

# 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

FEBRUARY 17, 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 6:02 p.m. My name is Jennifer 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 5:00 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>
Jen Ragen Kelly Lorah Dr. Ronald Whitaker Lionel S. Archer, Jr.	Thomas Scheid Ryan Strasko Jessica Harron  Peter Costa  Gerald Santilli Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Scott Kramer Katie Santilli  Dean Krebs, Esq.
<b>Board Members Absent:</b> Anita Vega-Kaiser Sandra Farmer Barbara L. Saunders	

**B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION BY JEN RAGEN**

*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  
 LIONAL ARCHER  
 SECOND  
 RONALD WHITAKER  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R210217.01 Approval of the February 17, 2021 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the February 17, 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  
 KELLY LORAH  
 SECOND

**R210217.02 Minutes of the January 20, 2021 Meeting**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the January 20,

LIONEL ARCHER \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

2021 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>

MOTION

KELLY LORAH

SECOND

LIONEL ARCHER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

**R210217.03 Minutes of the January 27, 2021 Meeting**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the January 27, 2021 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 Office of Tacony Academy Charter School*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed the February 2021 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - ii. *Informed the Board that enrollment was high;*
  - iii. *Informed the Board on current school attendance;*
  - iv. *Provided the Board updates at the elementary school, including academic updates related to Learning Walks for Culture, Wit and Wisdom, and Springboard; CSP, noting weekly meetings; professional development related to Common Assessment and DEI training, among others; and various student activities, such as Insectarium, Memory Book, and Springboard.*
  - v. *Informed the Board that, despite snow, classes will continue;*

- vi. *Provided the Board various updates of the high school, including matters related to academics, professional development, and student activities;*
- vii. *Informed the Board that the high school now had a close partnership with Tesla and Insectarium;*
- viii. *Informed the Board that school pictures were taken recently*
- ix. *Shared with the Board the Students of the Month for January;*
- x. *Informed the Board that there were no HR changes to report;*
- xi. *Advised Board on 100 day of school event;*
- xii. *Advised Board of collaborations with Cabrini and Arcadia university for student teaches & interns, indicating that TACS has four students from Cabrini and a student from Arcadia, and noted that these institutions have expressed that TACS is a great place to work;*
- xiii. *Advised the Board that Ms. Felder continues to work on DEI initiatives and discussed Black History month activities;*
- xiv. *Updated the Board on facility maintenance and improvements, such as touchless faucets, sprayers to be used in the classroom;*
- xv. *Shared the mission of TACS with the Board.*

TRUSTEE SANDRA FARMED JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:19PM

TRUSTEE ANITA VEGA-KAISER JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:19PM

### **C. American Paradigm Schools CEO**

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Executive Director of American Paradigm Schools*
  - i. *Expressed excitement of the mission/vision of TACS;*
  - ii. *Reviewed and discussed the February 2021 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - iii. *Informed the Board that the high school has numerous activities and classes they can take with the Insectarium, such as Learn to Lead where students undertake a program for plant/animal identification, submitting information to an international database, and learning about anatomy/biology. TACS students who are interested will ultimately be able to be nature guides to others;*
  - iv. *Expressed to the Board greater confidence in reopening because of recent Vaccine news and expressed appreciate to school community for ongoing support;*
  - v. *Informed the Board that there is a group of people ready at the school who for comfortable to test out proposed protocols and through them other staff will get confidence;*
  - vi. *Informed the Board that the goal is make sure everyone feels supported and to put health/safety first;*

- b. *Ms. Katie Santilli—Chief Business Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2021 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board..*
- c. *Mr. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2021 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board; and*
  - ii. *Discussed with the Board a proposal to change engagement surveys to get a better idea understanding f how teachers are feeling;*
- d. *Ms. Kristine Magargee—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2021 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - ii. *Indicated to the Board that hybrid planning continues and that the goal is to ensure whatever platforms are being used during remote instruction continue to be used during hybrid instruction;*
  - iii. *Informed the Board of college virtual sessions;*
  - iv. *Informed the Board of data team updates;*
  - v. *Informed the Board of recent Leader DEI training, indicating that the last training was for social justice and that there will be future sessions;*
  - vi. *Informed the Board of the need to build trust with parents so they feel comfortable returning their children to school, and indicated that they need to be informed of all the steps the school is doing, such as cleaning efforts, ventilation, etc.*
- e. *Board*
  - i. *Board inquired about status update for the playground, including whether playground will be built before students return and whether hybrid instruction will interfere with its construction..*
    - 1. *Mr. Costa explained that since the playground will probably not be finished before the end of the fiscal year, the expenditure may not be able to be placed on the current SY budget—while there is currently money available, the school cannot charge the project if it has not been started. He advised that the per pupil rates could be adversely impacted next year since these rates are based on SDP expenditures of which there were savings due to COVID—this could result in decreased revenue for TACS next year. He further noted an upcoming conversation with the State to determine if grant money could be used to pay for the playground.*
  - ii. *Board inquired about what was the primary issue that resulted in a delay of the project.*

1. *Mr. Costa informed the Board that including additional phases may have slowed down the progress.*
2. *Mr. Scheid informed the Board of certain zoning issues with Phase 3. Further explained that the goal was to complete Phase 1, the playground, and then complete Phase 2/3 afterwards.*
3. *Ms. Santilli informed the Board of certain zoning issues with Phase 1 because of modifications of parking spaces. She also explained that Phase 1 included the playground equipment, the foundational layer under it, removal of trees, and putting down concrete*
4. *Board discussed getting done as much as possible to ensure it can be charged for the current SY.*
5. *Mr. Costa asked for timetable on completion dates and informed the Board that the school had money for Phase 1 during the current school year but not necessarily for Phase 2 or 3.*

TRUSTEE DR. RONALD WHITAKER LEFT THE MEETING AT 6:45PM

#### **D. General Counsel**

- a. *Mr. Dean Krebs, Esq—Sand & Saidel, P.C.*
  - i. *Informed the Board that SSPC has been developing a “mock” Board Meeting training packet to serve as an educational tool to new Trustees.*
  - ii. *Informed the Board that SSPC has worked with APS to codify the procurement process in a procurement manual, as previously disseminated.*
  - iii. *Informed the Board that SPPC that Municode, a depository for school policies, is nearing completion;*
  - iv. *Advised the Board that the school should consider use some of the ESSERS II grants funds towards SPED matters, specifically potential COVID compensatory education. Informed the Board that, while COVID has created challenges, FPPCS will not receive any leniency concerning IDEA. Upon returning to normal instruction, every student will need to be accessed for COVID compensatory education and thus SSPC recommends this potential expenditure be budgeted for.*
- b. *Mr. Scheid*
  - i. *Informed the Board of efforts made to take into consideration COVID related compensatory education.*

#### **E. Business Controller**

- a. *Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thompson, LLC*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the January 2021 financial reports, previously disseminated to the Board;*

- ii. *Informed the Board that all revenue has come in on time;*
- iii. *Informed the Board that the school has 5 students over SPED budget*
- iv. *Informed the Board that current cash was 5.4M, representing 121 days;*
- v. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the January 2021 P&L;*
- vi. *Informed the Board that if there were any major discrepancies in the budget they would appear under Summary by Major Class, and indicated that everything was in line with budget except minor overage in supplies/books;*
- vii. *Informed the Board that the approved budget did not include the now \$100,000 additional revenue since the approved budget was drafted conservatively without taking into consideration increased revenue from the SDP;*
- viii. *Indicated to the Board that cost savings have occurred because of no transportation costs, particularly regarding SPED.*
- ix. *Informed the Board that while psychological services were over budgeted, there were cost savings elsewhere in SPED make up for it.*

**SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION

KELLY LORAH

SECOND

ANTA VEGA-KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

MOOT

**R210217.04 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>

**R210217.05 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
None	None	None

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
None	None	None

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

Who	What
None	None

MOOT

**R210217.06 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
None	None

MOOT

**R210217.07 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>None</i>	<i>None</i>

**B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NONE

NEXT BOARD MEETING: MARCH 17, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:16**

MOTION

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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