Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Published on November 6, 2026 at 6:36 AM EST

Date and Time

Tuesday November 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM EST

Location

15 Mulligan Dr., South Hadley, MA 01075
Conference Room 304, 3rd floor
or Zoom link
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88161529752?pwd=h84OT3SiTYwq3uTl0j7SB61Qllg0iJ.1

PVPA Conference Room
15 Mulligan Drive
South Hadley, MA

Zoom Link

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**6:00 PM**
	A. Record Attendance		Azizah Yasin	1 m
	B. Call the Meeting to Order		Azizah Yasin	1 m

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
C.	Reading of the Mission Statement		PVPA Board Member	1 m

PVPA offers its students intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.

D.	Public Comments		Azizah Yasin	10 m

Brief comments are welcomed

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 does not respond directly to Public Comment to ensure that we give full consideration to each issue before formulating an official response.

E.	Approval of Minutes	Approve Minutes	Azizah Yasin	5 m

Approve minutes for PVPA Board of Trustees on October 13, 2026

II. PVPA Staff and Student Reports — 6:18 PM

A.	Staff Report	Discuss	Jayme Winell	5 m

Jayme Winell is invited to provide a PVPA Staff Report

B.	Student Reports	Discuss	Student Council Reps	5 m

PVPA Student Council members are invited to provide student reports

C.	Mission Moment: School Culture Update	Discuss	Emily Niemann	10 m

III. Head of School Report — 6:38 PM

A.	General Updates	Discuss	Brent Nielsen	10 m

- Conditions Update
- Enrollment
- Student Achievement

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
	• General Updates			
IV.	**Committee Reports**			**6:48 PM**
A.	Finance Committee	Discuss	Mindi Winter	5 m
B.	Governance Committee	Discuss	Thomas Roy	5 m
V.	**Closing Items**			**6:58 PM**
A.	President's Business	Discuss	Azizah Yasin	10 m
	President's Business as well as any updates that were not anticipated 24 hours prior to the meeting.			
B.	Board Norms	Vote	Azizah Yasin	15 m
	Discussion and agreement on board norms for all board meetings.			
C.	Executive Session for Union Strategy Discussion	Vote	Azizah Yasin	20 m
	Executive session pursuant to Chapter 30A, section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with respect to with UAW, Local 2322, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and the chair so declares.			
D.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Azizah Yasin	1 m
	The Board will not return to Open Session after the Executive session, and so will Adjourn formally during the vote to enter Executive session.			

Coversheet

Approval of Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: E. Approval of Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for PVPA Board of Trustees on October 13, 2026

DRAFT

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Minutes

PVPA Board of Trustees

Monthly Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday October 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
PVPA
3rd Floor Conference Room 304
15 Mulligan Dr
S. Hadley, MA

PVPA Conference Room
15 Mulligan Drive
South Hadley, MA

Zoom Link

Trustees Present
Azizah Yasin, Emily Whitebear, Kezia Fitzgerald (remote), LATRINA DENSON, Laura Grant (remote), Mindi Winter, Thomas Roy

Trustees Absent
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq, Marita Banda

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

Emily Whitebear, Laura Grant

Guests Present
Brent Nielsen (remote), Jayme Winell

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Azizah Yasin called a meeting of the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School to order on Tuesday Oct 13, 2026 at 6:07 PM.

C. Reading of the Mission Statement

Latrina Denson read the Mission Statement

Jayme joined

D. Public Comments

No public to make a comment but time was alloted for the public to make comment.

E. Approval of Minutes

Mindi Winter made a motion to approve the minutes from Meeting of the Board of Trustees on 09-15-26.
Thomas Roy seconded the motion.
No discussion
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Laura Grant	Absent
Marita Banda	Absent
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Thomas Roy	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Emily Whitebear	Absent
Kezia Fitzgerald	Aye
Mindi Winter	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Absent

Laura Grant arrived at 6:14 PM.

II. PVPA Staff and Student Reports

A.

Staff Report

Jayme sharing from the Staff

Well into October top of mind multiple different student initiatives

- Clothing drive - Peace Jam - free clothes available at OctoberFest
- KJ organizing Community Day was very well done with incorporating Dance performances
- Advisory working to do community building across grades with Middle school/high school integration
- Fashion Magazine starting
- Soccer season started
- WOFA going to Frontier
- Seussical Jr rehearsing
- Theater Tech department - headed up by Lauren new Department off to good start Mike is a skilled teacher, looking forward to working with him
- Garden club is looking forward to rebuilding the gardens
- LSU doing research and doing tidbits about Hispanic heritage over the PSA

What is the Magazine? Student lead project that is coming out once a month electronically and meets as a club, this year starting as an after school meeting. Can the Board get on the distribution list for the Fashion Magazine? Azizah should reach out to KJ.

Garden Club what is that consisting of?
Right now in the planning stage of the garden scaping of the property. Garden club is looking into what we could plant, sustainability of what could be planted, when, where and what would make sense for our community.
The Common School used to grow pumpkins to sell and take to the Nursing homes as a fundraiser and to give to the people there.

B. Student Reports

Emily Whitebear arrived at 6:44 PM.
No students attended and reported out to the Board.

III. Head of School Report

A. General Updates

PTO Soup night on the 18th families encouraged to bring a favorite soup. RSVP encouraged

Alumni Open Mic went well the Alumni were mainly from the Hadley campus era and it was nice to show them the new school and theater campus. It would have been great to

have more current students performing alongside with the older alums so to expand to an Alumni Homecoming yearly event would be a great opportunity to foster community.

School culture data

- 65 pop-in observations (beginning on September 16)
- 100% phone-free
- 64/65 reported all students engaged
- 56 reported agenda visible

26 Restorative Lunch Referrals as of October 5
School Culture Team is working on data for a school culture dashboard
Will include student attendance, positive engagement points, phone referrals, restorative lunch referrals, and pop-in data

Senior leadership team is doing these pop-ins and are completing a Google form to collect predictable repeatable data collections.

Charter Conditions Update

All requested actions were completed and submitted to the Department on July 31.
The Department responded on September 9, thanking us for submitting the required materials by the established deadlines and for our continued cooperation in providing documentation to them.

As part of the Department's ongoing review of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School's progress in addressing its charter conditions, the Department determined that additional action and documentation are required.

Condition 1: Additional Investigation and Revised Report Required

The consultant must reopen and supplement the investigation and issue a revised report. The board of trustees (board) must submit the complete revised investigation report no later than **October 30, 2026**.

The Department included specific areas to be addressed in the revised report.

Condition 3 and 5: Required Submission of Final Policies and Procedures
Please submit final, board-approved copies of all policies and procedures identified in the action plans for Conditions 3 and 5 no later than **October 30, 2026**.

When submitting the final policies and procedures to the Department, we were asked to identify the precise location where each document is publicly available, including the applicable webpage, handbook, and other publication.

Latrina Denson asked about the local Cyber attacks in schools in the area
Brent informed that the previous Cyber attacks on PVPA 4 years ago caused PVPA to contract with a firm to help reduce the risk of another cyber attack and increase the security of PVPAs network.

IV. Presentation of FY26 Audit Report

A. FY26 Audit Presentation

LATRINA DENSON made a motion to Approve the FY26 Audit as presented to the Board and authorize the Treasurer to sign the Audit on the Boards behalf.
Thomas Roy seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Azizah Yasin	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Absent
Thomas Roy	Aye
Mindi Winter	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Emily Whitebear	Aye
Marita Banda	Absent
Laura Grant	Aye
Kezia Fitzgerald	Aye

V. Governance Committee

A. Approve Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Policy

Discussed scheduling of Governance and put open Agendas on the BOT for all members to add to the agenda.

Policy for Gender nondiscrimination has existed for at least 15 years but it has needed to be updated to get it into current compliance.
Remove redline materials in current policy and add the red text to the document attached to the policy.

Tom gave a summary to why the policy needed to be updated and why the policy needed to be changed and updated.

Three upcoming meetings are preliminary interviews for potential new trustees - November, February and April.
Laura Grant made a motion to Approve the revised non-discrimination policy on the Basis of Gender Policy.
Emily Whitebear seconded the motion.
Jayme asked can we protect students from a Federal government that might want to know the gender of students in the future?
We do not believe that the Federal government would do that but if they did we would seek advice of counsel before we would respond to a request like that, however we can not write a policy to prevent responding to that request.
Laura grateful that we live in a state that is more protective of us.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Laura Grant	Aye
Marita Banda	Absent
Emily Whitebear	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Absent
Mindi Winter	Aye
Kezia Fitzgerald	Aye
Thomas Roy	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye

B. Approve Protect Act Policy

Mindi Winter made a motion to approve the Protect Act Policy.
LATRINA DENSON seconded the motion.
Protect act signed into law by Gov Healy to make it more difficult for ICE to enter schools without a Judicial warrant. The schools must have a compliance policy.

Keziah - should it say a signed Judicial warrant instead of an Executed Warrant.
Azizah - Judicial warrant is issued by an actual judge instead of a Magistrate or an Agency official not an actual judge of the Commonwealth and should not be honored by anyone.

Procedures will be drafted by the Head of school and the procedures will be centered around safety and education the focus should be around safety and that schools are not the place for this.
Training is required by law for staff and possibly will be provided to the board in an abbreviated fashion to the Board

Brent just went to the DA training 2 weeks ago to get the Protect Act training that will turn into the PVPA training with sample slides from DESE. Mass law enforcement is trained that no one is allowed to be arrested by ICE while on school property.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Marita Banda	Absent
Emily Whitebear	Aye
Thomas Roy	Aye
Laura Grant	Aye
Kezia Fitzgerald	Aye
Mindi Winter	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Absent
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye

VI. Discussion and creation of New Committees and Focus Groups

A. Committees

Please review the list of committees and identify the committee that you are interested in serving on. Azizah's hope is that they will meet before the next meeting.

Azizah will make assignments this weekend.

Focus group will be dedicated to working on the Strategic action plan

2 parents
2 students
2 board members
2 admin
2 community members

Value of being a focus group is to not have the restrictions of quorum and be able to be more flexible. This is highly critical to complete this year.

How will staff be notified?

Aziziah sent out a link to Google sheets in an email this morning

Google Sheet with all the Productions for the year to the Board - the Board needs to review the sheet and put your name in the box in the production that you are interested in attending and volunteering at shows. Azizah asking for a minimum of 5 performances for Trustees.
All trustees to attend Graduation as a board norm requirement.

VII. Closing Items

A. President's Business

Board Norms
Discussion started at Board Retreat would like everyone to participate in this discussion and would like to create a policy document

Attendance if virtual video on
Attending graduation
Phone silenced and not using it during the board meeting
Emails checking our emails everyday

In the next meeting have this as an Agenda item discuss and agree so that we can carry out the rest of the year under an agreement of mutual understanding.

Be considerate of when people are speaking and try to make sure people are being heard - enjoying the vibe but per protocol speakers are to ask the chair for permission to speak and be acknowledged.

Great to have students and staff reporting out in the meeting. Also intend to incorporate a Mission Moment in each meeting consisting of a PVPA staff attending to share about what is happening in school - classes, arts, programming, etc.

B. Executive Session for Union Strategy Discussion

Azizah Yasin made a motion to I move to enter executive session pursuant to Chapter 30A, section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with THe UAW, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares, which I do, I invite Brent Nielsen to join the session and we will not be returning to open session.
Thomas Roy seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Kezia Fitzgerald	Aye
Marita Banda	Absent
Mindi Winter	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Laura Grant	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Absent
Thomas Roy	Aye
Emily Whitebear	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mindi Winter