

# TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

6201 Keystone Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19135

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LOCATION  
4300 TACONY STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124

DATE & TIME  
AUGUST 21, 2019  
6:00 PM

## MINUTES

### SECTION I: CALL TO ORDER

#### Opening Colloquy

This meeting of the Tacony Academy Charter School Board of Trustees is hereby called to Order. The time is 6:05 p.m. My name is Joseph Bauer. I am the President of this Board of Trustees and I will facilitate this meeting.

This is a public meeting that was properly advertised pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act in the Philadelphia Daily News.

All members of the public are welcome, to sit and listen to the board of trustees conduct its business tonight. Members of the public who have registered with the Administrative office to participate in public comment by 5 p.m. on the day before this scheduled meeting may participate in public comment. At this time, I would ask that executive administration submit the list of commenters to our legal counsel. Comments will be limited to three minutes unless the Board decides to grant additional time.

At this time, I will ask that Roll Call be taken.

**A. Roll Call**

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	<b>By Invitation: Non-Board Members:</b>
Joseph Bauer Sandra Farmer Lisa Johnson Kelly Lorah John MacDonald Jen Ragen Barbara Saunders	Thomas Scheid Ryan Strazko  Patricia Darby Lauren Brophy Theresa Linder Michelle Kealey Nicole Saggese  Peter Costa  Ashley Redfearn Scott Kramer  Daniel Saidel, Esq. Dean Krebs, Esq.
<b>Board Members Absent:</b> Anita Vega-Kaiser	

**B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION *BY JOSEPH BAUER***

*1. I would like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that the Board of Trustees did not meet in Executive Session prior to this meeting.*

**B. Approval of Agenda**

MOTION  JOHN MACDONALD  SECOND  BARBARA SAUNDERS  VOTE:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASS  <input type="checkbox"/> FAIL	<p><b>R190821.01 Approval of the August 21, 2019 Agenda</b></p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the August 21, 2019 Agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>Who</i></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>What</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Board</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>General discussion</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>
<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>				
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>				

**C. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION  JEN RAGEN  SECOND	<p><b>R190821.02 Minutes of the June 19th, 2019 Meeting</b></p>
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BARBARA SAUNDERS

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the June 19th, 2019 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School.

***Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:***

<b><i>Who</i></b>	<b><i>What</i></b>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

**SECTION II: REPORTS**

**A. Community Comment**

*Community Comment Colloquy (General Counsel)*

Good Evening, my name is Daniel Saidel with Sand & Saidel, PC, General Counsel to the Tacony Academy Charter School Board of Trustees. Will you please state your name for our records?

You will have three minutes to address the Board of Trustees. Any documents or communications that you might supplement your comment with should be submitted to me. I will keep the time and notify the board when three minutes have elapsed.

This Board may choose not to comment, question or respond in any way to your public comment. I will begin the time now.

***Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:***

<b><i>Who</i></b>	<b><i>What</i></b>

**B. Tacony Academy Charter School CEO**

- a. *Mr. Thomas Scheid—Interim Chief Executive Officer and Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*
  - i. *Discussed and reviewed with the Board the August 2019 CEO report, previously disseminated;*
  - ii. *Acknowledged and praised Tacony Academy Charter School’s special education team for being the only school in Pennsylvania to be awarded by the National Association of Special Education Teachers;*
  - iii. *Introduced the Special Education team in attendance at the meeting who expressed they never feel on their own at TACS, but rather feel they are on a team, and also indicated that they were working on efforts to decreased bad student behaviors while ensuring the student does not feel punished for it;*
  - iv. *Discussed with the Board curriculum updates, including in Social Studies, Eureka math, and Wit and Wisdom;*

- v. *Indicated to the Board that training was being conducted regarding Dream Box and Wilson training program;*
  - vi. *Indicated to the Board that Professional Development was ongoing;*
  - vii. *Shared with the Board the Administration personnel changes;*
  - viii. *Discussed with the Board compliance matters, including that the PDE Charter Annual report was submitted, the Federal Consolidated Application was submitted, a 3-year compressive plan would be ready by the fall; and the SDP annual charter.*
- b. *Mr. Ryan Strazko—High School Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*
- i. *Discussed with the Board the recent 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation, during which police were brought in to talk about school safety, ramifications of social media, and getting to and from school.*
  - ii. *Discussed with the Board the Collins Writing Program, which is a method to get writing into all subject areas.*
  - iii. *Discussed with the Board the “Tacony Cup,” a friendly competition between the grades that allows for school wide awards.*
  - iv. *Discussed with the Board changes made to Caring School Community, including expanded advisory times.*
  - v. *Discussed with the Board Project Lead the Way, which will provide an introduction to engineering course to students.*

### **C. American Paradigm Schools CEO**

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfean—Executive Director of American Paradigm Schools*
- i. *Discussed and reviewed with the Board the August 2019 APS report, previously disseminated.*
    - 1. *Discussed with the Board recent APS staffing changes, including, in part, the hiring of a high school coordinator to assist with FAFSA and college applications, and that APS was in the process of hiring a grant writer.*
    - 2. *Discussed with the Board APS’s assistance in compliance support, including assisting with consolidated grant applications, annual reports, an MOU with PSD, school policies, and by-laws, and charter renewals*
    - 3. *Discussed with the Board APS’s assistance with human resources, including attending support staff and teacher hiring fairs; orchestrating welcome events to orient new hires before school starts; recent auditing of personnel files; and that there was only a single teacher vacancy.*
    - 4. *Discussed with the Board academic updates.*

### **D. Business Controller**

- a. *Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC*

- i. Discussed and reviewed with the Board the June 2019 financial report, previously disseminated
- ii. Indicated to the Board that the annual audit would soon begin;
- iii. Indicated to the Board that the budget was expected to break even.
- iv. Indicated to the Board that SPED costs were high due to approved private schools and transportation;
- v. Indicated ongoing discussion regarding the budget with Mr. Thomas Scheid and that a revised budget would be presented in October when a more accurate enrollment figure is obtained; and
- vi. Answered the Board's questions.

**SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION  
 BARBARA SAUNDERS  
 SECOND  
 JEN RAGEN  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R190821.03 Report of the Business Controller**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School accepts the Financial Report of the Business Controller and all documents submitted thereby, which shall be incorporated into the record of this meeting.

*Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:*

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOTION  
 BARBARA SAUNDERS  
 SECOND  
 LISA JOHNSON  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R190821.04 Uniform Human Resources Resolution**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies the human resources changes, modifications and additions, as presented.

*Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:*

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOOT

**R190821.05 Uniform Professional Services Resolution**

RESOLVED, the Professional Services Proposal(s) and associated reports listed below are hereby accepted and ratified;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, business controller and general counsel are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate the terms and conditions of those contract(s) based upon these Professional Services Proposal(s);

FURTHER RESOLVED, the President is authorized to execute any document or delegate any task necessary to effect this resolution.

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
None	N/A	N/A

***Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:***

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>None</i>	<i>N/A</i>

MOOT

**R190821.06 Uniform Purchases Resolution**

RESOLVED, the Purchase Services, Proposal(s) and associated reports listed below are hereby accepted and ratified;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, business controller and general counsel are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate the terms and conditions of those contract(s) based upon these Purchase Services and Proposal(s);

FURTHER RESOLVED, the President is authorized to execute any document or delegate any task necessary to effect this resolution.

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
None	N/A	N/A

***Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:***

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOTION

**R190821.07 Approval of 2019-20 Student Handbook**

JOHN  
MACDONALD

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the 2019-2020 Student Handbook, as amended.

SECOND

SANDRA FARMER

***Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:***

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Indicated a correction that must be made in the handbook which referenced APS instead of TACS, and conditionally approved handbook on these changes being made.</i>

MOTION

LISA JOHNSON

SECOND

BARBARA SAUNDERS

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R190821.08 Approval of Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding with the School District of Philadelphia**

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding with the School District of Philadelphia, as presented.

*Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:*

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOTION

LISA JOHNSON

SECOND

BARBARA SAUNDERS

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R190821.09 Acceptance of the Award from the National Association of Special Education Teachers**

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby accepts the award from the National Association of Special Education Teachers, as presented.

*Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:*

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOTION

BARBARA SAUNDERS

SECOND

SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R190821.10 E-Signature Authority**

BE IT RESOLVED, by authority of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School, it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that Thomas Scheid who is the Principal and Interim Chief Executive Officer of the above named body is authorized and directed to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses (hereinafter collectively referred to as contract(s)) with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body consents to the use of electronic signatures by the above named individual and that no handwritten signature from the above named individual shall be required in order for any contract with the Department to be legally enforceable and that by affixing his/her electronic signature to an electronic file of the contract via the Department's e-grants system,

the above designated authorized individual shall have effectively executed and delivered the contract, binding the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School to comply with the terms of said contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no writing shall be required in order to make the contract valid and legally binding, provided that the Department and all other necessary Commonwealth approvers affix their signatures electronically and an electronically-printed copy of the Contract is e-mailed or is otherwise made available to the body by electronic means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will not contest the due authorization, execution, delivery, validity or enforceability of the electronic Contract under the provisions of a statute of frauds or any other applicable law. The Contract, if introduced as evidence on paper in any judicial, arbitration, mediation, or administrative proceedings, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other business records originated and maintained in documentary form and the admissibility thereof shall not be contested under either the business records exception to the hearsay rule or the best evidence rule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will notify the Department's Bureau of Management Services promptly in the event that the above named individual is no longer authorized to execute agreements on behalf of the body electronically and that the Department shall be entitled to rely upon the above named officer's authority to execute agreements electronically on behalf of the body until such notice is received by the Department's Office of Chief Counsel.

***Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:***

<b><i>Who</i></b>	<b><i>What</i></b>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

**B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- *Board*

- *Indicated that the salaries of TACS's coaches were lower than other schools; and*
- *Indicated an upcoming Board training meeting on September 14, 2019*

- NEXT BOARD MEETING: September 18, 2019 at 7:30pm at 6201 Keystone, Philadelphia, PA 19135

**ADJOURNMENT @ 7:21 PM**

MOTION

BARBARA SAUNDERS

SECOND



JEN RAGEN

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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