



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Board of Trustee Meeting

April 2026

Published on March 11, 2026 at 9:10 PM EDT
 Amended on March 11, 2026 at 9:24 PM EDT

Date and Time

Tuesday March 17, 2026 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			1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order			
C. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	LATRINA DENSON	1 m
Approve minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting on January 13, 2026			
Approve minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting on January 13, 2026			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
D. Approve minutes	Approve Minutes	LATRINA DENSON	2 m
Approve minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting and Board On Track Training on February 24, 2026			
Approve minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting and Board On Track Training on February 24, 2026			
II. Business			6:04 PM
A. Vote for PVPA Student Representatives	Vote	LATRINA DENSON	5 m
The board is asked to vote on New Student Representatives for 2025-2026: Grade 9 - Richter Lautzenheiser Grade 10 - Danicka Pease Grade 11 - Ethan Burt Grade 12 - Alex Solis			
B. Vote on PVPA Staff Representative	Vote	LATRINA L DENSON	2 m
The board is asked to vote on the new PVPA Staff Representative: Jayme Winell			
III. PVPA Staff and Student Report			6:11 PM
A. PVPA staff report.	Discuss	Jayme Winell	10 m
Jayme Winell is invited to provide a PVPA staff report.			
B. Student Reports	Discuss	Student Council Representatives	15 m
PVPA Student Council members are invited to provide a report.			
IV. Head of School Report			6:36 PM
A. General Updates	Discuss	Brent Nielsen	20 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PVPA events, programs, etc. • Lottery and Enrollment • 30th Anniversary updates 			
B. Review for PVPA Charter Term 2021-2026 update	Discuss	Brent Nielsen	15 m
V. Officer and Committee Reports			7:11 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
Officers and Committees will provide reports and updates			
A. Finance Committee Report	Vote	Neil Hede	15 m
Vote to increase FY25 capital budget to include: °			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purchase of the school truck from Marcotte Ford • Renovation to several classrooms. 			
B. Friends of PVPA Update	Discuss	Emily Whitebear	5 m
C. Head of School Evaluation Committee	Discuss	LATRINA DENSON	5 m
D. Governance and Vice President Report	Discuss	Azizah Yasin	15 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews for prospective new board members • Board On Track profile updates • DESE bylaw approval 			
E. President's Report	Discuss	LATRINA L DENSON	15 m

Training Opportunities:

Open Meeting Law Training Reminder

1. Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 12:00PM – 1:30 PM

Link to Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XJsXHe-JQZu-6MhZhWte4A

2. Monday, March 2, 2026, at 1:00 PM – 2:30PM

Link to Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ggqR6kGASWGH-7ZO3bNP-A

3. . Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Link to Register Link to Register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GTzctbRITMyPeYT6RsEEJQ

4. Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 4:00PM – 5:30PM

Link to Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9kO_xqHrSxm-xFBdlpJYIQ

5. Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 9:30 AM – 11:00AM

Link to register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pekNBfgRT0-U61DPHKk-Lg

Purpose Presenter Time

- Feedback from Board on Track Training
- Additional topics for future training

VI. Other Business

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting Vote

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: C. Approve Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting on January 13, 2026

APPROVED



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustee Meeting

January 2026

Date and Time

Tuesday January 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

15 Mulligan Drive
South Hadley, MA 01075 or
via zoom at Zoom Account below

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/84358817954?signature=Ghol-QbxafibRDCLo8p4GE5P9Lzz8_w1eF4IOo9vQ6k

Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

Non Voting Members Present

Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

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 Jan 13, 2026 at 6:08 PM.

C. Read The Mission Statement

Azizah Yasin reads the mission statement.

D. Approve Minutes

Thomas Roy made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 12-09-25.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

Perspective Student Representative Alex Solis pointed out that the minutes from the December 9th meeting under the President's business repeated information multiple times.

Thomas Roy amended the motion to approve the minutes, deleting the duplicity. Neile Hede Second.

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

Roll Call

Neil Hede	Abstain
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Aye
Emily Whitebear	Aye
Matthew Schmidt, Esq	Aye
Thomas Roy	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Abstain

Azizah Yasin made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 11-21-25.

Thomas Roy seconded the motion.

During the discussion of the minutes on November 21, 2025, Azizah Yasin moved to approve amended minutes to reflect the board's intent to not return to public session by adding language at the end of the sentence as follows:

Azizah Yasin made a motion to Move to go into executive session to discuss and vote on executive session minutes from March 26, 2025: "Executive session under G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (collective

bargaining with UAW, Local 2322) or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, **and not return to public meeting.**

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

Roll Call

Emily Whitebear	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Neil Hede	Abstain
Matthew Schmidt, Esq	Aye
Thomas Roy	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Aye

II. Public Comment

A. Brief comments and/or questions welcomed.

The President opened up with Public Comment by reading the following statement: The 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.

When asked if there are any comments from the public no public comments were shared

III. Business

A. Open Meeting Law Complaint

The President shared that she received three OML complaints, Emily Pfeiffer on November 23, 2025 and Sasha Viands on December 3rd. I have included them in your packet. I conferred with Council, who indicated that when receiving an OML complaint, it needs to be put before the board. The counsel has recommended that the board authorize the Board President, with the assistance of counsel, reply on behalf of the Board. The board president asked to include the Vice-President and, in doing so, change the recommendation to "the board authorize the Board President and/ or the Vice-President, with the assistance of counsel, to reply on behalf of the board".

In speaking with counsel, he advised that he did not believe the complaints had merit, with the possible exception of the timing of the agenda posting for the 11/21/25 meeting, and that the president would look to see whether the copy of the agenda included with the complaint was the original posting or an amendment. If we made an error, we will

acknowledge that. Otherwise, counsel indicated the complaints do not appear to have merit and that we respond accordingly.

The Board President asked for a motion to authorize the Board President and/ or Board Vice-President with the assistance of counsel, to reply on behalf of the Board.

Several members commented that Board on Track has been experiencing issues today with pdf downloads of the documents. All board members were able to review the complaints.

Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq made a motion to Authorized Latrina Denson and/or Azizah Yasin to reply with assistance from legal counsel to the November 21st & 23rd open meeting law complaints.

Matthew Schmidt, Esq seconded the motion.

Neil Hede asked whether Board members will be informed before the response is issued.

The Board will be informed of the response. There will have to be a follow-up with legal counsel based on the timing of the response. Legal counsel will have to respond to the clerk in the Attorney General's Office, and this is time-sensitive.

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

Roll Call

Thomas Roy	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Matthew Schmidt, Esq	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Emily Whitebear	Aye

Thomas Roy made a motion to Authorize Latrina Denson and Azizah Yasin to respond with legal counsel to Dec 3 OML complaint.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

It was inquired during the discussion by Thomas Roy if legal counsel has discussed that recordings are not an official record of meetings, but are supplemental in nature, and confirmed that legal counsel has been assisting in the understanding.

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

Roll Call

Azizah Yasin	Aye
Matthew Schmidt, Esq	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Emily Whitebear	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Aye

IV. Student Representatives

A.

Student Representative Reports

The Board is excited to finally have Perspective Student Representatives who will have to be approved by DESE from the Student Council.

The president asked Head of School, Brent Nielsen to introduce each student.

There are four representatives, one from each high school grade level:

9th grade - Richter Lautzenheiser

10th grade - Danicka Pease

11th - Ethan Burt

12 -Alex Solis

Head of School Nielsen also shared that the new Student Activities Coordinator, KJ Reese, will be working with the Student Council.

The President shared that the board would be providing training to the new student representatives to help them understand their role as board members, while also providing professional development skills, which will help them when they graduate.

All student representatives who were present were asked to talk more about themselves, their grade, art, and anything else they wanted to share.

Alex Solis, Class 2026, and Danicka Pease, Class 2028, were both present.

Introductions:

Alex - Class of 2026 - Visual arts/tech theater interest. Interested in music and visual arts as well. Alex shared that the senior class is finishing the semester, and some are late in submitting college applications. He also shared that students are working with KJ Reese on the Jazz Cafe, March 27th, as a fundraiser, and that the Senior prom and trip are in planning stages.

Danicka Pease - Class of 2028 - Visual arts major, and takes pictures at the shows.

Danicka shared that students are busy planning the 9/10 dance and that the Second semester is about to start.

The Board shared that they are hoping that the students feel this is a worthwhile leadership experience. Have been missing the students and their voice.

V. Head of School Report

A. PVPA General Updates

Brent Nielsen, Head of school shared the following report:

PVPA is heading into the last week of the fall semester, which includes a 4-day weekend for students coming (MLK Day and Prof Development). 7 new students starting at new

semester - 3 seventh graders did Fastbridge testing today. 4 high schoolers coming in tomorrow for orientation.

He shared that he is excited about the changes made in scheduling - great improvements - increase in student satisfaction, and receiving them before departure at the end of the school year. This year, ahead of schedule: 2026-2027 calendar already approved, scheduling work starting, evaluating overcrowding, and seat count. The PowerSchool schedule for 2026-2027 can start as soon as auditions are completed in early May. Well on track to meet goals with scheduling.

The recent curriculum day worked on Arts Integration and culture work. Arts integration is being worked on, and staff are providing exciting work for students. During the curriculum day, Petula did ceramics, and the staff responded well.

Productions - MS Beetlejuice Jr - amazing work by all involved - AJ, Mike Finke, and the cast - everyone! New ticketing platform where patrons buy online ahead of the show; both shows were sold out. Amazing show! Donations that have purchased equipment in the theater have also had a big impact on the quality of the productions. Fall visual arts show last week - see work of kids I don't usually see - amazing talent. Raised funds for arts supplies - all of the work and support to transform the theater into a gallery is incredible. This week is the Fall Music Showcase - Friday night is the non-auditioned ensembles, and Saturday is the auditioned ensembles. The talent is amazing. In the near future is the WOFA show on February 6th and 7th.

Something new being planned is our 30th year celebration fundraising gala -on April 12th, there will be a formal event at Wycoff Country Club. The festivities will include the Amherst Jazz Orchestra, a cocktail hour with PVPA students playing, some Jazz history (April is Jazz history month), dance lessons (big band music/dance), silent auction - We will be seeking donations. Save the date, coming soon.

B. Review for PVPA Charter Term 2021-2026 update

Head of School Brent Nielsen provided the following summary overview and shared the document which is attached below:

[Summary of Review - Linked Here](#) and included in the documents.

The Summary Of Review: data for accountability measures/plan, student achievement, financial data and site visit. All information compiled into 42 page document - today was the deadline for factual corrections and a formal response due by Friday if so choose.

SOR is submitted to the Commissioner of Ed for decision: renew, renew with conditions, or non-renew. Shared with MCPSA for review - a formal response is not necessary, and their summation was that there will likely be an unconditional renewal.

The first round of renewals for the new Commissioner - no reference for what he will focus on. Full draft cannot be shared publicly, but will share an outline of the report:

1. Renewal history; amendments, demographics (do we have a diverse population?)
2. Faithfulness to charter - mission and design key elements
3. Recruitment - ELE learner is still low.; although the Spanish-speaking student population has increased. The most significant population in our region are Spanish speaking - have concentrated efforts at these events. The ELE student population has not changed.
4. Faithfulness to Charter - mission & design elements - meets expectation
5. Access & equity - meets expectations
6. Retention rate - students who leave after a year and during the year. 25% after 8th grade do leave -intentional HS plans other than PVPA.
7. Rate of suspensions - meet -

Emily Niemann, Dean of Students has expressed concern over dis-proportionality of special education and low-income students being suspended. DESE has not pointed this out, however we will be taking a further look at the data.

8. Compliance - not rated.

In compliance with monitoring reviews - Program resolution systems (special education and civil rights) - charter term 2021 - 2025 has received 11 complaints. 3 were not in authority, and 8 were fully investigated. PVPA was found in compliance on 5 of the 8 complaints (includes 4 complaints filed last year for the same issue - dismissed).

Corrective actions for 3 complaints were made, and PVPA is in 100% compliance. This is exceptional compared to other schools - we found another school that had 27 corrective action complaints.

9. Dissemination - PVPA must share its innovation with other schools - no dissemination with schools in South Hadley - this was not clear in the law.

10. Academic Program success - not requiring assistance - moderate progress towards goals - MCAS scores generally above state average. We know we are struggling with Math & Science. All schools are struggling since the pandemic; it is hard to recruit and retain math, science, and special education teachers. Looking at how to attract highly qualified teachers.

11. Chronic absenteeism - state has not flagged but needs improvement

12. Organizational viability - not fully in compliance with OML. In general, the Board has met its work in supporting the school. All volunteer boards have issues - some grace from the community goes a long way - no one is acting in any intentional way to obscure anything. The Board has been working to continue training for members.

13. Accountability Plan Performance - next year, need a new accountability plan for the new charter term - met. Fell short in expectations in % of students attending college and graduating on time - pandemic hurt. The goal was to have 95% attending college - we hit 93%.

14. Finance - not much to say....green low risk, yellow moderate & red high risk. All green. Financial stability has been good for the last 13 years.

15. Evidence Gathered - classroom environments were conducive to learning in 16 out of 17 classrooms visited.

The full report will be available soon. The Commissioner's recommendation will be made by the end of the month. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is not required to vote if a clean renewal, but may choose to do so.

It was asked by the board if the classroom visits were preselected or random, and confirmed that the Classroom visits were random.

It was discussed and requested by the board to have the data to back up 8th grade retention info/assumption.

Nielsen also shared that although MCAS performance is effected by staff retention, another very important piece is attendance. Studies show that the students who do best on standardized testing are those without attendance issues.

The president shared that Head of School Nielsen and she discussed future opportunities to have a Board committee focused on data, and how the Board can support student achievement

Nelsen shared that the End of the month will begin bargaining for a new three-year contract - next meeting Board will need to appoint/authorize a bargaining committee.

VI. Officer and Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee Report was shared by Niel Hede and Marcy Conner, sharing that:

Overview from meetings: 2nd quarter financials are on track.

There is an established transportation fund until we get the reimbursement from the state. Enrollment was down 5 students, and tuition was a little under budget. The above foundation rates are always in flux, and we keep an eye on them.

The MA state budget timeline was reviewed, as well as the cycle of tuition reporting over the four quarters of a year. The state timeline, with the final budget being settled in June, makes it hard for the Finance Committee to know what tuition will be when creating the budget in March/April. The Finance Committee has done very well with their conservative approach and has earned u all the green dots in the charter renewal. If it is not hard enough for forecasting tuition, the cycle of reporting provides changes throughout the year based on changing demographics. We truly do not know what our total tuition for the year is until mid-June (the end of our fiscal year).

The Student Opportunity Act, which made changes to the education funding formula, is coming to an end. There is maneuvering in the state right now to make changes to the foundation budget - some that could be detrimental to charter schools.

Board members asked for clarity regarding the Student Opportunity Act, which it was shared by Marcy Conner. The Student Opportunity Act was established in 2019 and went in effect in 2029 to increase the state's education funding system to provide resources for high-need districts, low-income, English learners, and students with disabilities.

Board members asked who the decision makers are who are making the changes. It was then shared that any changes will be bills that pass through state committees of the legislature - MCPSA is doing a lot of advocacy. It was shared that the Board needs to use caution in disseminating political information - it cannot advocate for a particular side of an issue.

B. Governance and Vice President Report

Vice President and Governance Committee Chair Azizah Yasin started her report by doing a recap of the retreat led by Julia Bowen.

VP Yasin discussed the importance of the board connecting with the school community. In addition, she shared that the President and Vice President are looking at additional board leadership trainings for board members, both in-person and virtual, and that she will defer to the President to share about upcoming training opportunities.

VP Yasin shared that we have had some challenges that we need to proactively address, including the clerk position and note-taking, and at the last meeting, she knows that there was a vote to have Board members rotate taking minutes or using recordings to transcribe. B

VP shared that the PVP Board of Trustees Nomination Application has been updated and is now live.

Board recruitment is ongoing, and we are looking for skill sets in finance and/or with an education background.

VP Yasin reiterated the importance of Community outreach and encouraged the board to be on campus, attend productions, and get to know each other. Including volunteering with PTO, concessions, box office. VP Yasin is going to work with the governance committee to think of additional Board norms concerning accessibility and how we serve the school. and expressed the importance of sharing the attendance of productions by creating a calendar or asking people to let her know when they are going to attend a production. Some productions/events that can be attended include:

Open house - Jan 31st,

Sr last day - clap out - May 26th

June 3rd grad show
June 4th graduation
Sunday, May 17th - 30th anniversary celebration

Lastly, VP Yasin asked that the full board make the following events a priority:
(1) 30th Anniversary Gala (2) Graduation and/ or Grad Show

C. Friends of PVPA Update

Emily Whitebear, Board Liaison to the Friends of PVPA shared the following report:

Jess Robinson is the President and would like to attend a meeting. The FOPVA meeting talked about the CD investments and the companies that will be conducting studies/work for the building. Looking for a Treasurer for next year. QuickBooks/finance update and bank access for others. Trying to narrow down contracts for lighting - Artis & Environ - and HVAC. Form 990 deadline.

Whitebear shared that it was nice to share information and connect. A lot of work is taking place, also looking for members. Fundraising for larger targeted items - supporting building needs and the arts.

They are focusing on fundraising without disrupting PVPA fundraising to ensure that larger financial support is being sought.

There are currently three members - President Jess, Treasurer Fred, and Secretary Tonya. Fred is leaving at the end of the year. Desperately need members, operating on a bare minimum.

FOPVPA owns the building and is responsible for supporting the school with fundraising. Need lots of members to do the work - catching up after years of no activity. The Board asked for an updated set of bylaws, and it was noted that the updated Fall 2024 bylaws would be shared.

The board and Friends of PVPA would like to continue the discussion regarding how this Board supports the FOPVPA?

The president asked that she invite Jess Robinson to attend the next meeting, and we would add her to the agenda during the Friends of PVPA report.

D. President's Report

President Latrina Denson shared the following:

There are opportunities for training. The next training opportunity would be for the Board on Track and how to take minutes. This would be led by Brianna Stashkowski. Possible dates? 1/27, 2/3 & 2/24. Brianna Stashkowski. **February 24th had the most interest.**

Pres. Denson shared that she and VP Yasin met with Robert Carpenter about how to fill the void of not having a clerk. He provided two suggestions (1) Asking for a waiver from DESE (2) Paying a staff member or someone to take minutes.

Because we are waiting to have the new bylaws approved by DESE, he suggested that we follow up with DESE to see if we can get a waiver of our bylaws. The old bylaws say that you must be on the board for 1 year in order to be the clerk. The new bylaws have been changed to 6 months. VP Yasin has reached out to DESE, and we will work with Robert Carpenter to receive an answer from them.

Robert Carpenter also suggested that the board hire and pay a stipend for a staff member or someone to take minutes. This is the process that his board provides, and it has been the best process for them.

The Board President discussed the possibility of hiring a staff member with Head of School Nielsen, who is researching possible options.

In the meantime, we will continue to reach out to DESE regarding a waiver.

Pres. Denson announced a Fundraising Best Practices training for board members on January 15th at 12 pm. January 15th with MCPSA - Robert Carpenter.

Pres. Denson requested that the Governance Committee update the Board norms and discuss standard operating procedures to be placed on one document as an SOP for the board, based on the work with Julia Bowen, which were already agreed upon during our training

Pres. Denson discussed opportunities to appreciate the staff. The board discussed working with Emily' Whitebear's daughter, who owns a business as a baker, to provide cookies for staff on February 24th, and also do something for Teacher Appreciation on May 4th.

VII. 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 8:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Conner

Coversheet

Approve minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: D. Approve minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material:
Minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting and Board On Track Training on February 24, 2026

APPROVED



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustee Meeting and Board On Track Training

Board On Track Training

Date and Time

Tuesday February 24, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location

15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, MA 01075

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27690309181773?p=6cRpD7W8eWxqDHt6eD>

Meeting ID: 276 903 091 817 73

Passcode: 6m4NK7UP

Trustees Present

Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq (remote), Azizah Yasin, Emily Whitebear, Neil Hede, Thomas Roy (remote)

Trustees Absent

LATRINA DENSON, Matthew Schmidt, Esq

Ex Officio Members Present

Marcy Conner

Non Voting Members Present

Marcy Conner

Guests Present

KJ Reese (remote), danicka.pease@pvpa.org (remote), ethan.burt@pvpa.org, jwinell@pvpa.org

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Azizah Yasin called a meeting to order on Tuesday Feb 24, 2026 at 5:11 PM.

B. Record Attendance

II. Old Business

A. Open Meeting Law Determination

The Attorney General's Office issued a determination on February 3, 2026 in response to a December 4, 2025 complaint. The President and Vice President of the Board conferred with counsel. The Board appeared to have held several concurrent conversation during executive session. This is a reminder that we need to keep focus to the reason for the executive session. All members of the Board will be required to take the Open Meeting Law Training.

B. Open Meeting Law Trainings

Links for Open Meeting Law trainings. Members are being asked to register and inform President of their enrollment. The link on one registration date is missing and will be sent via email.

III. New Business

A. Open Meeting Law Complaint

An Open Meeting Law complaint was received, dated Feb 13, 2026. The Board will need to authorize the President and Vice President to work with counsel in preparing a response.

Neil Hede made a motion to allow President & Vice President to answer complaint on behalf of the Board.

Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq seconded the motion.

Board will receive a copy of response after it is compiled by counsel and sent to the state.

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

Roll Call

Neil Hede	Aye
Matthew Schmidt, Esq	Absent
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Aye
Thomas Roy	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Emily Whitebear	Aye

Roll Call

LATRINA DENSON Absent

IV. Board Of Trustee Training

A. Board On Track Training

Board on Track training - Brianna Stuczynski - 6.5 years experience. Love helping you in your volunteer roles as a board member.

Founder Marcy - Initial trainings were during retreats and worked on setting goals and gaining knowledge. Shares screen - looking at functionality of the Board On Track platform (right side menu):

Meetings - all meeting info - quorum, agenda, minutes and any attached documents

Documents - important document storage

Reports - Board expertise

Evaluations - School Leader Evaluation Survey

Assessments - self assessment for sustainability

Resources - templates and useful information on trainings

Goals - keep track and gets things moving forward - can assign tasks to members

Surveys - can create surveys from scratch

Directory - contact information

Upper right side is your personal profile.

What skills surveys should be completed? Should appear on dashboard until completed or located in your profile. Members should complete the skills survey in their profile.

When will new members be added? (Teacher & student) After this meeting an Admin will add new members as they are approved by DESE.

Other trainings are also available - Governance 101, committee trainings and others.
Requested Governance 101.

V. 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 5:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcy Conner

Neil Hede made a motion to adjourn.

Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Azizah Yasin	Aye
Matthew Schmidt, Esq	Absent
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Absent
Emily Whitebear	Aye
Thomas Roy	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye

Coversheet

Vote for PVPA Student Representatives

Section: II. Business
Item: A. Vote for PVPA Student Representatives
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Alex Solis Resume (1).pdf
Richter Lautzenheiser Resume.pdf
Danicka Pease Resume.pdf
Ethan Burt Resume.pdf

Alex Solis

Easthampton, Massachusetts | alexander.solis@pvpa.org

SUMMARY

PVPA 12th student seeking to serve as a Student Representative on the Board of Trustees, representing student perspectives and contributing to collaborative school governance.

EDUCATION

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School - Springfield, MA

Expected Graduation: June 2026 | **Arts Concentration:** VATT

EXPERIENCE

Student Council

August 2025 – June 2026

Student Council Treasurer (12th Grade)

- Track and report income and expenses for the Class of 2026
- Work with other student council members to plan and run grade-level meetings
- Create and manage forms to collect ideas and feedback from students

Overclocked Robotics Team – Florence

August 2022 – June 2024

Build Team Captain

- Led robot construction and design by assigning tasks and coordinating team members
- Trained teammates in build techniques and robot design software
- Tested, evaluated, and improved robot designs through multiple iterations

Young Shakespeare Players East – Turners Falls

September 2020 - Present

Assistant Director

- Help lead rehearsals in collaboration with other assistant directors
- Support ensemble members by offering guidance, feedback, and direction during the rehearsal process
- Assist with maintaining rehearsal structure, pacing, and overall organization

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SHOW Circus - Northampton Academy of Music & Northampton Center for the Arts

July 2023 - Present

Silverthorne Theater Company - Hampshire College Emily Dickinson Hall

June 2025

SKILLS

- Communication and Leadership
- Collaboration and Organization
- Artistic and creative skills

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Massachusetts Center for Civic Education Claudette M.L. Desrossiers Award

2025

National Merit Scholarship Commended Student

2025

First Tech Challenge Design Award

2023

First Tech Challenge Think Award

2024

Richter Lautzenheiser

Northampton, MA | richter.lautzenheiser@pvpa.org

SUMMARY

PVPA 9th grade student interested in serving as a Student Representative on the Board of Trustees and helping share student perspectives in school decision-making.

EDUCATION

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School - South Hadley, MA

Expected Graduation: June 2029 | **Arts Concentration:** Undeclared

EXPERIENCE

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School - South Hadley, MA

August 2025 - Present

Student Council President (9th Grade)

- Collaboration and teamwork within grade level and with other grades' councils
- Developing fundraisers and keeping track of grade level funds
- Grade outreach and advocacy

Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School - Easthampton, MA

August 2024 - June 2025

Student Governance and Policy Committee Member

- Reviewed and provided student feedback on the school policy handbook, including proposed updates to rules and procedures
- Communicated student questions, concerns, and suggestions to administrators during committee discussions
- Advocated for the needs and perspectives of younger grade levels in policy and governance conversations
- Participated in weekly committee meetings and attended faculty meetings as a student representative when needed

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Safe Passage - Northampton, MA

January 2025 - June 2025

Community Classroom - Florence, MA

July 2024 - July 2024

Community Classroom - Florence, MA

July 2023 - July 2023

SKILLS

- Active listening
- Clear communication
- Group collaboration
- Student advocacy
- Meeting participation
- Policy awareness
- Responsibility
- Organization
- Follow-through

Danicka Pease

Ludlow, MA | danicka.pease@pvpa.org

SUMMARY

PVPA sophomore student seeking to serve as a Student Representative on the Board of Trustees, representing student perspectives and contributing to collaborative school governance.

EDUCATION

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School - South Hadley, MA

Expected Graduation: June 2028 | **Arts Concentration:** Visual Arts

EXPERIENCE

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School – South Hadley, MA

September 2024 - Present

Student Council Member (10th Grade)

- Planned and organized a school dance for 9th and 10th grade students, coordinating logistics, promotion, and student engagement
- Advocate for student needs and concerns by communicating feedback between the student body and school leadership
- Collaborate with fellow student council members to plan events, promote school spirit, and strengthen community engagement at PVPA
- Work directly with school administrators to review, discuss, and provide student perspectives on school policies and rules

PVPA Photography Club – South Hadley, MA

September 2025 - Present

Student Leader

- Help plan and organize content for the club's photography magazine
- Support group discussions, idea development, and collaborative projects
- Take responsibility for helping meetings run smoothly and staying on task

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Exit 7 Players- Ludlow, MA

November 2025 - Present

PVPA Tour Volunteer - South Hadley, MA

November 2025 - Present

PVPA Photography Club - South Hadley, MA

September 2025 - Present

SKILLS

- Communication and collaboration
- Leadership and responsibility
- Time management and organization
- Artistic and creative skills

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Turn It Up Dance Challenge Convention Scholarship

November 2022

Most Dedicated Dancer

September 2023

Ethan Burt

Springfield, MA | ethan.burt@pvpa.org

SUMMARY

PVPA 11th grade student seeking to serve as a Student Representative on the Board of Trustees, representing student perspectives and contributing to collaborative school governance. I'm currently the secretary of our grade, and I wish to represent my peers, while also informing them on changes and important details happening in PVPA that may affect them.

EDUCATION

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School - South Hadley, MA

Expected Graduation: 2027 | **Arts Concentration:** Theater and Music

EXPERIENCE

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School - South Hadley, MA

September 2023 - Present

Student Council Member

- Represent student perspectives in discussions with peers and school leadership
- Participate in meetings focused on student issues, school policies, and community engagement
- Collaborate with other council members to support school events and initiatives

Holyoke Rows - Holyoke, MA

September 2023 - Present

Coxswain

- Managed boats and coordinated teams through coxswaining
- Led rowers during practices and races, supporting communication and teamwork
- Developed strong initiative, responsibility, and leadership skills through long-term involvement

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School – South Hadley, MA

September 2021 - Present

Volunteer (Arts Department)

- Participated consistently in both music and theater programs at PVPA
- Performed in multiple productions, balancing rehearsal schedules with academic responsibilities
- Demonstrated long-term commitment, reliability, and collaboration within ensemble-based work

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

PVPA October Fest Fundraiser

Oct 2025

SKILLS

- Communication and collaboration
- Leadership and responsibility
- Time management and organization
- Artistic and creative skill

Coversheet

Vote on PVPA Staff Representative

Section: II. Business
Item: B. Vote on PVPA Staff Representative
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: 2025JWinellResume (3) (1).pdf

Jayne Winell

797 Burts Pit Rd, Unit B, Florence MA 01062

413-320-6870

jwinell@pvpa.org

Skills:

Performance arts. Group Facilitation. Collaboration. Movement techniques. Improvisation. Choreography. Mindfulness. Focus on equity. Bilingual. Curricula writing. Student evaluation and feedback. Event planning and production.

Current Employment:

	Since
Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter Dance Teacher, Department Lead	2022

Current Volunteer:

Pioneer Valley Workers Center	Volunteer organizer, food justice	2016
Great Labor Arts Exchange	Volunteer workshop facilitator	2012

Recent Work and Volunteer History:

tinydance project	Choreographer, performer, teacher	2015-2021
Stonleigh-Burnham School	Dance teacher, high school	2018-2020
Common School, Amherst	Elementary PE Teacher, choreographer	2017-2019
Cutchins Program	Grades 5-12 PE and dance teacher	2013-2017
People's Music Network	Youth Creative Convergence Coordinator	2016-2020
Burning Heart Studio	Pilates Instructor	2019
Theatre Truck Ensemble	Actor, dancer, singer	2018-2019
YMCA	Dance, Gymnastics Coach	2015-2019
Wapani Cultural Center, San Cristobal, Mexico	Dance teacher	2013-2015

Education History:

Sheltered English Immersion Endorsement, SMEC	2022
Pilates Mat 1 Teacher Certification, Greenfield	2019
National PE & School Sport Institute, NC intensive week training	2019
Hampshire Education Collaborative, Northampton, completed 6 courses	2016
Hampshire College, Bachelors of Arts Dance for community building	2012
School of the Arts, San Francisco Dance Department	2008

Performance History:

CogDis, piece created in 2024 with Elizabeth Tobey exploring cognitive dissonance and technology. Performed at Stomping Grounds Dance Festival 2024, 5 Mins Max Concert at School of Contemporary Dance and Thought and upcoming Cultural Chaos Easthampton street festival performance June 2025.

tinydance project, January 2014-2021, co-created and performed in MA and VT, guest taught at Marlboro and Hampshire colleges, performed at Arts Night Out and First Night. We performed on a small stage, singing our own accompaniment music and using only natural sunlight as our lighting, and we raised money for causes.

Leafies You Gave Me, theatrical element to avant garde band, collaborator since 2015, performed at Cultural Chaos in Easthampton, NCFA, 10 Forward, Hawks & Reed and Northampton First Night

Theatre Truck, Water Project and Mill Project actor/dancer/singer, Collaborator January 2016 - 2019

Flame N' Peach and the Liberated Waffles, cofounder July 2012-2019, performed music in Mexico, CA and MA

Red Flame, created and performed hour long dance-play about Anne Burlak Timpson, the "Red Flame." Included storytelling, dance, songs, immersive theater and audience participation. Performed at Hampshire College, May 2012, at the Great Labor Arts Exchange Baltimore June 2012, Colorado State University August 2012, Library and public park Berkeley, CA May 2013, Northampton Center for the Arts 2019, Labor Day commemoration Woonsocket Rhode Island except 2020

David Dorfman Company, performed at Smith College, May 2011

Dance Ceres, company member from 2007 to 2009, San Francisco, CA. Performed at Stanford University, festivals and in public parks in the Bay Area.

School of the Arts, choreographed pieces and performed in the annual concert 2004-2008, Fort Mason Theater, San Francisco

References:

Kelly Silliman, *Program Director Northampton Center for the Arts* 434-806-3566

Julie Lichtenberg, *Co-Director Performance Project* 413-374-4938

Coversheet

Review for PVPA Charter Term 2021-2026 update

Section: IV. Head of School Report
Item: B. Review for PVPA Charter Term 2021-2026 update
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: PVPA Commissioner renewal letter 2026 (1).pdf



135 Santilli Hwy, Everett, MA 02149 Voice: (781) 388-3000 TTY: 1-800-439-2370 www.doe.mass.edu

March 5, 2026

Latrina Denson, Chair, Board of Trustees
 Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School
 15 Mulligan Drive
 South Hadley, MA 01075

Via electronic mail: ldenson@pvpa.org

Dear Board Chair:

Congratulations on the renewal of the charter for Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA). Based upon the evidence gathered over the past four years regarding the school’s academic success, organizational viability, and faithfulness to the terms of its charter and under the authority delegated to me by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board), I have renewed the school’s charter under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00.¹

The charter term is five years, beginning July 1, 2026 and expiring on June 30, 2031. The terms of the charter include, but are not limited to, those that follow.

Terms of the Charter for PVPA

Term of the Charter	PVPA
Type of Charter	Commonwealth
Location	South Hadley
Regional or Non-Regional	Regional
Districts in Region	Agawam, Amherst-Pelham, Belchertown, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Hampden-Wilbraham, Hampshire, Hatfield, Holyoke, Ludlow, Northampton, South Hadley, Springfield, West Springfield, Westfield
Maximum Enrollment	400
Grade Span	7-12

¹ I notified the Board in a memorandum dated February 18, 2026 (attached) that I intended to renew the school’s charter with conditions. No Board member requested that this matter be brought to the full Board for review. Therefore, I have taken this action.

The renewal of the charter of PVPA is explicitly conditioned as follows. If these conditions are not met, I may impose additional conditions, or the Board may place the school on probation or revoke the school's charter.

Condition 1: By May 1, 2026, the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School will select third-party, external consultant(s) to investigate and assess the board's and school leadership's handling of incidents that occurred during the 2024-25 school year. Such investigation shall include, but not be limited to, the school's compliance with Title IX, 603 CMR 26.00, and 603 CMR 1.00 and whether the school and its leadership have fulfilled their responsibilities as mandated reporters under G.L. c. 119, § 51A. The board must submit the identity and qualifications of such consultant and the scope of the investigation to the Department, and the Department must approve the consultant and the scope in writing in advance of such investigation.

Condition 2: By May 1, 2026, the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School will select third-party, external consultant(s) to engage students, staff, and families in an assessment of school culture and climate, student safety and well-being, and stakeholder engagement. The board must submit the identity and qualifications of such consultant and the assessment tool(s) to the Department, and the Department must approve the consultant and proposed tools in writing in advance of such assessment(s).

Condition 3: By August 3, 2026, the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School will submit an action plan for Department review and approval, that addresses

- a. the areas for improvement identified through the assessment tool(s),
- b. the areas for improvement identified in the investigation of the actions of the board and school leadership in response to past incidents, and
- c. the specific strategies and timeline(s) for implementation to address all areas for improvement.

In addition, the action plan must include descriptions of specific policies, procedures, and regular staff training that will ensure board oversight and overall school compliance with charter and public school requirements regarding complaint policy, mandated reporting, and reporting significant matters to the Department.

Condition 4: By August 3, 2026, the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School will engage in training, conducted by an external consultant, on the roles and responsibilities of a board of trustees of a charter school. The board training must include, but is not limited to, establishing and maintaining effective oversight of school leadership, the school's academic program, and compliance with laws and regulations. The identity and qualifications of such consultant and the substance of the training must be submitted to the Department by May 1, 2026, and the Department must approve the consultant and the training in writing in advance of any training.

Condition 5: By May 7, 2026, all members of the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School must provide confirmation of completed training on the Open Meeting Law as offered by the Office of the Attorney General. By August 3, 2026, the board of trustees will provide an action plan, subject to Department review and written approval, outlining the steps the board has taken and will take to ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law. The action plan must include descriptions of board policies and procedures related to meeting notices, executive sessions, remote participation, public participation, minutes, and complaints under 603 CMR 1.09.

The Summary of Review identified additional areas of concern related to Criterion 4: Dissemination, and Criterion 9: Governance. Specifically, the school engaged in limited dissemination activities during the charter term,² and there are concerns about the board's oversight of the school's academic performance.³ To address these concerns, take steps to disseminate best practices in the district where the school is located and to strengthen the board's oversight of the school's academic performance.

In the coming weeks, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will contact the school to support the school's planning for the new charter term. The school will need to develop a new Accountability Plan, and the beginning of the charter term is also a good time for the school to review and potentially request amendments for Commissioner approval, as needed.

PVPA shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 89; 603 CMR 1.00; and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such additional conditions as the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.

² The school engaged in a variety of dissemination activities during the charter term but did not disseminate best practices to other public schools in the district where the school is located.

³ During the charter term, accountability visit teams found mixed evidence that the board oversees the school's academic performance. During a visit in Year 28, visit team members found evidence that board members regularly reviewed academic performance data, including some disaggregated student data. During the renewal inspection, visit team members found that during the 2024-25 school year, the board reviewed MCAS results at one meeting; however, meeting minutes do not reflect additional discussion related to the school's academic performance or evidence that the board reviews disaggregated student data.

The charter school initiative is a key component of education reform in Massachusetts. I wish you great success as you seek to provide academic excellence and choice to the children of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Pedro Martinez
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

C: Brent Nielsen, Head of School, PVPA
Neil Hede, Board Member, PVPA
Danyelle Joujoute, Board Member, PVPA
Azizah Yasin, Board Member, PVPA
Matthew Schmidt, Board Member, PVPA
Thomas Roy, Board Member, PVPA
Emily Whitebear, Board Member, PVPA
Ann E Darge Gladd, Board Member, PVPA

Attachments:

Summary of Review for PVPA
Memorandum dated February 18, 2026

Coversheet

Finance Committee Report

Section: V. Officer and Committee Reports
Item: A. Finance Committee Report
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: FY 26 Capital Budget - Propsed Amendment 3-3-26.pdf
FY27 Capital Budget.pdf

PVPA Capital Budget (updated 3-4-26)

**Outstanding:
FY2020 & FY 2024**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Theater	Accoustical Theater Curtains for Side Wall	18,850	Part of original configuration - increased sound quality & sound proofing
	Capital Needs Assessment w/FOPVPA	30,000	Study to evaluate building needs/construction
		<u>48,850</u>	

Capital Budget - FY26 Proposed 3-4-25

Leashold Improvements

Bathroom Stalls	30,000	Replace 2nd floor, main floor and middle school bathrrom stalls
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Equipment

Classroom Furniture (6 rooms)	75,000	\$12,500 per room (increased from \$11,300). Increased from 5 rooms/year to include three middle school classrooms on 1st floor.
	<u>105,000</u>	

135,000 Approved by Fin Cmte 3/4/25

Leashold Improvements

Lighting Project	112,000	Approved 12-2-25
	<u>112,000</u>	

247,000

Additional Request 3-3-26

2021 Ford F250 w/Cap & Plow	34,500
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Total Capital Budget FY26	<u><u>281,500</u></u>
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PVPA Capital Budget (updated 3-4-26)

Outstanding:

FY20, FY24 & FY26

<u>Location</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Theater	Accoustical Theater Curtains for Side Wall	18,850	Part of original configuration - increased sound quality & sound proofing
	Capital Needs Assessment w/FOPVPA	30,000	Study to evaluate building needs/construction
		<u>48,850</u>	
		(18,850)	Accoustical Theater Curtain
		<u>30,000</u>	
Leashold Improvements			
	Lighting Project	<u>112,000</u>	
		<u>142,000</u>	Total Projects Outstanding

Capital Budget - FY27 Proposed 3-3-26

Leashold Improvements

	Reconfiguring of rooms 132, 134, 136 & 203 (includes all demolition, electrical, flooring, paint and furnishings)	<u>120,000</u>	Creates space for the Theater Department and improves Music classroom
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