

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

NOVEMBER 18, 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 6:05 p.m. My name is Jen Ragen. I am the Vice-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 in the Philadelphia Daily News, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. 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 the 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:
Jen Ragen Kelly Lorah Dr. Ronald Whitaker Lionel S. Archer, Jr. Sandra Farmer Board Members Absent: Barbara L. Saunders Anita Vega-Kaiser	Thomas Scheid Ryan Strasko Jessica Harron Stephanie Felder Peter Costa Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Katie Santilli Dean Krebs, Esq. Jessica Bassett Fran S. Feldbaum Brian DiMattessa Traci Luckenbill

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.

B. Approval of Agenda

MOTION
 KELLY LORAH
 SECOND
 RONALD WHITAKER
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R201118.01 Approval of the November 18, 2020 Agenda

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the November 18, 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
 LIONEL ARCHER
 SECOND
 KELLY LORAH
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R201118.02 Minutes of the October 21, 2020 Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the October 21, 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. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the November 2020 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board*
 - ii. *Informed the Board that attendance for K-8 average was 96.61% and high school attendance was 86-91%, 37% of which were perfect thus far;*
 - iii. *Shared with the school high school activities and sports, including a recently held Tesla club;*
 - iv. *Advised the Board on the school’s food program campaign to distribute meals;*
 - v. *Shared with the Board the invitation to join the “Let’s Talk Family Forum” at LACS.*
 - vi. *Reviewed and discussed the new initiative: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (“DEI”) Committee.*
 - 1. *Informed the Board that the committee recently met with Board members and school staff to discuss what the school would like to do with the committee;*
 - 2. *Provided the below individuals the opportunity to discuss the committee.*

- b. *Ms. Jessica Harron—Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Advised the Board that the DEI committee meeting created dialogues and conversations regarding recent shootings in Philadelphia; worked on giving teachers the tools needed to navigate these scenarios; and noted that the focus was not on solutions but providing a venue for students to express frustrations.*
- c. *Ms. Stephanie Felder—Teacher of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Informed the Board that students are passionate about being heard;*
 - ii. *Informed the Board about recent DEI meetings that were open to the public; and*
 - iii. *Discussed creating a social justice forum with participation of the school community.*
- d. *Dr. Ronald Whitaker—Trustee of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Informed the Board that students are calling for more than just ‘lip-service’;*
 - ii. *Noted that book studies and speakers are good but what is really needed is having deeper DEI efforts, specifically the need to have a more centralized structure to ensure all diversity efforts are in synergy;*
 - iii. *Informed the Board that a centralized structure would improve data and progress monitoring; and*
 - iv. *Suggested to the Board that DEI should be on the minds of staff prior to coming to TACS*
- e. *Traci Luckenbill—Blackney-Hayes*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the development project to create a playground outside of cafeteria with play structure and covered area to provide shade and make it a more useable space;*
 - ii. *Shared with the Board the various concepts that were being evaluated;*
 - iii. *Suggested to the Board the use of skylights to allow sunlight into areas which would otherwise have had natural sunlight blocked;*
 - iv. *Informed the Board that the various concepts are currently being priced and compared against the budget;*
 - v. *Answered Board questions about utilization of enclosures;*
 - vi. *Answered Board questions regarding drainage, advising that the surface has not been finalized but drains will be implemented and also noted there is a storm line nearby which will create easier access.*
 - vii. *Mr. Thomas Scheid*
 - 1. *Informed the Board that the goal was to have the development ready by Fall 2021.*

C. American Paradigm Schools CEO

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Executive Director of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the November 2020 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board.*
- b. *Ms. Katie Santilli—Chief Business Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the November 2020 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board; and*
 - ii. *Informed the Board of compliance updates, including assisting with Safety Grants reports, Epicenter uploads, and Safe School Portal.*
- c. *Mr. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the November 2020 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Informed the Board of recent job fairs attendance; and*
 - iii. *Advised the Board on FMLA matters concerning COVID-19.*
- d. *Ms. Kristine Magargee—Chief Academic Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Informed the Board that schools have been able to collaborate via Wit & Wisdom to learn best practices and assist in developing strategies for more efficient instruction;*
 - ii. *Indicated to the Board that schools closures, and the increase utilization of remote technology, have actually increased the facilitation of meetings;*
 - iii. *Reviewed and discussed ELA, Curriculum Instruction and Assessment;*
 - iv. *Informed the Board that academic coaching is still occurring and noted that coaching is a value added benefit; should not be seen as punitive; and recommends all staff, regardless of seniority, to take place;*
 - v. *Advised the Board that new teacher induction will include guidance on diversity and inclusion;*
 - vi. *Informed the Board of efforts made to continue educating SPED students during COVID-19;*
 - vii. *Informed the Board that APS continued to assist with providing attendance/enrollment data; and*

viii. Answered Board questions about new Philadelphia mandate about instruction needing to be remote.

D. General Counsel

a. None

E. Business Controller

- a. Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC
 - i. Reviewed and discussed the October 2020 financial report; and
 - ii. Indicated that the financial reports had been previously shared with the financial committee.

SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

MOTION
 SANDRA FARMER
 SECOND
 KELLY LORAH
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R201118.03 Report of the Business Controller

RESOLVED, that 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
 KELLY LORAH
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R201118.04 2019-20 Draft Audit Financial Statements

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the 2019-20 Draft Audit Financial Statements, as presented, for Tacony Academy Charter School.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>F. Feldbaum</i>	<i>Informed the Board that the audit revealed an unmodified opinion.</i>

ROLL CALL:

Barbara L. Saunders - *absent*
 Jen Ragen - *aye*
 Kelly Lorah - *aye*

Anita Vega-Kaiser - *absent*
Sandra Farmer - *aye*
Dr. Ronald Whitaker - *aye*
Lionel S. Archer, Jr. - *aye*

MOTION
SANDRA FARMER
SECOND
KELLY LORAH
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

R201118.05 Approval of IRS Form 990

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the IRS Form 990, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>B. DiMattessa</i>	<i>Informed the Board of the information in the Form 990</i>

ROLL CALL:

Barbara L. Saunders - *absent*
Jen Ragen – *aye*
Kelly Lorah – *aye*
Anita Vega-Kaiser - *absent*
Sandra Farmer - *aye*
Dr. Ronald Whitaker - *aye*
Lionel S. Archer, Jr. - *aye*

TRUSTEE DR. RONALD WHITAKER LEFT THE MEETING

MOTION
SANDRA FARMER
SECOND
KELLY LORAH
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

R201118.06 Approval of Amended 2020-21 School Year Budget

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Amended 2020-21 School Year Budget, as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Barbara L. Saunders - *absent*
Jen Ragen - *aye*
Kelly Lorah - *aye*
Anita Vega-Kaiser - *absent*
Sandra Farmer - *aye*
Dr. Ronald Whitaker - *absent*
Lionel S. Archer, Jr. - *aye*

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
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<i>P. Costa</i>	<p><i>Reviewed and discussed with the Board the Amended 2020-21 School Year budget;</i></p> <p><i>Informed the Board that the budget has a built-in cushion of revenue since the school is getting paid at a higher rate than which was budgeted;</i></p> <p><i>Informed the Board that grants have been factored into the budget and have been identified separately;</i></p> <p><i>Reviewed revenue and expenses with the Board, noting that additional positions, changing part-time to full-time, and changes to medical benefits increased expenses;</i></p> <p><i>Noted that budget for Approved Private Schools was increased by \$200,000;</i></p> <p><i>Noted that transportation expenses were increased based on 2019-20 expenses;</i></p> <p><i>Indicated updated SPED costs reflected attorney fees, not settlement amounts;</i></p> <p><i>Indicated that administrative salaries decreased because positions were moved around that should not be classified as administrative;</i></p> <p><i>Indicated that \$500,000 was set aside for playground; and</i></p> <p><i>Noted that \$1.3M in revenue was received which was allocated to expenses.</i></p>
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MOOT

R201118.07 Uniform Human Resources Resolution

RESOLVED, that 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
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
 SANDRA FARMER
 SECOND
 KELLY LORAH
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R201118.08 Uniform Professional Services Resolution

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

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

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
Santilli & Thomson, LLC	2020-21 SY: \$132/Student 2021-22 SY: \$136/Student	Exercising option under Section 1.1. of the Consulting Agreement, dated June 21, 2017, to extend the term of that contract for two (2) additional years in accordance with the terms therein described.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOOT

R201118.09 Uniform Purchases Resolution

RESOLVED, that the Purchase Proposal/s and associated reports listed below are hereby accepted and ratified;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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, that 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>

B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 16, 2020 @ 6:00PM

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:23PM

MOTION

SF

SECOND

KL

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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