

APPROVED



# Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

## Minutes

### April Board Meeting #2

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday April 16, 2024 at 9:00 AM

#### Location

VIRTUAL ONLY

Zoom Account is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: PVPA April Board Meeting #2

Time: Apr 16, 2024 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85280651013?pwd=VkNQMMttWIBVOUpkRjJKYkVta0RNdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 8065 1013

Passcode: 9xhxF

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Meeting ID: 852 8065 1013

Passcode: 528653

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcux1TVyBX>

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#### **Trustees Present**

Azizah Yasin, David Cavallin (remote), David Potter (remote), Fiona Yates (remote), LATRINA DENSON (remote), Neil Hede (remote), Sasha Viands (remote), Shino Pichette (remote), Tim Cable (remote), Vanessa Ford

#### **Trustees Absent**

Mindi Winter

#### **Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened**

Azizah Yasin, Vanessa Ford

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

Brent Nielsen (remote), Marcy Conner (remote)

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

Brent Nielsen (remote), Marcy Conner (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 Apr 16, 2024 at 9:08 AM.

### C. Read the Mission Statement

David read the mission statement.

Vanessa Ford arrived at 9:13 AM.

Azizah Yasin arrived at 9:16 AM.

### D. Approve Minutes

David Potter made a motion to approve the minutes from April Board Meeting on 04-09-24.

David Cavallin seconded the motion.

Comment: Concern about the way executive session was discussed in the notes (at the last part of the minutes in president's business). The minutes note that executive session was on the original agenda so the board should have one. David Potter wants to confirm that there was never a public agenda that included an executive session. The draft agenda had an executive session on it but it was deleted before the agenda was publicized because there wasn't a valid reason to have an executive session.

Azizah notes that in prior boards she has been on, there has always been a standing executive session included on all agendas. So Azizah was surprised that this wasn't included in our meeting. Azizah had not seen an executive session in a prior version of the agenda, she just wanted to note that she thought every meeting should have an executive session on it.

David's concern was that the notes from the April meeting indicate that Azizah thought she saw a previous agenda and that is not the case.

Marcy shared some reasons about why executive session can be held or not for the PVPA board.

Azizah points out that she would like the chair to solicit feedback on the agenda from the full board rather than just committee chairs. David Potter says yes, he will do this.

No change needed to the April 9 minutes, because this discussion of the issue is included in these subsequent minutes.

[Note: Tim Cable not able to vote yet since DESE has not yet had a chance to approve his membership.]

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

#### Roll Call

David Potter	Aye
Shino Pichette	Abstain
Neil Hede	Abstain
Azizah Yasin	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Fiona Yates	Aye

### **Roll Call**

Vanessa Ford	Aye
Sasha Viands	Aye
Mindi Winter	Absent
David Cavallin	Aye

## **II. Public Comment**

### **A. Brief comments and/or questions welcomed.**

No public present.

## **III. Head of School Report**

### **A. Vote on School Calendar 2024-2025**

Brent Nielsen:

Only change from the April 9th calendar to this one was moving some of the half days for curriculum development.

Brent reviews the details of the calendar (see attachment).

One of the reasons we have the half days is to allow all staff to meet more frequently. If the curriculum days are full days, there is more time between days. Previously staff met on Fridays and it didn't actually include everyone (like para-professionals). This was done in coordination with the union.

David Potter Question: Has the labor management committee seen this and approved it?  
Brent: Yes.

Shino Q: How did the community info session go, where this was discussed?

Brent: We shared this at the end of the meeting and people responded positively. There is some concern about transportation issues and it will be an adjustment for the new half days arrangement. Having transport for students will help addressing absenteeism.

Fiona Q: What formal conversations (not just informal) have happened with staff, students and parents before coming to the decision to cut Paideia?

Brent: Paideia isn't on the agenda, so it shouldn't be discussed.

Fiona: Paideia isn't on the calendar so it should be discussed.

Brent: The board is voting on the number of the days of school legally, ensuring that the school is following laws.

Fiona: We should be discussing Paideia - this has always been discussed in the past along with the schedule.

Brent: The board does not have control over Paideia, so it shouldn't be discussed. The board can plan a paideia conversation if they want.

David Potter: The management of day to day operations is not the board responsibility. But it is okay to talk about Paideia as it relates to the calendar right now, but not about school processes. Internal school decisions are Brent and the administration's responsibility.

Sasha would like to ask that make space to talk about Paideia. A conversation needs to be had.

Fiona: Yes, a board conversation needs to happen. Fiona cannot approve a schedule that doesn't include Paideia. It's a key part of the pull for enrollment so there is a fiduciary reason to address this further. In a prior year (2021?) we approved a start and end date with the requirement that the head of school assemble a task force to determine the length of Paideia.

David Potter: There have been times for the board to be heard on this issue.

Vanessa: Point of order, why are we discussing things that are not on the agenda?

Shino: Schedule conversations in the past have included conversations about Paideia, so that is why some of us want to discuss it now. Also there have been no other times given to the board about when to discuss it. Shino proposes that we move forward with approving the start and end dates but schedule times for a more conversation about Paideia, noting that we don't approve removing it from the schedule at this time.

David: We have talked about Paideia as a board. Frank shared a presentation. We have gotten lots of information.

Azizah: The Paideia conversation may be legitimate, but it shouldn't be had here, right now. The board should not be managing the school in the day to day responsibilities, but it is disappointing to see the divisions happening in the school community right now. We should do whatever is within our responsibilities to try to help with unity. The vote on the schedule should not be on Paideia, it should be on the legal days of school right now.

David Potter made a motion to approve the schedule as Brent has presented it.

LATRINA DENSON seconded the motion.

Shino: I think we should amend the motion to articulate that the board will vote on these dates but would establish more conversation about Paideia.

David: Rejects the request to amend the motion.

The motion did not carry.

#### **Roll Call**

Shino Pichette	No
Sasha Viands	No
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
David Potter	Aye

**Roll Call**

Neil Hede	No
David Cavallin	No
Mindi Winter	Absent
Fiona Yates	Abstain
Vanessa Ford	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye

Azizah: What do we do in the event of a tie?

Marcy: Can we check the bylaws? Should staff and students be allowed to vote on this?

Shino: We should reconvene, we don't have time to address this.

**B. Vote on Mock Trial out-of-state trip**

David Potter made a motion to approve this out of state trip.

Shino Pichette seconded the motion.

Brent: Mock Trial is going to Nationals. 17 students involved with Mock Trial, 8 are allowed to compete. Money was raised to cover the whole trip.

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

**Roll Call**

LATRINA DENSON	Aye
David Cavallin	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Mindi Winter	Absent
Vanessa Ford	Aye
Shino Pichette	Aye
Fiona Yates	Aye
David Potter	Aye
Sasha Viands	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye

**IV. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

David Potter made a motion to Adjourn.

Azizah Yasin seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

David Cavallin	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Shino Pichette	Aye
Sasha Viands	Aye
Mindi Winter	Absent
LATRINA DENSON	Aye

**Roll Call**

Fiona Yates	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Vanessa Ford	Aye
David Potter	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shino Pichette