APPROVED

Paul Robeson Charter School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday August 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Location
1289 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Trenton, NJ 08638

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and is open to the public. Notices were duly posted and the meeting was advertised in The Trentonian and The Times of Trenton. Formal action will be taken.

Trustees Present
B. Blount (remote), B. Englezos, J. Cassimatis, K. Somberg (remote), T. Rebar (remote), V. Aggarwal

Trustees Absent
None

Guests Present
B. Falkowski (remote), F. Lund, I. Dillon (remote), J. Amenda, K. Lamilla (remote), K. Tini (remote), S. Smith, Tyler Baier (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

K. Somberg called a meeting of the board of trustees of Paul Robeson Charter School to order on Tuesday Aug 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

B. Record Attendance

II. Discussion

A. Goal Setting and Data Review

Discussion led by John Amenda on goal setting and year end results. John walked through presentation (see attached pdf) with one slide presented by Kristen Tini.
Highlights on the 2 standout grades K & 8th and especially the progress in Kindergarden and plans to address the screentime concerns by moving away from IReady to Dibles.
John reviewed the draft dashboard and asked the board to affirm that the indicators selected were still the appropriate measure.
Some discussion around adding HIB, using performance frameworks to assess High School acceptance as well as newly added compliance items.

B. Facility Update

John, Tyler Baier and Brian Falkowski led the discussion around project affordability and approval for the final draw from Equitable.
Brian recommended the wording for the working / cash flow loan to be up $1.5M as the increase in enrollment from approx. 675 to estimated 736 should address ability to repay.
Per Brian documents are in hand so recommendation is to try to close loan by around 8/26. Duly noted that the item has been placed for board vote and approval on this agenda (Item 8 in Policy & Miscellaneous)
Ken's opinion is no urgency on exploring refi on current 5 year loan but he will follow up on John's request to advocate for the project close-out prioritization by the contractor.

C. Strategic Planning Status Report

John walked through a short recap on strategic planning.

D. Board Retreat

Ken suggested this is tabled for executive session or polling via email that he will send to the board.

E. Draft Renewal Application Review

Renewal application is due and drafted so on track for submission (15th?). John A mentioned that NJ is now allowing for a 10 year application.

F. Fundraising Update

The fundraising target of $175 still stands with $91 raised to date, a new grant has been identified - details are in the board package slides . Board pledges will be spearheaded by Ken and directed to the "Friends of PRCS" foundation.

G. Board Self Evaluation

Katherine will send emails to the board.

III. Updates

A. Enrollment

Kindergarden wait list has grown (insert #). Total waitlist documented in board package slides (to add).

B. Emergency Drill Log

Speaker system is now fully functional.

C. Talent and Certification

The program was reviewed with discussion around referrals and while welcomed, however the number of open positions is low / PRCS is almost fully staffed. refer to board pack for slides.

D. Special Education Files Audit Update

E. HIB Report- Elementary & Middle School

Reviewed slide in board pack.

IV. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

A. Motion for Paul Robeson Charter School, Board of Trustees to accept the minutes from the June 2, 2026 board meeting.

B. Blount made a motion to approve the minutes from Annual Reorganization Meeting on 06-02-26.
V. Aggarwal seconded the motion.
All in favor - motion passed.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Motions for Approval

A. Finance

A.
Finance
Vote

1. To approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for May and June 2026 as per the attached.
Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11(a), the Paul Robeson Charter School Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the secretary's certification, and after review of the monthly financial report (appropriations section) certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, as of June 2026, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the school's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2. To approve the Bills/Check List from June 2, 2026 through August 17, 2026.

3. To approve the following payrolls:
6/15/26 Payroll $ 353,265.00
6/30/26 Payroll $ 366,455.14
7/15/26 Payroll $ 102,544.26
7/30/26 Payroll $ 107,124.63
8/15/26 Payroll $ 73,094.22

4. To approve FY27 IDEA Application:
i. Basic - $166,894.00
ii. Preschool - $2,512.00

5. To approve FY27 ESEA Application:
i. Title I-A- $545,286.00
ii. Title II-A- $47,763.00 Reallocated to Title I
iii. Title III - $14,578.00
iv. Title IV Part A- $32,344.00 Reallocated to Title I

6. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Paul Robeson Charter School for The Humanities Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the School Leader to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Mercer an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2026-2027 school year.

12. Preliminary Board Secretary Report - June 2026.pdf
12. Preliminary June 2026 - Paul Robeson 2026 Treasurer Report.pdf
11. May 2026 - Paul Robeson 2026 Treasurer Report.pdf
11. Board Secretary Report - May 2026.pdf
V.A.2. Check Journal 6.2.26-6.30.26.pdf
V.A.2. Check Journal 7.1.26-8.17.26.pdf
B. Englezos made a motion to Approve Secty and Treasurer report for May and June 2026 and all finance items listed 1-6.
J. Cassimatis seconded the motion.
Item 6 noted and agreed as the Semi-waiver.

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

B. Personnel

V. Aggarwal made a motion to Approve personnel items as listed on the agenda.
B. Blount seconded the motion.
Discussion to highlight that the Lunch and recess Aide individual noted as resignation is actually a termination.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Student Field Trips

V. Aggarwal made a motion to Approve Student Field Trips as listed on Board Agenda.
J. Cassimatis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Curriculum

K. Somberg made a motion to Approve the Curriculum items as listed on the agenda.
B. Englezos seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Policy/Miscellaneous

B. Blount made a motion to Approve Policy and Miscellaneous items as listed on the Agenda.
K. Somberg seconded the motion.
Noted item for approval of loan includes wording of up to $1.5M. Items listed on agenda are:
E. Policy/Miscellaneous Vote 1. To approve the 2026-2027 HR Handbook 2. To approve the updated 2026-2027 School Calendar 3. To approve the updated Cell Phone Ban policy and AI policy 4. To approve 26/27 Instructional Coaching Services Agreement between Paul Robeson Charter School and Nadia Bennett/When Brown Girls Lead 5. To approve 26/27 Jounce Coaching Partners Agreement 6. To approve 26/27 MACCS Health Compliance Services Agreement 7. To approve Membership in a Voluntary Association Regulating Interscholastic Student Activities policy **8. To the approve the resolution of Paul Robeson Charter School for the Humanities a NJ Nonprofit Corporation for the Working Loan from Community Loan Fund of NJ, Inc. for up to $1,500,000**
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VI. Executive Session

A. It is expected that the Board will go into Executive Session.

Ken suggested this session is deferred and an email poll on the board retreat and other items be circulated. No executive session held.

VII. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Regular Session

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Not applicable.

VIII. Closing Items

A. New Business

None.

B. Public Comment

None.

C. Important Dates

D. Adjourn Meeting

K. Somberg made a motion to Ajourn, seeing no new or old business and all in favor.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
I. Dillon

Documents used during the meeting

- PRCS August 2026 Board Slides.pdf
- August 2026 Board Dashboard PRCS Final.pdf
- PRCS Strategic Playbook .pdf
- PRCS_Operations_Manual_July 2026.pdf
- 2026 PRCS Renewal Application Final Draft 8.18.pdf
- 2026-08-18_PRCS Fundraising Update (1).pdf
- 20260818_Enrollment Update.docx.pdf
- 2026-08-18_PRCS_2026-27 Certification_Tracker.xlsx
- PRCS Board Talent Update Meeting 8.18.pdf
- PRCS (Detailed) Spec Ed. Compliance (August 2026).pdf
- 12. Preliminary Board Secretary Report - June 2026.pdf
- 12. Preliminary June 2026 - Paul Robeson 2026 Treasurer Report.pdf

- 11. May 2026 - Paul Robeson 2026 Treasurer Report.pdf
- 11. Board Secretary Report - May 2026.pdf
- V.A.2. Check Journal 6.2.26-6.30.26.pdf
- V.A.2. Check Journal 7.1.26-8.17.26.pdf
- 2026-08-18_PRCS New Hires - Sheet1.pdf
- Final 26_27 Calendar PRCS.pdf
- PRCS_Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence.pdf
- Contract- Nadia Bennett - WBGL.pdf
- Jounce - PRCS Agreement_encrypted_.pdf
- PRCS HR Handbook 2026-27 _vdraft.pdf
- Compliance Contract - PRCS 2026-27.pdf
- PRCS Cell Phone Policy 8.18 Final.pdf
- Interscholastic Student Activities.pdf
- PRCS Resolution to Approve Loan and Signatories.pdf