

TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

6201 KEYSTONE STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19135

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LOCATION

ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DATE & TIME

OCTOBER 20, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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 Barbara L. Saunders. I am the President of this Board of Trustees, and I will facilitate this meeting.

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 and 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 General 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 Jennifer Ragen Anita Vega-Kaiser Sandra Farmer Dr. Ronald Whitaker Lionel S. Archer, Jr. Board Members Absent:	Thomas Scheid Ryan Strasko Jessica Harron Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Mohamed Hassan Biridiana Rodriguez Rebecca Dunn Peter Costa David Annecharico, Esq. Jessica Bassett

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.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION:
 SANDRA FARMER
 SECOND:
 RONALD WHITAKER
 VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

R211020.01 Approval of the October 20, 2021 Agenda

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the October 20, 2021 Agenda.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:
 LIONEL ARCHER
 SECOND:
 JEN RAGEN
 VOTE:

R211020.02 Minutes of the September 15, 2021 Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

<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 Dean Krebs, and I am with Sand & Saidel, P.C., 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 with which you might supplement your comment 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, CEO of Tacony Academy Charter School*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the October 2021 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Discussed with the Board the current enrollment, noting it was in a good place and that the waitlist was ~8,000 students;*
 - iii. *Shared with the Board updates regarding fall sports, that testing is occurring with all athletes, and that many games have been played;*
 - iv. *Informed the Board that the National Honor Society induction occurred for high school students;*
 - v. *Discussed attendance at the school and how the school looks at data not only from the beginning of the year but also on a weekly basis.*
 - 1. *Acknowledged that attendance has decreased slightly during week 6 but overall attendance was in a good place;*
 - vi. *Shared and discussed with the Board the infusing of DEI with the Caring School Community model and that there are regular meetings regarding its implementation;*
 - vii. *Informed the Board of HR changes, noting recent fillings of three vacancies and also discussed various other positions, including STEM/Pre-Engineering teacher that would conduct outreach to local organizations;*
 - viii. *Informed the Board of High School Upcoming Events, including food drive and TAG Day to support breast cancer awareness;*

- ix. Updated the Board on COVID-19, noting that the school had voluntary closure for K-8 for two days, as well as Grade 11 for 10 days;
 - x. Provided general updates on the playground construction project; and
 - xi. Informed the Board of recent Exceptional Charter School Award.
- b. Board had general discussion of having an event when playground opens, such as an ice cream social.

C. American Paradigm Schools

- a. Ms. Ashley Redfearn, CEO of American Paradigm Schools
 - i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the October 2021 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;
 - ii. Informed the Board that in order to help them gain a deeper appreciation and insight into the workings of the school that APS will be providing various team members to share updates with the Board at each meeting, and introduced Ms. Magagree and Mr. Mohamed Hassan who would be doing so at this meeting.
- b. Ms. Kristine Magargee, CAO of American Paradigm Schools
 - i. Introduced Mr. Mohamed Hassan, a member of the Academy Data Team, who helps push the academic team forward by asking hard questions and handles compliance, program building, vendor relations, and data review and professional development.
 - ii. Also discussed Mr. Alex Waite, a Data Analyst on the Academic Data Team, who supports the Data Team by working on Tableau Dashboard, generating internet reports, and will be conducting deep data dives.
- c. Mr. Mohamed Hassan, Director of Data and Digital Programs
 - i. Discussed with the Board the importance of various data laws, such as FERPA;
 - ii. Discussed with the Board what programs the schools have been using, such as FOCUS and Clever; and how these programs are all available in virtual form because of COVID-19 in order to facilitate virtual learning;
 - iii. Informed the Board of APS Parent Hub, a platform that contains tutorials for parents which he recorded instructing how to use different platforms so parents can help students. Showed Board a video of the Parent Hub;
 - iv. Discussed with the Board various support being provided to families, teachers, and staff, including 1:1 Training, Zoom for Staff/ Students, and promoting the Parent Hub and other forums, among others;
 - v. Informed the Board of FOCUS, noting it is the platform which houses all student information, and that PD has been provided to ensure TACS staff for comfortable with using it; noted how FOCUS enables standards-based grading through its platform; and discussed efforts in how FOCUS involves parents into their students' education;
 - vi. Informed the Board that it is the goal of the Data Team to empower teachers by holding regular meetings and ensuring they know how to use all the platforms available to them;
 - vii. Informed the Board of EdInsight, which is a platform that provides Math and ELA standards-based assessments; discussed such assessments with the

Board; and noted that EdInsight provides a central location for all digital data

- viii. Informed the Board that the Data Team intends to continue utilizing EdInsight to build out MTSS/RTI;
 - ix. Updated the Board on other platforms, such as Tableau; and
 - x. Answered Board question about how parents can learn to use these programs, noting that an introductory email is sent out to new students / parents, and information is shared with parents at town hall events and through Parent Hub videos.
- d. Board expressed being impressed by thorough presentations.

D. GENERAL COUNSEL

- a. David Annecharico, Esq.
- b. Informed the Board of ongoing general legal support being provided in collaboration with APS to TACS in matters of contracts and compliance.

E. BUSINESS CONTROLLER

- a. Mr. Peter Costa, Santilli & Thomson, LLC
 - i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2021 financial reports;
 - ii. Informed the Board that the annual audit was ongoing and would probably be complete in the coming weeks;
 - iii. Informed the Board that he had no concerns regarding enrollment; cash reflected 106 days of operations; and shared with the Board current disbursements of \$10,000;
 - iv. Informed the Board that there was nothing of particular note to highlight or that stood out to the Finance Committee.

SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

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

R211020.03 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:

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOTION:
RONALD WHITAKER
SECOND:
LIONEL ARCHER

R211020.04 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/POSITION CHANGE

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Kyree McKnight (new hire)	Instructional Assistant	10/18/21
Paul Reiser (rate change)	Athletic Director	8/23/21

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS

NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jennifer Parks (Resignation)	Teacher	10/18/21

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
T. Scheid	As discussed previously.

MOTION:

ANITA VEGA-
KAISER

SECOND:

SANDRA
FARMER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

R211020.05 Professional Services Contract/s Resolution

RESOLVED, that the Professional Services Contract/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 contract/s for the professional services described below;

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

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
Delta T, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological Evaluations: \$900 FBS with Standard Evaluation: \$450 (w/o; \$900) Neuro with Standard Evaluation: \$450 (w/o; \$900) Autistic with Standard Evaluation: \$450 (w/o; \$900) Record Review: \$450 Bilingual Evaluations (Spanish): \$2200 In-Person IEP Meeting: \$150 	Psychological Services

Charter School Services, LLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Long-Term Teachers: \$250/day • SPED LT: \$300/day; \$65/hr for u to 4-hours • Non-Teaching Academic Support: \$180/day; • Admin Support: \$200/day 	Staffing services
Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Certified Behavior Analyst: \$86.49 • Licensed Behavior Specialist: \$76.99 • Registered Behavior Technician: \$56.99 • Behavior Technician: \$35.50 • Psychology: \$90.99 	Behavioral staffing services

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOOT

R211020.06 Purchase Contract/s Resolution

RESOLVED, the Purchase Contract/s and associated report/s 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 for the Purchase Contract/s described below;

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

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
None	None	None

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
None	None

B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Board discussed impending SEPTA Strike and the impact on transportation, noting that the school is ready for virtual, if necessary;

- Mr. Scheid expressed hopes that the playground will soon be complete.

- Ms. Redfearn and Ms. Saunders expressed their appreciation for the attendance of CSO.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: NOVEMBER 17, 2021

ADJOURNMENT AT 6:54 P.M.

MOTION:

ARCHER

SECOND:

FARMER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

—