

# 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

JANUARY 20, 2021

**6:00PM**

## Agenda

### 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 6:01 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**

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	<b>By Invitation: Non-Board Members:</b>
<p>Barbara L. Saunders                      Jen Ragen                      Kelly Lorah                      Anita Vega-Kaiser                      Sandra Farmer                      Lionel S. Archer, Jr.</p> <p><b>Board Members Absent:</b>                      Dr. Ronald Whitaker</p>	<p>Thomas Scheid                      Ryan Strasko                      Jessica Harron                      Stephanie Felder</p> <p>Peter Costa</p> <p>Ashley Redfearn                      Kristine Magargee                      Scott Kramer                      Katie Santilli</p> <p>Dean Krebs, Esq.</p>

**B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION BY BARBARA L. SAUNDERS**

*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  
 SANDRA FARMER  
 SECOND  
 ANITA VEGA-KAISER  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R210120.01 Approval of the January 20, 2021 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the January 20, 2021 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  
 JEN RAGEN  
 SECOND

**R210120.02 Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Meeting**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the December 16,

RONALD  
WHITAKER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

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>
Board	General discussion

**SECTION II: REPORTS**

**A. Community Comment**

None

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

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

**TRUSTEE DR. RONALD WHITAKER JOINED THE BOARD MEETING AT 6:08PM**

**B. Tacony Academy Charter School CEO**

- a. *Mr. Thomas Scheid—Chief Executive Officer of Tacony Academy Charter School*
  - i. *Shared with the Board a letter of solidarity concerning the January 6<sup>th</sup> events at the U.S. Capital;*
  - ii. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the January 2021 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - iii. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board attendance and enrollment data; indicated that the school was doing well in its metrics for the high school; and indicated that students are attending regularly, though there is a group of students that the school is working on to improve attendance;*
  - iv. *Informed the Board that there was a high participation rate for the 2019-20 district wide survey;*
  - v. *Informed the Board that the elementary school was continuing with coaching classes, Math learning walk, and using Wit & Wisdom;*
  - vi. *Informed the Board that the CSP team meets weekly with those who may need additional support;*
  - vii. *Informed the Board that there were no personnel changes to report;*
  - viii. *Informed the Board of the contracts on the Agenda, including how ESSERS grant money will be used to pay for certain contracts;*
  - ix. *Informed the Board that the school nurses are starting to get COVID-19 vaccine shots;*

- x. *Informed the Board of HVAC maintenance occurring at the elementary school;*
  - xi. *Shared with the Board pictures of the recent '80's day' event at the school; and*
  - xii. *Provided the Board updates on the Telsa Science Foundation partnership.*
- b. *Ms. Stephanie Felder—DEI Coordinator at Tacony Academy Charter School*
- i. *Updated the Board on DEI related events and actions being taken by the school.*

**C. American Paradigm Schools CEO**

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Executive Director of American Paradigm Schools*
- i. *Expressed excitement over the amount of support the school has received by working with the Tesla Foundation;*
  - ii. *Shared with the Board that members of Tesla Foundation are willing to come in to do presentations with students; and*
  - iii. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the January 2021 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 January 2021 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board; and*
  - ii. *Updated the Board on compliance and facility related matters.*
- c. *Ms. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
- i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the January 2021 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - ii. *Remarked that TACS had a high staff retention and that there were no personnel changes to report; and*
  - iii. *Informed the Board that APS is attending 25 job fairs and working on a DEI focus by incorporation it into their performance reviews.*
- d. *Ms. Kristine Magargee—Chief Academic Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
- i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the January 2021 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - ii. *Updated the Board on academic coaching and how it is utilized; and*
  - iii. *Informed the Board that a NTI was this Friday during which they will be revisiting the 21-day challenge with a goal to have lesson hooks that tie into high order of thinking questions;*
  - iv. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board various pupil services;*
  - v. *Discussed with the Board the efforts made by the data team regarding attendance/enrollment to ensure students are*

- engaged and that all programs are easily accessed through Clever;*
- vi. Expressed enthusiasm about Leader DEI training; and*
- vii. Informed the Board of upcoming college virtual sessions.*

**D. General Counsel**

- a. Dean Krebs, Esq.*
  - i. Reminded the Board of their Act 55 training requirements and the process of how to complete that training.*

**E. Business Controller**

- a. Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC*
  - i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December 2020 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - ii. Informed the Board that all revenues had been booked since the end of December;*
  - iii. Informed the Board that there were no discrepancies to report;*
  - iv. Advised the Board that the financial report was reviewed with the financial committee;*
  - v. Informed the Board that the school was paid for 188 SPED students;*
  - vi. Reviewed with the Board the Summary by Major Class;*
  - vii. Advised that the budget appeared to be in good shape;*
  - viii. Informed the Board that there was ~\$8.6M in revenue; and*
  - ix. Shared and discussed with the Board the new ESSER II grant money and that it was retroactive back to March 2020.*
- b. Mr. Thomas Scheid—Chief Executive Officer of Tacony Academy Charter School*
  - i. Indicated to the Board that there was enough money in the budget to get the playground project moving forward.*

**SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION  
 SANDRA FARMER  
 SECOND  
 KELLY LORAH  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R210120.03 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:***

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

MOOT

**R210120.04 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.

<b>HIRES/RATE CHANGE</b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

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

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

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

**TRUSTEE DR. RONALD WHITAKER LEFT THE BOARD MEETING AT 6:50PM**

MOTION  
 ANITA VEGA- KAISER  
 SECOND  
 KELLY LORAH  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R210120.05 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.

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comment: Terms and Conditions</b>
Brett Dinovi & Associates, LLC	\$52.50/hr	Clinical Associates
SpringBoard	\$9,500	Literacy coaching

		Winter/Spring 2021
SpringBoard	\$33,300	Literacy coaching Summer 2021
Philadelphia Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion	Up to \$27,000	Fully interactive afterschool STEM program consisting of five (5) full-year series.  The cost amount referenced in this resolution assumes all five (5) programs are used. If less programs are used, the cost will be reduced.

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>T. Scheid</i>	<i>Shared information about each contract</i>

MOOT

**R210120.06 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:***

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

MOTION

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND

**R210120.07 Election to Extend Paid Leave**

WHEREAS, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (“FFCRA”), which mandated employee paid-leave of absences for

ANITA VEGA-  
KAISER

VOTE:  
[X] PASS  
[ ] FAIL

certain qualifying reasons described therein, expired on December 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted into law on December 27, 2020, allows employers, on a voluntary basis, to continue to provide such employee paid-leave for a FFCRA qualifying reason through March 31, 2021, in exchange for certain payroll tax credit described therein;

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby elects to continue to provide such employee paid-leave for a FFCRA-qualifying reason through March 31, 2021, in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, effective December 27, 2020.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO is authorized and directed to take, or delegate, any action necessary to effect this resolution.

*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

ANITA VEGA-  
KAISER

VOTE:  
[X] PASS  
[ ] FAIL

**R210120.08 Election to Extend Flexible Spending Account**

WHEREAS, that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted into law on December 27, 2020, allows employer to extend the time period in which employees may use Flexible Spending Accounts;

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves to extend the time period in which employees may use Flexible Spending Accounts, in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CEO is directed to take any action, or delegate any task, necessary to effect this resolution.

*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: FEBRUARY 17, 2021



**ADJOURNMENT AT 6:12PM**

MOTION

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL