taking proposal process

<b>C.</b>	Note-taking proposal process	Vote	Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	5 m
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	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>D.</b> Friends of PVPA Update	Discuss	Emily Whitebear or Friends of PVPA Representative	10 m
<b>V. President's Business</b>			<b>7:33 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Board Retreat Review	Discuss	LATRINA DENSON	5 m
Retreat with Julia Bowen (4 hours), November 18th 4pm-8pm Library Room (In-person ONLY) Dinner Provided			
<b>B.</b> PVPA Board presence:	Discuss	LATRINA DENSON	10 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss next steps to say thank you to teachers and staff in December on behalf of PVPA</li> <li>• Upcoming events</li> </ul>			
<b>C.</b> Follow up on Committee Assignments	Discuss	LATRINA L DENSON	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Finance Committee:</b> Nei Hede (Chair), Thomas Roy</li> <li>• <b>Governance Committee:</b> Azizah Yasin (Chair), , Ann Dargie, Thomas Roy)</li> <li>• <b>Friends of PVPA Liaison:</b> Emily Whitebear</li> <li>• <b>Head of School Support and Evaluation Committee:</b> Latrina Denson, Azizah Yasin Matt Schmidt</li> <li>• <b>Union Negotiation:</b> Latrina Denson, Azizah Yasin</li> <li>• <b>Infrastructure and Facilities</b></li> </ul>			
<b>VI. Closing Items</b>			<b>7:53 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Adjourn Meeting	Vote		1 m

# Coversheet

## Approve Minutes

<b>Section:</b>	I. Opening Items
<b>Item:</b>	D. Approve Minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Approve Minutes
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	Minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting and Retreat on November 18, 2025

APPROVED



# Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

## Minutes

### Board of Trustee Meeting and Retreat

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday November 18, 2025 at 4:00 PM

#### Location

15 Mulligan Dr., South Hadley, MA 01075

or zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81817963886?pwd=hUBjInioSFurRjtVJns4bbR5n15bpO.1>

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#### Trustees Present

Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq, Azizah Yasin, Emily Whitebear, LATRINA DENSON, Matthew Schmidt, Esq (remote), Thomas Roy

#### Trustees Absent

Neil Hede

#### Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq, Matthew Schmidt, Esq

#### Ex Officio Members Present

Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

#### Non Voting Members Present

Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

LATRINA DENSON called a meeting of the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School to order on Tuesday Nov 18, 2025 at 4:25 PM.

### **C. Reading of the PVPA Mission**

Read by Brent Nielsen

### **D. Approval of Minutes**

Moved to next meeting.

## **II. Charter School Board of Trustee Training**

### **A. Board of Trustee Training**

The training session was led by Julia Bowen, Principal, from Prospect Leadership Group. [Slide deck](#) used in presentation.

Ice breaker: [Pick A Quote](#) - explain why it resonates with you.

-Review and Discussion of Board Roles & Responsibilities

-The Charter Accountability System. [Board of Trustees Bylaws - Rev March 11, 2025](#).

Three case studies were reviewed and answers/discussion about different approaches that are in line with training and right practice.

Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq arrived at 5:05 PM.

Matthew Schmidt, Esq arrived at 5:30 PM.

### **B. Break**

15 minute break to grab food and restroom break.

### **C. Board of Trustee Training Continue**

Fourth case study was discussed/reviewed.

-Board of Trustees Norms - based on bylaws revision and training/discussion the following were agreed to as norms for the Board of Trustees:

1. Know our place, roles, and direct to right person
2. Trust Head of School
3. Minimize direct conversation between Board members outside of Board meetings
4. Vote = voice of Board - respect decision, even if not your choice
5. Responses are from Board Chair only - trust that Chair is leaning into all resources available
6. Be present/available - schedule far in advance (1- 2 months)
7. Show up, even when hard - follow through on commitment
8. Be clear about all the available resources for helping parents (eg-know the website!)

-Community Engagement:

How to build trust with teachers:

1. Trustees as ambassadors, with Head of School's guidance
2. Work through the PTO - teacher appreciation week

How do we educate community about Board?

1. day to day operations are up to school administration
2. Events - armed with examples, armed with questions stems/starters, and know your "why"
3. Swag
4. Know resources to share/point to
5. Website updates/description - role of Board and complaint procedure
6. Training for students/faculty representatives on roles, policies and expectations

How to support the Head of School?

1. Validate challenges
2. See them as human
3. Show up! Be present when hard.
4. Trust him
5. Offer help/resources
6. Check in privately
7. Maintain clear policy on public comment.

### III. 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 8:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcy Conner

# Coversheet

## 2026-2027 Academic Calendar Approval

<b>Section:</b>	III. Head of School Report
<b>Item:</b>	B. 2026-2027 Academic Calendar Approval
<b>Purpose:</b>	Vote
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	2026-2027 School Calendar - DRAFT.pdf





## 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

1- New Year's Day (No School)  
 18 - MLK, Jr. Day (No School)  
 21 - End of Fall Semester  
 22 -Curriculum Day (No School)  
 25 - Spring Semester Begins

JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	
	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31					

20, 21 - New Staff Orientation  
 24-26 - Faculty Work Days  
 27- First Day of School

8 - Half-Days Professional Development  
 15- Presidents' Day (No School)  
 15-19 - FEBRUARY BREAK

FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30			

4 - Community Day  
 7- Labor Day (No School)  
 16 - Half-Day Professional Development  
 24- Open House (evening)

4, 26 - Half-Days Professional Development

MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31			

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	

6 - Half-Day Professional Development  
 12- Indigenous Peoples' Day (No School)  
 23- Octoberfest  
 23 - Mid-semester Grades Close  
 26- Curriculum Day (No School)

2 - Mid-semester Grades Close  
 14 - Half-Day Professional Development  
 19 - Patriots' Day (No School)  
 19-23 APRIL BREAK

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30					

10 - Half-Day Professional Development  
 11- Veterans' Day (No School)  
 25-27 - THANKSGIVING BREAK

7- Late Notice Grades Close  
 20 - Half-Day Professional Development  
 31 - Memorial Day (No School)  
 26- Seniors' Last Day (must be no more than 12 days before the last day for all students with no snow days)

MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31					

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	31		

4 - Late Notice Grades Close  
 14- Half-Day Professional Development  
 23-31- HOLIDAY BREAK

3- Graduation  
 14- Last Day of School with no Snow Days (Half-Day)  
 21- Last Day of School with 5 Snow Days (Half-Day)

JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30			

Faculty Days - NO SCHOOL

Holidays/Vacations - NO SCHOOL

Important Dates

Half-Day

# Coversheet

## Finance Committee

<b>Section:</b>	IV. Board Committee Reports
<b>Item:</b>	A. Finance Committee
<b>Purpose:</b>	Discuss
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	PVPA BvA (condensed) 10-31-25 (1).pdf FY26 Reserves 10-30-25.pdf PVPA FY26 Tuition Projection 1st QTR.pdf



# PVPA CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Budget vs. Actuals: Budget\_FY26\_P&L - FY26 P&L Classes

July 2025 - June 2026

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING	% REMAINING
Income				
4100 Government Grants & Funding	2,147,653.71	8,433,320.00	6,285,666.29	74.53 %
4300 Student Clubs/Group Accounts	5,352.25	73,000.00	67,647.75	92.67 %
4400 Funddraising/Contributions	530.00	30,000.00	29,470.00	98.23 %
4500 Student Services Programs		1,037,095.98	1,037,095.98	100.00 %
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,153,535.96</b>	<b>\$9,573,415.98</b>	<b>\$7,419,880.02</b>	<b>77.51 %</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$2,153,535.96</b>	<b>\$9,573,415.98</b>	<b>\$7,419,880.02</b>	<b>77.51 %</b>
Expenses				
5000 Personnel Costs	1,148,631.46	5,135,314.23	3,986,682.77	77.63 %
5100 Administration Costs	63,135.35	139,685.00	76,549.65	54.80 %
5200 Instructional Services	100,309.19	411,685.00	311,375.81	75.63 %
5300 Pupil Services	190,360.09	1,234,524.00	1,044,163.91	84.58 %
5400 Operation & Maint of Plant	178,093.84	591,950.00	413,856.16	69.91 %
5500 Other Fixed Charges	45,218.55	94,867.00	49,648.45	52.33 %
5510 Employee Retire & Taxes	48,526.07	199,776.72	151,250.65	75.71 %
5520 Fringe Benefits	276,853.14	1,079,968.14	803,115.00	74.36 %
5600 Community Services		650.00	650.00	100.00 %
5700 Non-Operating/Capital Facilities Cost	153,100.62	306,202.00	153,101.38	50.00 %
5900 Grant Expenses	38,789.71	261,975.00	223,185.29	85.19 %
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,243,018.02</b>	<b>\$9,456,597.09</b>	<b>\$7,213,579.07</b>	<b>76.28 %</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$ -89,482.06</b>	<b>\$116,818.89</b>	<b>\$206,300.95</b>	<b>176.60 %</b>
Other Income				
4600 Other income	23,558.93	68,500.00	44,941.07	65.61 %
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$23,558.93</b>	<b>\$68,500.00</b>	<b>\$44,941.07</b>	<b>65.61 %</b>
Other Expenses				
5750 Deprec Equip, Bldg & Grnds		180,000.00	180,000.00	100.00 %
5760 Bad debt		2,000.00	2,000.00	100.00 %
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00		0.00	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$182,000.00</b>	<b>\$182,000.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
NET OTHER INCOME	<b>\$23,558.93</b>	<b>\$ -113,500.00</b>	<b>\$ -137,058.93</b>	<b>120.76 %</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$ -65,923.13</b>	<b>\$3,318.89</b>	<b>\$69,242.02</b>	<b>2,086.30 %</b>

**Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School  
Reserves**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash, per Balance Sheet at June 30	4,122,906	3,647,302	3,307,490	2,952,004	2,547,805	2,223,230
Operating expenses for 3 months	-2,200,000	(2,200,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)
Transportation Reserve	<u>-994,500</u>					
Balance	928,406	1,447,302	1,807,490	1,452,004	1,047,805	723,230

**PVPA FY25 Tuition Projections****DESE - 1st Quarter**

Updated 10-30-25

Sending District	DESE FY26 Projected* 7-18-25							AFR Comparrison	
	FTE	Foundation Rate	Foundation Rate	Facilities Rate	NSS Tuition Cap	Total Rate	Total Tuition	FY25 Above Foundation Rates QTR 4	FY26 vs FY25 (+/-)
AGAWAM	10	14,673	5,178	1,188		21,039	210,390	5,763	(585)
BELCHERTOWN	17	13,764	2,958	1,188		17,910	304,470	2,897	61
CHICOPEE	36	18,288	1,531	1,188		21,007	756,252	1,428	103
EASTHAMPTON	28	14,162	2,188	1,188		17,538	491,064	2,106	82
EAST LONGMEADOW	9	14,242	4,468	1,188		19,898	179,082	4,638	(170)
GRANBY	5	15,076	4,945	1,188		21,209	106,045	5,376	(431)
GREENFIELD									
HADLEY	7	16,006	9,470	1,188		26,664	186,648	8,819	651
HATFIELD	6	17,352	17,148	1,188		35,688	214,128	15,684	1,464
HOLYOKE	35	18,186	318	1,188		19,692	689,220	278	40
LONGMEADOW									
LUDLOW	11	15,598	5,643	1,188		22,429	246,719	5,501	142
MONSON	1	12,989	3,265	1,188		17,442	17,442	3,158	107
NORTHAMPTON	26	14,616	6,146	1,188		21,950	570,700	5,664	482
PALMER	2	14,960	3,009	1,188		19,157	38,314	3,007	2
SOUTH HADLEY	45	13,882	3,147	1,188		18,217	819,765	3,170	(23)
SPRINGFIELD	66	18,404	32	1,188		19,624	1,295,184	32	0
WARE	1	11,091	0	1,188	(1,311)	10,968	10,968	0	0
WARWICK	1	11,091	7,331	1,188		19,610	19,610	9,077	(1,746)
WESTFIELD	22	14,926	934	1,188		17,048	375,056	958	(24)
WEST SPRINGFIELD	7	13,833	680	1,188		15,701	109,907	631	49
AMHERST PELHAM	40	14,240	11,786	1,188		27,214	1,088,560	11,806	(20)
FRONTIER	1	14,685	10,893	1,188		26,766	26,766	9,321	1,572
GATEWAY	3	17,971	3,643	1,188		22,802	68,406	3,482	161
GILL MONTAGUE	2	11,091	4,512	1,188		16,791	33,582	8,027	(3,515)
HAMPDEN WILBRAHAM	6	13,173	3,942	1,188		18,303	109,818	4,121	(179)
HAMPSHIRE	6	11,849	9,752	1,188		22,789	136,734	9,999	(247)
PIONEER	1	19,190	12,134	1,188		32,512	32,512	7,945	4,189
QUABBIN									
RALPH C MAHAR	2	17,565	7,039	1,188		25,792	51,584	5,993	1,046
SOUTHWICK TOLLAND GRANVILLE	3.0	14,664	4,253	1,188		20,105	60,315	3,093	1,160
TANTASQUA	1.0	12,989	1,784	1,188		15,961	15,961	2,188	(404)
	400.0		148,129				8,265,202	141,974	4,371

\*Rates, enrollment &amp; demographics based on FY25 final statistics

Statistical Review:			
FY25 Actual Tuition**	7,918,000	-1,752	
FY26 DESE Projection 8-17-25	8,265,202		
FY26 Budgeted Tuition ***	8,157,345		
Dif (Projected vs Budgeted)	107,857		
CBA Contingencies:	Min Total:		
6%-6.99% Tuition = +2% Wages	8,393,080		
7% Tuition = +3% Wages	8,472,260		
** -\$1,752 dif between DESE FY25 3rd Qtr Projected and actual			
*** FY26 budget based on 3% increase over FY25 DESE 3rd QTR Projected \$7,919,752			

Students who left in 2nd &amp; 4th QTR FY25 - Greenfield 2, Longmeadow 1 and Quabbin 1 = 4