

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

MAY 21, 2020

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 _____ 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

Board Members Present:	By Invitation: Non-Board Members:
<p>Joseph Bauer Sandra Farmer Jen Ragen Barbara Saunders Anita Vega-Kaiser Lisa Johnson Dr. Ronald Whitaker Kelly Lorah</p> <p>Board Members Absent:</p>	<p>Thomas Scheid Ryan Strasko</p> <p>Peter Costa</p> <p>Ashley Redfean Kristine Magargee Gerald Santilli Katie Santilli</p> <p>David Annecharico, Esq. Dean Krebs, Esq.</p>

B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION BY JOSEPH BAUER

I would like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that on May 21, 2020, the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session for the following purposes under 65 P.S. § 708:

(x) Certain Employee Issues. To discuss any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the agency, or former public officer or employee, provided, however, that the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected may request, in writing, that the matter or matters be discussed at an open meeting. The agency's decision to discuss such matters in executive session shall not serve to adversely affect the due process rights granted by law, including those granted by Title 2 (relating to administrative law and procedure).

(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.

B. Approval of Agenda

MOTION

BARBARA SAUNDERS

SECOND

SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

R200521.01 Approval of the May 21, 2020 Agenda

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the May 21, 2020 Agenda.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

C. Approval of Minutes

MOTION

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND

BARBARA SAUNDERS

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

R200521.02 Minutes of the April 15, 2020 Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the April 15, 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—Chief Executive Officer of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Highlighted for the Board that Mr. Paul Reiser had been selected as Athletic Director for Philadelphia Athletic League;*
 - ii. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the May 2020 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - iii. *Updated the Board on HR developments, including that a behavioral specialist was hired; Mr. Ryan Strasko would return to being the K-8 principal; high school principal interviews were on-going; all teachers had elected to return for the 2020-21 school year, though one teacher was non-renewed; and that offer letters would be sent out, contingent on Board approval tonight;*
 - iv. *Updated the Board on general April / May developments, including that a Continuity of Education plan was developed in conjunction with APS; a grading system was implemented to enable students to improve their grades; AP exams were underway for high school students; SPED services were continuing to occur; and ESY would be held virtually with ongoing communications between teachers and parents*
 - v. *Updated the Board on Facility developments, including that the playground project was moving forward, with construction starting in Summer 2021; and also general repairs and maintenance, highlighting that the facility closure provided an opportunity to fix things which were otherwise difficult to address;*
 - vi. *Informed the Board that chromebook distribution was ongoing, though it was mostly ad-hoc at this point;*
 - vii. *Informed the Board of ongoing online communication with school stakeholders, including conducting virtual meetings;*
 - viii. *Answered Board questions regarding technological limitations and efforts made to ensure students have access;*
 - ix. *Informed the Board of new ELS program for lower grades;*
 - x. *Informed the Board that FOCUS was being implemented;*
 - xi. *Informed the Board that SPED staff were being updated on guidance to ensure they stayed compliant; and*
 - xii. *Discussed with the Board the current graduation plans, including distribution of videos and materials.*
- b. *Mr. Ryan Strasko—Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Discussed with the Board the current graduation plans, including inviting students to attend a car “parade”; that speeches will be video taped and distributed; and that a*

slideshow presentation indicating student awards will be disseminated.

- ii. Indicated that the Goal was to give them as much as possible as though it were an actual graduation*
- iii. Board provided advise to ensure proper social distancing during graduation;*

C. American Paradigm Schools CEO

- a. Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Executive Director of American Paradigm School*
 - i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the May 2020 APS report;*
 - ii. Reviewed the discussed with the Board the student demographics as of March 2020 related to general and special education; and*
 - iii. Discussed with the Board data updates, including hosting training on Google Classrooms. Zoom, and Kami to improve remote learning experience for teachers and students; and informed the Board that FOCUS SIS training was underway and that EdInsight Integration was also completed, and training would begin shortly.*
- b. Ms. Katie Santilli—Chief Business Controller of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. Updated the Board on ongoing conversations with architects regarding patio project; and*
 - ii. Discussed ongoing communications with the school to get Wellness Plan completed.*
- c. Mr. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the May 2020 APS Report, previously disseminated to the Board; and*
 - ii. Informed the Board that all hiring for 2020-21 school year would be done virtually, and advised the Board on upcoming virtual job fairs..*
- d. Dr. Kristine Magargee—Chief Academic Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the May 2020 APS Report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. Discussed with the Board that the coaching team is supporting the school in virtual programming, family communication, grading, and intervention, as well as providing 1-1 guidance to four teachers;*

- iii. *Discussed with the Board APS efforts to increase engagement and activities in Google Classroom;*
- iv. *Indicated to the Board that New Teacher Induction took place virtually;*
- v. *Discussed with the Board how the pandemic has treated opportunities to increase virtual tool usage which can continue to be utilized even after the crisis is over;*
- vi. *Discussed with the Board its extensive work with the engagement program;*
- vii. *Discussed with the Board the extensive work with the school to create guidelines from grading and implementing a guide to ensure grades will not decrease; and*
- viii. *Highlighted for the Board how positive reinforcement to students and parents has increased virtual learning participation.*

D. Business Controller

- a. *Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the financial report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Informed the Board that the financials were generally in good shape;*
 - iii. *Highlighted for the Board the variances in the budget;*
 - iv. *Informed that Board that SDP released a recent letter revising ADM which was nominal;*
 - v. *Informed the Board that SDP would be releasing another letter in the next few weeks in which they will provide their anticipated expenses, as well as rates for the 2020-21 school year;*
 - vi. *Recommended to the Board that funds be transferred around to ensure lines items were in the black;*
 - vii. *Answered Board questions about where funds for recommended transfers originated from and advised that the goal in transferring is simply to try and balance a line item—no deficit in the budget is created by the transfer. The anticipated revenue over expenses was still balanced;*
 - viii. *Reviewed with the Board the summary by major class wherein he indicated that line items were roughly balanced but that if funds were not transferred the budget would indicate overspending in certain areas even though the bottom line was still the same;*

- ix. *Expressed to the Board difficulties in determining a budget for legal costs as they were unpredictable, though indicated he would work with Sand & Saidel, P.C. to create greater transparency in the budget; and*
- x. *Informed the Board that typically the budgeted expenditures from SPED contingencies were \$50,000 – 60,000.*
- b. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the draft budget, previously disseminated to the Board.*
 - i. *Advised the Board that the draft remained the same as the one which was previously shared;*
 - ii. *Reviewed the draft budget cover sheet with the Board;*
 - iii. *Informed that Board of discrepancy regarding number of students paid by SDP as SDP appeared to have dropped 7 students. Speculated that IEPs may have expired but informed the Board that it did not substantially impact the budget;*
 - iv. *Informed the Board that there was \$640,000 savings from PSERS;*
 - v. *Indicated to the Board that February was base year for the budget with increase of 3% or more, where appropriate;*
 - vi. *Informed the Board that depreciation was budgeted at \$470,000 for capital improvements, such as playground and computers, and that this expenditure could potentially act as a cushion elsewhere; and*
 - vii. *Informed the Board that the budget did not include additional grants, such as CARES.*

SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

MOTION
 SANDRA FARMER
 SECOND
 BARBARA SAUNDERS
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R200521.03 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
 SANDRA FARMER
 SECOND
 BARBARA SAUNDERS
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R200521.04 Approval of 2020-21 School Year Budget

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies and approves of the 2020-21 School Year Budget, as presented.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, in consultation with the business controller and general counsel, is authorized to execute any document or delegate any task necessary to effect this resolution.

ROLL CALL

Joseph Bauer - aye
 Sandra Farmer - aye
 Kelly Lorah - aye
 Jen Ragen - aye
 Barbara Saunders - aye
 Anita Vega-Kaiser - aye
 Lisa Johnson – aye
 Dr. Ronald Whitaker - aye

MOTION
 JEN RAGEN
 SECOND
 JOSEPH BAUER
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R200521.05 Uniform Human Resources Resolution

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

HIRES/POSITION CHANGE		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Rita Barretta (new hire)	Behavioral Specialist	8/26/20
Jacqueline Franklin (new hire)	Classroom Assistant	8/26/20
Ryan Strasko (position and rate change)	HS Principal to ES Principal	7/1/20
Nermein Abdelsalam (position change)	Building Substitute to Kindergarten Teacher	8/26/20
Christine Carlson (position change)	2 nd Grade Teacher to Math Support Specialist	8/26/20

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS/NON-RENEW

NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
H. Dean Moore (non-renewed)	Biology Teacher	6/30/20

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOTION
SANDRA FARMER
SECOND
BARBARA FARMER
VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R200521.06 Approval of Staffing Table for 2020-21 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School authorizes the rehiring of staff members reflected on the attached schedule, in accordance with the approved salary scale for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School authorizes the CEO to offer positions to returning staff, as noted on the attached schedule.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School accepts the recommendation of the CEO to not rehire the staff members noted on the attached schedule.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School authorizes the CEO to reassign positions to current staff, as noted on the attached schedule.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School accepts the resignations of the staff members noted on the attached schedule.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOTION
BARBARA FARMER
SECOND
ANITA VEGA- KAISER
VOTE:
 PASS

R200521.07 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;

[] FAIL

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
Fairwold Academy	Student 1: \$2,997.00 Student 2: \$4,347.00 Total: \$7,344	Extended School Year; 27-day program
Freepoint Energy	N/A	Addendum to contract to add additional meter at 1330 Rhawn St. at same terms, conditions and fixed price.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
Board	General discussion

NONE

R200521.08 Uniform Purchases Resolution

RESOLVED, the Purchase 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 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

BARBARA SAUNDERS

SECOND

SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

R200521.09 Approval of the Wellness Policy

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies and approves the Wellness Policy, as presented

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Requested that they be included in formulating policies</i>

MOTION

JEN RAGEN

SECOND

RONALD WHITAKER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

R200521.10 Approval of 2020-21 School Year Board Meeting Calendar

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies and approves the 2020-21 School Year Board Meeting Calendar, as presented

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

MOTION

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND

LISA JOHNSON

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

R200521.11 Approval of Apply Philly Charter Memorandum of Understanding

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies and approves the Apply Philly Charter Memorandum of Understanding, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT BOARD MEETING: JUNE 17, 2020 AT 7:30PM

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:35PM

MOTION

ANITIA VEGA-KAISER

SECOND

SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:

PASS
 FAIL

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