

# TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

6201 Keystone Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19135

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

### LOCATION

ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO STAY AT HOME ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR

### DATE & TIME

APRIL 15, 2020

7:30 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 7:31 p.m. My name is Joseph Bauer. I am the President of this Board of Trustees and I will facilitate this meeting.

As we know, Governor Wolf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has declared a state of emergency in response to the global Coronavirus pandemic. In order to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the school community, this meeting is being held via teleconference. This is a public meeting that was properly advertised, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, in the Philadelphia Daily News. The public notice included instructions for how the public could participate in tonight's meeting.

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 Jen Ragen Barbara Saunders Anita Vega-Kaiser	Thomas Scheid Ryan Strazko
<b>Board Members Absent:</b> Kelly Lorah Lisa Johnson	Peter Costa
	Ashley Redfearn Gerald Santilli Katie Santilli Scott Kramer Kristine Magargee
	David Annecharico, Esq. Daniel Saidel, Esq. Dean Krebs, Esq.
	Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker

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

*I would like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that on April 15, 2020, the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session for the following purposes under 65 P.S. § 708:*

*(x) Consultation with Professional Advisor or Attorney. To consult with its attorney or other professional advisor regarding information or strategy in connection with litigation or with issues on which identifiable complaints are expected to be filed.*

*(x) Discuss Confidential Matters. To review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations.*

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**B. Approval of Agenda**

MOTION  
 BARBARA SAUNDERS  
 SECOND  
 SANDRA FARMER  
 VOTE:  
 [X] PASS  
 [ ] FAIL

**R200415.01 Approval of the April 15, 2020 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the April 15, 2020 Agenda.

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>T. Scheid</i>	<i>Requested change to R200415.04 Uniform Human Resources Resolution</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

**C. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION  
 AVK  
 SECOND  
 JR  
 VOTE:  
 [X] PASS  
 [ ] FAIL

**R200415.02 Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Meeting**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School.

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

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

**SECTION II: REPORTS**

**A. Community Comment**

None

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

**B. Tacony Academy Charter School CEO**

- a. *Mr. Thomas Scheid—CEO/Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the April 2020 CEO report*
  - ii. *Highlighted recent human resource changes at the school;*
  - iii. *Highlighted action taken since the March 12, 2020 school closure resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic;*

- iv. *Informed the Board of platforms being utilizing for remote teaching, including One Call system, Facebook, Google Classroom, and Dojo;*
  - v. *Informed the Board of actions taken to ensure enhanced learning and continuing education.*
  - vi. *Answered Board questions about efforts made to ensure teachers are comfortable utilizing remote training, including recent Professional Development training;*
  - vii. *Indicated to the Board of the current goal of determining which students are having difficulty utilizing the distance learning program;*
  - viii. *Informed the Board of ongoing building maintenance;*
  - ix. *Informed the Board of ongoing PDE and CSO compliance efforts;*
  - x. *Informed the Board that all staff continue to be paid their regular hourly or salary rates;*
  - xi. *Informed the Board of ongoing communications with students and family;*
  - xii. *Highlighted for the Board that the Philadelphia School Partnership is providing Chromebooks to the school to disburse to families; and*
  - xiii. *Answered Board questions regarding how many Chromebooks have been distributed thus far.*
- b. *Mr. Ryan Strazko—Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*
- i. *Answered Board questions about efforts made to ensure teachers are comfortable utilizing remote training, including recent trainings and mock assignments/quizzes to give students and teachers practice utilizing various platform;*
  - ii. *Informed the Board of the repeated efforts to contact families to learn what technology access they have; and*
  - iii. *Answered Board questions regarding how many Chromebooks have been distributed thus far.*

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

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Executive Director of American Paradigm Schools*
- i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the April 2020 APS report;*
  - ii. *Expressed condolences regarding the passing of APS President Josephine Chan and shared with the Board the donations page in her honor; and*
  - iii. *Informed the Board of the new APS leadership.*
- b. *Mr. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Office of APS*
- i. *Informed the Board of the online streamlining of Letter of Intent;*

- ii. *Highlighted for the Bnoard that hiring and on-boarding was currently being done virtually;*
  - iii. *Informed the Board of recent webinars regarding Healthy Eating and Stress Relief for school staff;*
  - iv. *Highlighted for the Board ongoing efforts by APS, including revising the Employee Handbook and informing the school of COVID-19 legislative changes.*
- c. *Dr. Kristine Magargee—Chief Academic Officer of Tacony Academy Charter School*
- i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the continuity of learning plan process*
  - ii. *Informed the Board of the ongoing communications with Staff regarding how student education will be continued;*
  - iii. *Informed the Board of teacher’s use of virtual office hours;*
  - iv. *Informed the Board of recent Google Classroom remote professional development;*
  - v. *Informed the Board that teachers are keeping a communication log with families to ensure teachers are continuing contacting families and students;*
  - vi. *Expressed to the Board that remote learning is not the same as in-person, but that APS is driven to ensure the students receive as high quality of education as possible; and*
  - vii. *Expressed efforts to ensure teachers are cognizant of those students who may be in an unsafe condition at home, including reminding TACS staff of mandatory reporting requirements.*

**D. Business Controller**

- a. *Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC*
- i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the financial report, previously disseminated;*
  - ii. *Express his anticipated to the Board that while some line items were overbudgeted, the school closure will result in saving in other categories.*
  - iii. *Informed the Board that the school would likely up end \$40 to \$50k above budget, or at least close to a balanced budget.*
  - iv. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the draft budget for 2020-21 school year, including that the budget for salaries and medical was proposed to be increased; and*
  - v. *Answered Board questions regarding payment for food services while school is closed.*

**SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

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MOTION  
 BARBARA SAUNDERS  
 SECOND  
 ANITA VEGA-KAISER  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R200415.03 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>
Board	General discussion

MOTION  
 JEN RAGEN  
 SECOND  
 BARBARA SAUNDERS  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R200415.04 Uniform Human Resources Resolution**

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

<b>HIRES/POSITION CHANGE</b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Nimar Nurse-Cumberbatch (position and rate change)	Admin. Assistant	02/27/20
Morgan Baker (new hire)	Biology Teacher HS	08/31/20
Theresa Linder (position change)	Spec. Ed. Coordinator	07/01/20

<b>TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS</b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
None	None	None

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

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

MOOT

**R200415.05 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.

MOOT

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
None	None	None

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

Who	What
None	None

**R200415.06 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	None	None

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

Who	What
None	None

MOTION

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

SECOND

BARBARA SAUNDERS

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

MOTION

JOSEPH BAUER

SECOND

**R200408.07 Acceptable Use Policy for Technology**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies and accepts the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology, as presented.

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

Who	What
Board	General discussion

**R200415.08 Approval of Academic Calendar for 2020-21 School Year**

RESOLVED, the Board Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies and accepts the Academic Calendar for 2020-21 School Year, as presented.

BARBARA SAUNDERS

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

MOTION

BARBARA SAUNDERS

SECOND

JOSEPH BAUER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

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

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

**R200415.09 Election and Installation of Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker II, Trustee**

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby elects Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker II to the position of Trustee of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker II shall be administered the following oath of office by legal counsel:

*I, Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker II, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.*

- Joseph Bauer - *aye*
- Sandra Farmer - *aye*
- Jen Ragen - *aye*
- Barbara Saunders - *aye*
- Anita Vega-Kaiser - *aye*
- Kelly Lorah - *absent*
- Lisa Johnson - *absent*

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
Board	General discussion, including reviewing resume of Dr. Whitaker, previously disseminated.
Dr. Whitaker	<p>Provided the Board with the following introductory information.</p> <p>Informed the Board that is a Professor at Cabrini University where he focuses in culturally responsive pedagogy; urban education and teacher preparation; as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion</p>



	<p>Inform the Board that he was appointed Director of District and School Relations in the School of Education and is the Co-Faculty Director of the Center for Urban Education, Equity, and Improvement.</p> <p>Highlighted for the Board recent projects with PDE related to cultural influence.</p> <p>Answered Board questions regarding his experience serving on prior non-profit Boards, to which he answers included serving on the Urban Family Council and as the Executive Director for National Association of African Americans in Human Resources.</p> <p>Anticipated his participation with TACS Board would be both in person and virtual and that, as long as he was given sufficient notice of meetings, he would ensure his attendance.</p>
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**B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NEXT BOARD MEETING: MAY 20, 2020 AT 6:00PM

**ADJOURNMENT AT 8:33PM**

MOTION

SF

SECOND

JR

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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