



# Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

## Minutes

### Board of Trustees Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Tuesday September 11, 2018 at 6:00 PM

#### **Location**

PVPA, Laddenheim Library, 15 Mulligan Dr S. Hadley MA

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#### **Trustees Present**

Deborah Jacobson, Donovan Arthen, Gary Huggett, Jorge Rodriguez, Mindi Winter

#### **Trustees Absent**

Keith Black, Marcus McLaurin, Sean Moore, Shubhada Rella-Brooks, Stephen Therrien

#### **Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned**

Deborah Jacobson

#### **Ex Officio Members Present**

Marc Kenen

#### **Non Voting Members Present**

Marc Kenen

#### **Guests Present**

Drew, Ian Baird, Isaac Wein, Mary Ahlstrom

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### **I. Opening Items**

**A. Record Attendance and Guests**

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Mindi Winter called a meeting of the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School to order on Tuesday Sep 11, 2018 at 6:13 PM.

**C. Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment

**D. Approve Minutes**

Defer to next month

**II. Governance**

**A. Election of Board Officers**

Deferred to next month due to quorum

**B. Election of Board Members**

Andrea Nathanson

9th Grade parent - Lots of questions as Parent of Julia Nathanson - Finance person.

Daughter is Dancer

Franklin County COmmunity Action Board

Girls Inc Board Member

Laurie Lisena

12th grade parent - Bebe

Interested because we need people

Teacher at the Hospitals

Worked in NYC - Village Voice

Family background in the Arts

Wants to give something back to the Community

David Potter

8th and 9th Grade Parent

Teacher for several years - Holyoke Community Charter School. Experience with High School Principal

Interested in helping with leadership activities

**III. Leadership Committee**

**A.**

## **Executive Director Report**

Deborah Jacobson left.

Marc is asking the Students for feedback which is very important.

His report is based off of the SAP

He read and shared his Summary of the report he emailed prior to the Board meeting, focusing on the Course Scheduling problem.

Dean of School Culture position immediate positive impact on School Culture

Warning Signs:

Negative Impacts from past 2 years:

- Admissions numbers - Struggling to reach the 400 Student mark
- Preliminary MCAS Data is showing weakness
- Passed a deficit budget passed at \$90k deficit - forced to pay increased rate for new staff increasing the Budget deficit

MCAS data is still being rolled out to schools, still preliminary data.

## **IV. Students**

### **A. Report for first two weeks**

Positive transition.

Seniors getting a lot of attention from Dean of School Culture, which is focusing on Grad drop out rate.

Course Scheduling is always a problem for Students, this year it felt like it was finally a problem for Teachers as much as for the Students.

Student Counsel is now a class and meets 3x per week.

## **V. Faculty**

### **A. Report on the first two weeks**

Scheduling was a problem because the expectation was that it was going to be "OK" rather than that it was going to be the normal mess of scheduling that it always is. Stress amongst Upper Classmen is higher than previous years.

New staff are effected at a higher rate. Now that it is settled the mood is settling.

Dean of School Culture is having a high positive impact on the Students, Community Day, Open Mics are bringing back feelings of the "old, old" PVPA.

Length of the Scheduling issues are having a large impact. On the Arts side it is still having an impact. The impact was felt everywhere this year instead of just in a smaller population. Otherwise things are really good.

Question from Public: 7th Grader and 10th Grader

7th Grader has Advisory - What is it? Homeroom with a Curriculum - Every student has an Advisor that is assigned and is in

## **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 6:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donovan Arthen

## **VII. Union Negotiating Committee**

### **A. Executive Session**

Deferred to next month due to no quorum