

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

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

6:00PM

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 6:04 p.m. My name is Barbara L. Saunders. 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: |
|--|---|
| Barbara L. Saunders Jen Ragen Anita Vega-Kaiser Dr. Ronald Whitaker Lionel S. Archer, Jr. Sandra Farmer | Thomas Scheid Ryan Strasko Jessica Harron Paul Reiser Peter Costa |
| Board Members Absent: Kelly Lorah | Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Katie Santilli David Annecharico, Esq. Dean Krebs, Esq. Joseph Bauer |

B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION BY BARBARA L. SAUNDERS

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.

OR

2. I would like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that on September 16, 2020, the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session for the following purposes under 65 P.S. § 708:

(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
JEN RAGEN

R200916.01 Approval of the September 16, 2020 Agenda

SECOND
 SANDRA FARMER
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the September 16, 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
 RONALD WHITAKER
 SECOND
 JEN RAGEN
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R200916.02 Minutes of the August 19, 2020 Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the August 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

Community Comment Colloquy (General Counsel)

Good Evening, my name is David Annecharico 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 which 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:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|------------|-------------|
| | |

B. Tacony Academy Charter School CEO

- a. *Mr. Thomas Scheid—Chief Executive Officer of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2020 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board*
 - ii. *Informed the Board that the school was at full enrollment with a total of 1083 students for K-12;*
 - iii. *Informed the Board that there were neither no new hires nor new vacancies;*
 - iv. *Informed the Board of a recent Kindergarten welcoming event;*
 - v. *Informed the Board that food service has begun with over 900 meals provided thus far;*
 - vi. *Informed the Board of expenditures from recent grant, including 450 hot spots and 425 laptops distributed with another 1200 being purchased;*
 - vii. *Informed the Board of recent compliance with CSO for August submissions;*
 - viii. *Informed the Board of steps taken for safety, including temperature checks, and stocking up on PPD;*
 - ix. *Informed the Board of recent professional development;*
 - x. *Indicated to the Board that teachers are learning skills while conducting remote instruction that will translate to in-person instruction;*
 - xi. *Informed the Board of how attendance is being recorded and reported;*
 - xii. *Provided the Board facility updates, including playgrounds, site inspections, and HVAC updates. Indicated he would be bringing proposals to the Board concerning various repairs that may be necessary;*
 - xiii. *Informed the Board of a TACS student on the news;*
 - xiv. *Shared with the Board a proposed TACS online store proposal;*
 1. *Mr. Paul Reiser:*
 - a. *Share and discussed with the Board the BSN and Squad Locker proposals and that TACS sent both logos;*
 - b. *Indicated there is no cost involved; and*
 - c. *Indicated there was no minimal order with Squad Locker which is different than BSN that not only had a minimum but the benefit the school was receive was only for store credit.*
 - xv. *Congratulated Mr. Reiser for his reward*
 - xvi. *Informed the Board that additional technology expenditures would likely be seen in the future, and which grant funding would be used for.*
- b. *Mr. Ryan Strasko—Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*

- i. *Informed the Board of the development of the 2nd – 4th grade schedule. Indicted that classes were split into multiple groups with live instruction spread out during the day. The idea is that it is difficult for teachers to keep track of a full class of students in a webinar;*
 - ii. *Indicated that the school has only hear positive response from parents; and*
 - iii. *Answered Board questions about whether keeping the “A” and “B” scheduling system in a hybrid model would make sense.*
 - c. *Ms. Jessica Harron—Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Shared with the Board the current high school virtual learning schedule;*
 - ii. *Indicated to the Board that efforts for scheduling were done with the idea of mimicking how it will be when the students come back for in-person instruction;*
 - iii. *Answered Board questions about how staff are dealing with virtual learning for those with their own kids but indicating that it has not come up yet;*
 - iv. *Informed the Board that average attendance was 89% for the high school and indicated that it was low because the momentum needs to be built to use the technology, and*
 - v. *Indicated to the Board that teachers follow up with students and/or parent when they are not present; and*
 - vi. *Answered Board question concerning the approximate 10 students who are still in process of picking up laptops and that the reason for the delay is scheduling issues.*

C. American Paradigm Schools CEO

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Executive Director of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2020 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board*
 - ii. *Shared and discussed with the Board the ideals of APS school design*
- b. *Ms. Katie Santilli—Chief Business Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2020 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board*
 - ii. *Informed the Board of APS assistance with SSO waivers;*
 - iii. *Informed the Board of assistance with August Epicenter upload*
 - iv. *Informed the Board assistance with Chromebooks*

- v. *Informed the Board of assistance with bidding processes at Rhawn St.*
- vi. *Informed the Board of recent APS marketing strategy of placing ads near bus stop throughout Philadelphia.*
- c. *Mr. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2020 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board*
 - ii. *Enthusiastically informed the Board that there were currently no vacancies at TACS;*
 - iii. *Informed the Board that APS is intending to utilize Cabrini students;*
 - iv. *Informed the Board that this year APS will be focusing on job analysis and will be updating job descriptions.*
- d. *Dr. Kristine Magargee—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2020 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Informed the Board that there is now performance based grading, but with additional support for students;*
 - iii. *Indicated that teachers are receiving additional feedback;*
 - iv. *Indicated that intervention programming is occurring outside of core content time;*
 - v. *Indicated that additional support is focus on ensuring students as mastering essential learning blocks;*
 - vi. *Indicated that professional development is being provided to ensure staff can use various programs, such as Wit & Wisdom;*
 - vii. *In term of Math professional development, informed the Board that the goal is to identify super standards, review student assessments and plan interventions where appropriate. Indicated also of the use of cross-grade collaboration to improve instruction capabilities and that small group instruction is being promoted; and*
 - viii. *Informed the Board that Academic Coaching is continuing to take place just as it was in-person; that new teachers are being reviewed to ensure they have the tools needed; and invited Board members to attend new teacher inductions.*

D. General Counsel

- a. *Informed the Board that the shared Board folder has been reorganized to provide additional folders for collaboration, including for committees; and*
- b. *Informed the Board that of PDE’s guidance regarding recoupment services for SPED in light of COVID-19 as FAPE was still required during COVID-19.*

E. Business Controller

- a. *Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2020 financial report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Reviewed expenditures with the Board;*
 - iii. *Indicated to the Board that budget will likely undergo revisions;*
 - iv. *Answered Board questions regarding expenditures to Pennsylvania Department of Education by indicating that it reflected 4010 slots;*
 - v. *The Board discussed among themselves the special education process to inform new Trustees;*
 - vi. *Explained to the Board the billing process of Santilli & Thomson, LLC.*

SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

MOTION
 SANDRA FARMER
 SECOND
 LIONEL ARCHER
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R200916.03 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> |
| <i>P. Costa</i> | <i>As discussed above</i> |

MOOT

R200916.04 Uniform Human Resources Resolution

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

HIRES

| NAME | TITLE | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|------|-------|----------------|
| None | None | None |

| TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| NAME | TITLE | EFFECTIVE DATE |
| None | None | None |

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| Who | What |
|------|------|
| None | None |

MOTION

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

SECOND

SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

R200916.05 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 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Green Tree | \$318.84 / School Day | Approved Private School Two (2) Students |
| Valley Forge (The Vanguard School) | \$67,000 | Approved Private School One (1) Student 2020-21 SY |
| Overbrook School for the Blind | \$95/hr | Vision services per IEP 2020-21 SY |

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

MOOT

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

R200916.06 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:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
| <i>N/A</i> | <i>N/A</i> |

MOTION

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND

JEN RAGEN

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

R200916.07 Project GO MOU

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves of the Project “Go” School Attendance Support 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> |
| <i>A.Redfearn</i> | <i>Provided insight into use of Project GO during 2019-20 SY</i> |

B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD DISCUSSED UPDATING THE APPOINTEES TO PERMANENT COMMITTEES

NEXT BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 21, 2020 AT 6:00PM

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:38PM

MOTION

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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