

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

DECEMBER 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 _____ p.m. My name is Barbara 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 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 5:00 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:
Barbara L. Saunders Jen Ragen Kelly Lorah Anita Vega-Kaiser Sandra Farmer Dr. Ronald Whitaker Lionel S. Archer, Jr.	Thomas Scheid Ryan Strasko Jessica Harron Stephanie Felder Peter Costa Gerald Santilli Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Scott Kramer Katie Santilli Dean Krebs, Esq. Jessica Bassett
Board Members Absent:	

B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION BY BARBARA L. SAUNDERS

I would like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that on December 16, 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).

B. Approval of Agenda

MOTION
SANDRA FARMER
SECOND
JEN RAGEN
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

R201216.01 Approval of the December 16, 2020 Agenda

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the December 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
KELLY LORAH
SECOND
JEN RAGEN
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

R201216.02 Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the November 18, 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 December 2020 CEO report, previously disseminated;*
 - ii. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the current enrollment and attendance data, including that the school is meeting its required metrics;*
 - iii. *Provided the Board academic updates for the elementary school, including use of Springboard, STAR testing, and Learning Walks;*

- iv. *Provided the Board academic updates for the high school, including ongoing Learning Walks, Q2 progress reports have been sent home, and STAR testing;*
 - v. *Indicated to the Board the continued distribution of Chromebooks and hotspots for the High School;*
 - vi. *Informed the Board of recent Charter Renewal Planning “Kick-Off,” including archiving documents used during COVID-19 to show CSO, if asked;*
 - vii. *Shared and discussed presentation by Dr. Whitaker in mid-January concerning Equity and Justice;*
 - viii. *Shared and discussed with the Board facility updates, such as touchless faucets and ionization planning technology; and*
 - ix. *Indicated to the Board that the school intends to mirror the opening of SDP*
- b. *Ms. Jessica Harron—Principal of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Discussed student attendance with the Board and strategies being used to increase attendance*
- c. *Ms. Stephanie Felder—DEI Coordinator of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Updated the Board on DEI actions; and*
 - ii. *Discussed and shared resources being used to create dialogue around DEI;*

C. American Paradigm Schools CEO

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Executive Director of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Reviewed and discussed the metric for school attendance demonstrating an increase in the number of students attending 95% of the time; and*
 - iii. *Shared with the Board the APS mission and vision; and*
 - iv. *Discussed with the Board the CEO collaboration that is occurring among the schools.*
- b. *Ms. Kristine Magargee—Chief Academic Office of American Paradigm Schools*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Discussed with the Board the proposed hybrid school reopening guidelines;*
 - iii. *Indicated that after conducting research, APS has an understanding of requirements that schools should have for reopening;*
 - iv. *Explained the infection rate guidelines and that rates need to fall to a certain level for at least two weeks before opening—this*

- leeway will offer an opportunity for the school community to prepare;*
- v. *Advised that SPED students are being carefully evaluated to determine if they can be brought back for services;*
 - vi. *Discussed the recent NTI related to DEI matters, such as understanding implicit bias and participating in breakout rooms on scenarios based on real-life events;*
 - vii. *Shared and discussed the numerous digital programs being used, support intervention, and other support core programs; and*
 - viii. *Indicated to the Board that the utilization of leadership walks allow the spreading of useful strategies to engage students.*
- c. *Ms. Katie Santilli—Chief Business Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
- i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December APS report, previously disseminated to the Board; and*
 - ii. *Reviewed and discussed the facilities and compliance updates at the school*
- d. *Mr. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
- i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December APS report, previously disseminated to the Board; and*
 - ii. *Informed the Board that APS continues to screen for candidates, including for the 2021-22 SY.*

D. General Counsel

- a. *None*

E. Business Controller

- a. *Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the October Financial reports, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Informed the Board that the revised budget was reviewed with the financial committee;*
 - iii. *Informed the Board that there were no substantial variances to report at this time;*
 - iv. *Informed the Board that on December 5th the financial reconciliation occurred;*
 - v. *Informed the Board that the school had approximately \$5M in cash, representing 110 days of operation;*
 - vi. *Informed the Board that the annual audit and Form 990 had been completed; and*
 - vii. *Discussed with the Board certain expenditures, including food services and “prodryers.com”, and informed the Board that he would share the profit/loss for food service.*

SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

MOTION
 KELLY LORAH
 SECOND
 JEN RAGEN
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R201216.03 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
 LIONEL ARCHER
 SECOND
 JEN RAGEN
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R201216.04 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/RATE CHANGE		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jennifer Sellers (rate change)	Certified School Nurse	11/1/20

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
None	None	None

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

MOOT

R201216.05 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
None	None	None

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
N/A	N/A

MOOT

R201216.06 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:

Who	What
N/A	N/A

MOTION

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND

KELLY LORAH

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

R201216.07 Approval of Emergency Instructional Time Template

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Emergency Instructional Time Template, as presented; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the weekly instructional calendar, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOTION

ANITA VEGA-
KAISER

SECOND

SANDRA
FARMER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

R201216.08 2020-2021 Holiday Bonus for TACS Staff Members

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School shall offer a Holiday Bonus in the amount of net \$250.00 to full time staff and net \$150.00 to part time staff.

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

Ms. Barbara Saunders:

- *Expressed appreciation for the utilization of committees and engagement of the Board during tonight's meeting.*

NEXT BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 20, 2021

ADJOURNMENT AT 6:56PM

MOTION

LIONEL ARCHER

SECOND

SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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