APPROVED

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting - Mandatory Training

Date and Time
Tuesday July 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location
This will be a hybrid meeting with a Zoom option.

Conference Room - 304
15 Mulligan Drive
South Hadley, MA

Trustees Present
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq (remote), Azizah Yasin, Emily Whitebear, Kezia Fitzgerald (remote), LATRINA DENSON, Laura Grant (remote), Marita Banda (remote), Mindi Winter, Thomas Roy (remote)

Trustees Absent
None

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
LATRINA DENSON

Ex Officio Members Present
Brent Nielsen, Marcy Conner

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Azizah Yasin called a meeting of the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School to order on Tuesday Jul 14, 2026 at 5:31 PM.

C. Reading of the Mission

Read by Mindi Winter

II. Mandatory Training for Board Members

A. Introduction to Training and Purpose

Required as part of the Charter conditions. DESE did approve Mike Mizoni: dedicated public service over decade of experience. Chief Goverance Officer of Board on Track since 2017. Law degree from NE Law School.

LATRINA DENSON arrived at 5:35 PM.

B. Mandatory Training

Here today to satisfy DESE requirement. Many charters responding to DESE conditions right now. This training is late - considering what work has already been done in regards to conditions. Hope is that this is valuable - this training is what he usually provides to new board members for training. Can always continue conversation after our two hours tonight.

House keeping:
1. Introductions
2. Will need to let HVAC worker in shortly.

Introductions:

Azizah - many Boards - first dealing with state open meeting laws
Brent - HOS for 6 years
Emily - into second term on Board - Parent Member - 2026-2027 Clerk.
Latrina - outgoing President. Parent and now Community member since 2021.
Minid - returning to the Board - Past President
Marcy - 10 years to PVPA - ex officio
Anne - beginning second year - 1st experience with DESE regulations - work with non-profit boards

Mike stepped away.

PVPA Dir of Technology was setting up emails - anyone who has not received communication from Thom Vreeland? No

Mike back

Marita - first meeting just started. Teacher in Amherst HS. Serve on Board for Amherst Media.
Tom - attny child welfare - some expereince working with DESE. Second year - serving as VP
Laura - new to boards and PVPA - parent trustee.
Kezia - new this year - advisory board expereince in medical device - parent board member

Slide Show.

Roles & Responsibilities
Oversite of Academic Program
Culture & Climate
Compliance & Legal obligations
Oversight of School Leadership
From Findings to Action

What is a Charter School Board?
Are we covered by Errors & Omissions insurance? Yes-the school carries and you are protected through your bylaws.

Roles & Responsibilitites
No questions.

Module 1 - pulse check - rate us. Board has improved over last year in hadling Baord vs Management handling tasks.

Oversight of Academic Program
How did we arrive at this issue? Whats working/not?
Believe DESE thought we were asleep at the wheel - give deference to Brent at meetings - he brings the facts thoroughly - charter review by DESE viewed minutes and questioned our responses or lack of. Brent has invited Board to different happenings at the school.

All have different backgrounds - being multi layered is difficult to be fully participatory in all things governance. Difficult to be all things all the time. Don't get complicit.

No Academic Committee of the Board - should consider.

Module 2 - pulse - consider diving into this .

No questions. - aug 1st deadlin on Annual report on the accountability plan.

Culture & Climate

Retreat this Sunday is when Board will get a good look at the plan. Dean of Students for three years - action plan is in line with work we have wanted to do. Lays out steps the Administration wants to take and forces us to do because of DESE conditions. Ad hock Committee worked on reviewing the survey and recommending the steps for the action plan.

Module 3 - Pulse

Standardized eval or individual questions? Yes. Policy or approved goal - deliver annual a report on X. Or build in something that takes place every year. Want it to be uniform so that is measurable over several years to show progress/lack of. Once or twice per year. Builds towards CEO evaluation - creates cycle.

Compliance & Legal Obligations
Module 4 - Pulse - save time - review together later

Oversight of School Leadership

Module 5 - Pulse - Do a fire drill at a meeting - practice

Allegations & Investigations
Self assessment & next steps.

Questions & Feedback:
Offer of on-going support for the Board is appreciated and we will be taking advantage. Help to filter through issues and how to respond.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Mindi Winter made a motion to adjourn meeting.
LATRINA DENSON seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Mindi Winter	Aye
Ann Dargie Gladd, Esq	Aye
Emily Whitebear	Aye
Thomas Roy	Aye
Azizah Yasin	Aye
Laura Grant	Aye
Kezia Fitzgerald	Aye
Marita Banda	Aye
LATRINA DENSON	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Conner