



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustee Meeting May 2025

Date and Time

Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Trustees Present

Azizah Yasin, Kiara Badillo (remote), LATRINA DENSON, Neil Hede, Sasha Viands (remote)

Trustees Absent

Craig Santos, David Cavallin, Grace Bannasch, Tim Cable, Vanessa Ford

I. Opening Items

A. 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 May 13, 2025 at 6:11 PM.

B. Azizah Yasin recording minutes in the absence of Vanessa Ford.

C. Record Attendance

D. Read the Mission Statement

Azizah Yasin read the mission statement

E. D. Approve Minutes

F.

Approve minutes

II. Executive Session

A. Negotiation strategies regarding Head Of School Brent Nielson contract.

Motion to Go into executive session to discuss strategies regarding Head of School Brent Nielson contract.

LATRINA DENSON seconded the motion.

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

B. Executive Session

C. Adjourn

III. Public Comments

A. Public Comment

- Presiding officer, president Latrina Denson opened the meeting with public comments.
- There were 15 minutes for public comments.
- There were adults and 1 student who contributed to the public comment session, who expressed they did not want Brent N. to continue as a head of school, so they disagreed with a contract renewal.

IV. Internal Stakeholders

A. Staff Report

No report

B. Student Reports

No report

V. Agenda Items for Board Approval

A. Competency Determination (CD) Policy and Updated Graduation Requirements

Azizah Yasin made a motion to Move to accept the competency determinatgion policy and updated graduation requires.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

Sasha Viands asked if this was to determine seniors can graduate using the new graduation requires.

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

Roll Call

Grace Bannasch	Absent
Tim Cable	Absent
David Cavallin	Absent
Craig Santos	Absent
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Kiara Badillo	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Vanessa Ford	Absent
Sasha Viands	Abstain

B. District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP)

Azizah Yasin made a motion to Move to accept the new District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP).

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Sasha Viands	No
Kiara Badillo	Aye
David Cavallin	Absent
Craig Santos	Absent
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye
Grace Bannasch	Absent
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Tim Cable	Absent
Vanessa Ford	Absent

C. Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School Discipline for Students Identified as Having Special Needs

Azizah Yasin made a motion to Vote to accept the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School Discipline for Students Identified as Having Special Needs.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Azizah Yasin	Aye
David Cavallin	Absent
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Tim Cable	Absent
Grace Bannasch	Absent

Roll Call

Neil Hede	Aye
Sasha Viands	Abstain
Kiara Badillo	Aye
Vanessa Ford	Absent
Craig Santos	Absent

D. Board On Track Contract Renewal

Neil Hede made a motion to Move to renew the Board On Track Contract Renewal.

Kiara Badillo seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Azizah Yasin	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Kiara Badillo	Aye
Sasha Viands	Abstain
Grace Bannasch	Absent
Vanessa Ford	Absent
Tim Cable	Absent
Neil Hede	Aye
David Cavallin	Absent
Craig Santos	Absent

VI. Governance Committee

A. Ann Dargie, Esq.,

Neil Hede made a motion to To present all of the candidates and vote as a slate.

Azizah Yasin seconded the motion.

Azizah Yasin, VP and governance committee chair, explained the process of interviewing and presenting the candidates for full vote of the board without a vote of the committee since a panelist from the interview panel had a question on whether deliberation and vote should happen publicly or in executive session of the governance committee meeting. Azizah reached out to counsel to confirm the process, and the vote was tabled until confirmation was given.

Kiara confirmed that the process was legally compliant and that Azizah did not need a vote, but was doing this in good faith as a best practice, but it is fine for Azizah as governance committee chair to present to the full board for a vote.

Azizah presented a profile of the first candidate based on the resume attached.

There was discussion and questions raised about thrfee of the four candidates being lawyers and if there were relationships and/ or were conflicts of interest from board member Sasha V, Neile H, and Kiara B.

Azizah responded discussing recruitment efforts over the past few years, difficulty of people making commitments to volunteer.

Met with the candidates individually, conducted panel interviews with two other panelists, all of whom at the end of the interviews supported them being presented.

There was a suggestion by Sasha V who said she would agree to take one or two candidates.

Latrina said we have been transparent and some candidates attended the board meetings and are aware of the issues in the PVPA community. And although they are lawyers they have other qualities such as passion for arts and finance.

Neile Hede they made a motion to vote on all candidates together as one slate.

Azizah second the motion.

When Latrina asked for discussion, Azizah went through the profile of the other three candidates. There was a vote on the following in one slate:

- Ann Dargie, Esq.,
- Thomas Roy, Esq.,
- Matthew Schmidt, Esq
- Emily Whitebear

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

Roll Call

Azizah Yasin	Aye
Kiara Badillo	Aye
Tim Cable	Absent
Vanessa Ford	Absent
Sasha Viands	No
David Cavallin	Absent
Grace Bannasch	Absent
Craig Santos	Absent
LATRINA DENSON	Aye
Neil Hede	Aye

B. Thomas Roy, Esq.,

C. Matthew Schmidt, Esq

D. Emily Whitebear

VII. Head of School Report

A.

General Report and Updates

Brent N. began his head of school report. Moments later, Kiara B. mentioned that Sasha V. left the meeting.

As a result there was no longer quorum to continue the meeting and the meeting ended at this time.

VIII. 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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Azizah Yasin

Meeting adjourned due to lack of quorum

Documents used during the meeting

None