

APPROVED



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.

Azizah Yasin made a motion to Go into executive session under G.L. c. 30, section 21(a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Head of School Brent Nielsen).

LATRINA DENSON seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Executive Session

[Executive Session Notes](#)

6:07pm Latrina Denson called the Executive Session meeting to order. Trustees Present: Azizah Yasin(in-person), Kiara Badillo (remote, alone), Latrina Denson (in-person) Neil Hede (in-person), Sasha Viands (Remote) Latrina Denson reinstated the purpose Purpose: Executive Session under G.L.c.30, section21(a)(2) Executive session under G.L. c. 30, section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Head of School Brent Nielsen).

The Board of Trustees invited legal counsel Marc Terry to the meeting to discuss negotiation strategies and the renewal of Brent Nielsen’s contract. The discussion included terms, the length of the contract, and clarification of the job description. Based on the discussion between the board and legal counsel and the decision regarding the content to be included and/or modified in the contract, the board voted as follows to give legal counsel authority to draft a proposed employment contract for head of school Brent Nielsen:

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53pm and return to the Public board meeting. Rollcall Azizah Yasin(in-person, yes), Kiara Badillo (remote, alone, yes), Latrina Denson (in-person, yes) Neil Hede (in-person, yes), Sasha Viands (Remote, abstain) Legal Counsel Marc Terry left and the board prepared to return to the Public board meeting Neil Hede made a motion to That the board give legal counsel authority to modify the contract proposal.

Azizah Yasin seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Adjourn

Azizah Yasin made a motion to It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53pm and return to the Public board meeting.

Neil Hede seconded the motion.

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53pm and return to the Public board meeting.

Rollcall

Azizah Yasin(in-person, yes), Kiara Badillo (remote, alone, yes), Latrina Denson (in-person, yes)

Neil Hede (in-person, yes), Sasha Viands (Remote, abstain)

Legal Counsel Marc Terry left and the board prepared to return to the Public board meeting.

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

Roll Call

Kiara Badillo	Aye
David Cavallin	Absent
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Tim Cable	Absent
Craig Santos	Absent
Neil Hede	Aye
Vanessa Ford	Absent
Grace Bannasch	Absent

Roll Call

LATRINA DENSON Aye

Sasha Viands Abstain

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

Tim Cable Absent

Grace Bannasch Absent

LATRINA DENSON Aye

Neil Hede Aye

Kiara Badillo Aye

David Cavallin Absent

Craig Santos Absent

Azizah Yasin Aye

Roll Call

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

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

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

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

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