

# 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

DECEMBER 15, 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 6:05p.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 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**

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	<b>By Invitation: Non-Board Members:</b>
Barbara L. Saunders Jennifer Ragen Anita Vega-Kaiser Sandra Farmer Dr. Ronald Whitaker Lionel S. Archer, Jr.	Thomas Scheid Ryan Strasko  Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Scott Kramer
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	Peter Costa  Dean Krebs, Esq. Jessica Bassett  Eric Strauss Annalyse Culp

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

*I would like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that on December 15, 2021, 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).*

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION:

JEN RAGEN

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

**R211215.01 Approval of the December 15, 2021 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the December 15, 2021 Agenda.

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>

[ ] FAIL

Board	General Discussion
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**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION:

**R211215.02 Minutes of the November 17, 2021 Meeting**

SANDRA FARMER

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School.

SECOND:

LIONEL ARCHER

VOTE:

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

[X] PASS

Who	What
Board	General Discussion

[ ] FAIL

**SECTION II: REPORTS**

**A. Community Comment**

None

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

Who	What
None	None

**B. TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL CEO**

- a. *Mr. Thomas Scheid—CEO of Tacony Academy Charter School*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December 2021 CEO report;*
  - ii. *Discussed enrollment and attendance data with the school;*
  - iii. *Updated the Board on COVID-19 positive tests and expressed appreciation to nurses and other staff for their ongoing collaboration and efforts;*
  - iv. *Updated the Board on High School activities, including science club making a catapult and noted new record set with 600 pairs of pajamas on Pajama Day;*
  - v. *Informed the Board that the playground project is almost complete;*
  - vi. *Informed the Board of TACS participation in Thanksgiving Day parade; and*
  - vii. *Shared with the Board SDP Annual Survey data, noting an increase in participation rate for students, teachers, and parents.*

**C. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS**

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Chief Executive Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December 2021 APS report;*

- ii. Shared with the Board the public relation strategies being used, including breaking the myths surrounding charter schools.
- b. Mr. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Officer of American Paradigm Schools
  - i. Discussed with the Board the resolution below to approve multi-year offer letters; and
  - ii. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December 2021 APS report.
- c. Ms. Kristine Magargee—Chief Academic Officer of American Paradigm Schools
  - i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the December 2021 APS report.
  - ii. Indicated to the Board that students are making great gains in a pilot program;
  - iii. Informed the Board that there will be upcoming open hours so parents can ask about Standards Based Grading;
  - iv. Shared updates with the Board regarding caring school community, noting that social emotional learning is critical as students come back to school;
  - v. Updated the Board on the coaching team, noting first coaching cycle ended and indicated that teachers are providing positive support on new program.
  - vi. Shared with the board updated pupil support data/information.

**D. BUSINESS CONTROLLER**

- a. None

**E. GENERAL COUNSEL**

- a. None

**SECTION III: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

Moot

**R211215.03 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:*

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

MOTION:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

SECOND:

RONALD WHITAKER

VOTE:

**R211215.04 Human Resources Resolution**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies the Human Resources changes, modifications, and additions, as presented.

<b>HIRES/RATE/POSITION CHANGE</b>
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[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Dennis Park (rate change)	HS Special Education Teacher	12/16/21
Genesis Berrios-Torres (new hire)	Instructional Assistant	1/3/22

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Rita Barretta (resignation)	Behavior Specialist	12/31/21

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

Who	What
Board	General Discussion

MOOT

**R211215.05 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
None	None	None

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

Who	What
None	None

MOOT

### R211215.06 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

MOTION:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

SECOND:

JEN RAGEN

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

### R211215.07 2020-21 Draft Audit Financial Statements

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the 2020-21 Draft Audit Financial Statements, as presented, for Tacony Academy Charter School.

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

Who	What
Mr. Eric Strauss	<p>Mr. Eric Strauss of WithSmith+Brown, the accounting firm performing TACS annual independent audit, reviewed and discussed with the board the Audit Communications Report and Audit Report, previously disseminated to the Board.</p> <p><u>Concerning the Audit Communications Report</u>            +Discussed with the Board the various frameworks and guidelines under which the annual audit is conducted;            +Noted no communication issues with TACS; and            + Explained GASB Statement No. 87 concerning leases that will be going into effect for next years audit.</p> <p><u>Concerning the Draft Audit Report</u>            +Informed the Board that the audit provided an unmodified “clean” opinion;            +Discussed PSERS plan and how it impacts the balance sheet;            + Discussed OPEB and how it impacts balance sheet;            +Informed the Board of a cash increase of \$175k increase</p>

	<p>+Informed the Boar that revenues were over expenses by ~\$700k;          +Discussed expenditures of ~\$640k on furniture/equipment;          +Informed that Board that a good debt ratio was 1.25/1 with TACS having a better debt ratio of 3/1;          + Shared various footnotes and Schedules, such as for federal grant rewards; and          +Expressed that the Board can reach out with any questions they may have following the meeting.</p>
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**BY ROLL CALL**

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

MOTION:

LIONAL ARCHER

SECOND:

JEN RAGEN

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R211215.08 Approval of Offer Letter Term Length**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby authorizes the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Business Controller, General Counsel, and American Paradigm Schools, to include within offer letters for employment at Tacony Academy Charter School reasonable term lengths, as determined appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer on an individual basis for each offer letter recipient.

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

<b><i>Who</i></b>	<b><i>What</i></b>
<i>S. Kramer</i>	<i>As discussed above</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

**B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

+ *Mr. Thomas Scheid*  
 + *Discussed the great student government team which he was looking forward to sharing more with the Board.*

NEXT BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 19, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:06 P.M.**

MOTION:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

SECOND:

JEN RAGEN

VOTE:

PASS  
 FAIL

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