

APPROVED



# Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

## Minutes

### Board of Trustees January Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday January 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM

#### Location

##### PVPA 3rd Floor Conference Room

15 Mulligan Drive  
South Hadley, MA

#### Virtual Link:

Zoom Account is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: January Board Meeting

Time: Jan 10, 2023 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85042666520?pwd=QnBpenFJRXFjWUtsVW9NNXZKUzhiQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 4266 6520

Passcode: PVPA

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,85042666520#,,, \*690554# US

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Dial by your location

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+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 850 4266 6520

Passcode: 690554

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcGANxjq7S>

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### **Trustees Present**

David Potter, Jenna Sardella, Mindi Winter, Neil Hede, Sasha Viands, Shannon Materka, Shino Pichette (remote), Vanessa Ford (remote)

### **Trustees Absent**

LATRINA DENSON

### **Ex Officio Members Present**

Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

### **Non Voting Members Present**

Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

### **Guests Present**

Danyelle Joujoute (remote), Fiona Yates (remote), John Kulas, Kamali Joseph (remote)

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

David Potter called a meeting of the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School to order on Tuesday Jan 10, 2023 at 6:14 PM.

### C. Read the Mission Statement

Read by David Potter.

### D. Approve Minutes

David Potter made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees December Meeting on 12-13-22.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

LATRINA DENSON Absent

Neil Hede Aye

Jenna Sardella Aye

Vanessa Ford Aye

Shino Pichette Aye

Shannon Materka Aye

Mindi Winter Aye

David Potter Aye

Sasha Viands Aye

### E. Public Comment

No public comment.

## II. Head of School Report

### A. Brent's Report

Final week of 1st semester! Trying to send message to students to wrap up work - grades close on Friday. Winter Music Showcase is Fri & Sat - sampled during last week's open mic. Musicians are outstanding - you do not want to miss this one! Some talented students that will be with us for another year or two so more years to come.

Paideia starts next week - lots of planning. Going to be a fun two weeks. Activities from hiking to preparing for the musical.

Once Upon a Mattress Feb 4, 5 & 6 - annual musical. Tickets on sale soon!

Second semester and planning for next year under way.

As of today enrollment is 389. Special lottery on Jan 6 - will get to 400 students for start of second semester. Last reporting period is Feb 15th and will help our tuition dollars - we are in good shape.

Teacher opening - MS AS Teacher and 1 paraprofessional. Can always use part-time subs - application is open.

### **III. Board Committee Reports**

#### **A. Finance Committee**

Finance Committee met on January 9, 2023. The Committee reviewed the 2nd Quarter Budget vs Actual and reported no spending outside of what would be expected at this time of the year. DESE 2nd Quarter Tuition numbers were not yet available at the time of the meeting.

The Committee spent most of the meeting discussing capital plans. A timeline was mapped out for construction based on the recommendations from the Infrastructure Committee. A potential plan for fiscal years 24 through 26, including funding, was identified. The Committee approved the Capital Budget for FY24 - the Board of Trustees will receive this information as part of the FY24 budget in May/June.

#### **B. Governance Committee**

Nomination for Azizah Yasin - some information on her qualifications:

- Familiar with community
- Dances with Bisko
- Familiar with committee work
- Works at Holyoke District Court as the First Assistant Clerk-Magistrate
- BA of Arts in African Studies and Psychology
- Has judged for Mock Trial
- As Clerk Magistrate cannot be involved with fundraising.

Changes to bylaws:

Two proposals based on teachers being voting or non-voting members of the Board. Teachers being voting members - Governance recommends that all members are serving as individuals and not as representatives of a specific group they are to work in the interest of the school. Teachers have traditionally filled a role of representing to views of the teachers - very valuable piece of Board. Doesn't match how a Board works and the

Union complicates it further. Recommendation is that teachers become non-voting members.

DESE membership requirements include voting and non-voting members = confusion. Goal is to simplify Board composition and decrease the min requirement to be more realistic - we have struggled with this.

Governance Committee recommends decreasing parent voting members by 1 - all other changes are by moving others out of voting membership.

Shino Pichette made a motion to approve Azizah to be member of board.

Sasha Viands seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

Jenna Sardella	Aye
Vanessa Ford	Aye
Sasha Viands	Aye
Mindi Winter	Aye
Shino Pichette	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Absent
Shannon Materka	Aye
David Potter	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye

Shino Pichette made a motion to accept Proposal 2 as framework for membership in updated by laws.

David Potter seconded the motion.

HOS & CFO are now mentioned in by-laws - cannot operate without them.

Teachers and students are designated as non-voting members - potential for 18yr old student become null & void. Trying to get away from conflicts of interest. The Union is an important element in the need for change. Cleaner, easier and more practical way for the Board to operate. Preserves the voice of teachers and students, which is important.

Makes PVPA more transparent. The value is in the voice - gives more leeway to voice opinions while taking away the pressure. Still considered as members of the Board.

This is not final - still needs to be vetted by lawyers and the community as well as approved by DESE.

The students concern is that its about the idea of there being a power from the students in the ability to vote. Student perspective may be that we are only glorified reports.

Participation is more than that - example was the hiring committee last year. Voice is what matters - vote is insignificant. Students feel it is a privileged to have a seat on the Board.

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

#### **Roll Call**

Neil Hede	Aye
David Potter	Aye
Shannon Materka	Aye
Sasha Viands	Aye
Shino Pichette	Aye
Vanessa Ford	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Absent
Mindi Winter	Aye
Jenna Sardella	Abstain

#### **C. Head of School Support & Evaluation Committee**

Committee has not met since last Board meeting. Learning from Board on Track about utilizing their tools and resources. Conversations ongoing about big picture process with Brent. Will be looking for Board feedback prior to next check in with Brent later this month. Next meeting with Brent will be more formal than last meeting. Between Jan & May surveys will go out. Brent's self survey will be shared along with a survey for you to give feedback. Will continue to work with Board onTrack about how to analyz the data from surveys. Nothing but good things are happening - does more work need to be done or can we develop new goals?

Next Board meeting will be sharing a document about mid-year check in.

#### **D. Long Range Infrastructure Planning Committee**

Shared report. Committee has paused meetings while other committees move recommneded work forward.

### **IV. Internal Stakeholders**

#### **A. Staff Reports**

MS - consumed with Paideia - excited with changes for MS. Appreciative of the SEL curriculum - necessary right now. 7th grade had productive conversation with Admin today - support from Admin appreciated.

HS - committee after Paideia to give feedback. Civic classes are learning about local government and doing some awesome work. Can't wait to see results. 9th grade team talking about a reset for second semester - how do we finish the year? Arts classes about how to grow programming - theater courses in particular. People are talking -see where they go.

#### **B. Student Reports**

Seniors - wrapping up semester - desperate need of grade meeting to discuss graduation and logistics and reinforce the importance of responding to email. Yearbook and senior photos and some miscommunications about deadlines.

Juniors - musical, music showcase & Paideia -excited!! Future planning for a senior trip for next year.

Sophomores - wrapping up 1st semester - excited for production season! Planning a field trip and fundraising. A lot of positive change!

## **V. President's Business**

### **A. Union Negotiating Team update**

There has been a negotiating session since the last Board meeting. We had reached agreement over ground rules - norms set and Feb 7th was agreed as deadline for proposal submission. Sounds positive.

Developing news - Friends of PVPA and fundraising. Conversations taking place with potential members - spread the word. Hopefully will have some developments soon.

New members need committee assignments. Possibility of a Board Fundraising Committee. Friends role is maintaining the building and supporting the the mission of the school. Friend is 501(c)(3). Leadership starts at the Board level - we will get there.

Please send interested parties to David or Brent. You can always donate anytime - go to our website.

At this point there are 116 7th grade applicants - same as this time in 2019. Doing as well as we were per-pandemic - word of mouth is our best recruiting tool, spread the word about applying for next year.

## **VI. Executive Session**

### **A. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the so declares.**

David Potter made a motion to move into Executive Session.

Mindi Winter seconded the motion.

Moving to Executive Session. Not returning to public session. Invite Marcy & Brent.  
Remote members must state that they are alone and no one else is present.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Vanessa Ford	Aye
Sasha Viands	Aye
David Potter	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Shannon Materka	Aye
Jenna Sardella	Aye
Mindi Winter	Aye
Shino Pichette	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Absent

**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 7:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcy Conner

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**Documents used during the meeting**

- Azizah P. Yasin Resume 2022.pdf
- Board Composition Outlines\_2022.1.6.pdf
- Long Range Infrastructure Planning Task Force - PVPA Board Update for January 10, 2023.pdf
- 2022\_12\_13\_board\_meeting\_minutes.pdf