

# TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

6201 KEYSTONE STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19135

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LOCATION:

ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DATE & TIME:

JUNE 15, 2022

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 6:06 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 from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being held via teleconference. This is a public meeting that was properly noticed 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**

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	<b>By Invitation: Non-Board Members:</b>
Barbara L. Saunders Jennifer Ragen Anita Vega-Kaiser Sandra Farmer Lionel S. Archer, Jr.	Thomas Scheid Ryan Strasko Todd Parker Lauren Brophy Stephanie Felder Denise Johnson
<b>Board Members Absent:</b> Dr. Ronald Whitaker	Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Scott Kramer  Michael Thomson Peter Costa  Dean Krebs, Esq.

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

*I would like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting, that on June 15, 2022 the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session for the following purposes under 65 Pa.C.S.A. § 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).

(x) Discuss Confidential Matters. To review and discuss agency business that, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations.

Additional Notes for Minutes of Meeting:

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION:

JEN RAGEN

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-  
KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R220615.01 Approval of the June 15, 2022 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the June 15, 2022 Agenda.

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

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
Board	In accordance with 65 Pa.C.S. § 712.1(e), the Board unanimously amended the Agenda to include Resolution R220615.14 to ensure timely approval of such resolution.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION:

JEN RAGEN

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-  
KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R220615.02 Minutes of the May 18, 2022 Meeting**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School.

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

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

**SECTION II: REPORTS**

**A. COMMUNITY COMMENT**

None

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

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
None	None

**B. TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL CEO**

- a. Ms. Lauren Brophy—Assistant Principal of TACS
  - i. Informed the Board that TACS had a “perfect” Federal Programs monitoring.
  - ii. Shared pictures of graduation with the Board;
  - iii. Expressed thanks to Dr. Ronald Whitaker for being the speaker at graduation; AND
  - iv. Shared summer enrichment clubs with the Board.
- b. Ms. Barbara L. Saunders
  - i. Suggested that at future graduations, students who have been with the school from Kindergarten should be acknowledged.

- c. Mr. Todd Parker—Director of School Planning and Operations K-12 at TACS
  - i. Shared with the Board the opportunities of Verdaka, a security system, noting it had a 10-year warranty with various features; and
  - ii. Discussed Red Rabbit with the Board, a food service company, noting that they were making food from scratch. Highlighted comments from students who says they have “chefs in their kitchen,” students were happy about what they eating, and expressed that the quality seemed higher than Maschio.
- d. Mr. Ryan Strascko—Principal of TACS
  - i. Shared with the Board elementary school end of year events;
  - ii. Shared with the Board the Springboard programming, noting that 100% of parents attended the workshop; and
  - iii. Shared with the Board additional school activities, including sports, reading support, and insectarium trips.
- e. Ms. Stephanie Felder—DEI Coordinator of TACS
  - i. Shared DEIB events with the Board; noted ongoing work with APS to update curriculum; shared partnerships that are being developed; and requested Board input on who wants to become more involved in the process; and
  - ii. Shared with the Board the Tacony High School Garden project.

**C. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS CEO**

- a. Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Chief Executive Officer of American Paradigm Schools
  - i. Shared with the Board that TACS received a 5-year charter with conditions;
  - ii. Shared with the Board the partnership with Alex’s Lemonade Stand;
  - iii. Shared with the Board various PR efforts; and
  - iv. Shared with the Board the upcoming Tesla Foundation events.
- b. Ms. Kristine Magargee—Chief Academic Officer of American Paradigm Schools
  - i. Informed the Board that during the 2021-22 SY, the majority of time was spent towards grade level standards and programs, which ensures equity; and
  - ii. Informed the Boar that next year, the push will be MTSS also to meet academic, social/emotional, and attendance needs.

**D. BUSINESS CONTROLLER**

- a. Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC
  - i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the May 2022 financial report;
  - ii. Informed the Board that the school would be receiving \$239k more in SDP revenue;
  - iii. Shared that the school had \$4.3M in cash, representing 93 days;
  - iv. Informed the Board that May had \$527k in disbursements;
  - v. Informed the Board that the P&L showed all positive variance and noted distribution of ESSER funds;
  - vi. Discussed the below resolution on Fund Balance., noting its importance to have on the Agenda.

**E. GENERAL COUNSEL**

- a. None

**SECTION III: OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION:

LIONEL  
ARCHER

SECOND:

ANITA  
VEGA-  
KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R220615.03 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>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOTION:

SANDRA  
FARMER

SECOND:

LIONEL  
ARCHER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R220615.04 Human Resources Resolution**

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

<b>HIRES / RETURN TO SERVICE/ POSITION CHANGE</b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>
Ckrisen Milfort (new hire)	Classroom Teacher	8/22/22
Ramay Hayes (position change)	Building Sub to Educational Intern (PE)	8/22/22
Dorothy ODonnell (new hire)	SPED Teacher	8/22/22

<b>TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS / LOA</b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Nicholas Nolen (resignation)	PE Teacher	5/23/22
Genesis Berrios-Torres (resignation)	Instructional Assistant	5/31/22
Louis Henry (resignation)	Clerical Support	6/10/22
Kevin Gold (non-renewal)	Student & Family Liaison	6/30/22
Tiffany Mendez (non-renewal)	COVID Safety & Health Coordinator	6/10/22
Naomi Louis (non-renewal)	Building Substitute	6/30/22
Tyler McCullough (resignation)	Project Lead the Way Coordinator	6/30/22
Sandra Troiani (LOA)	Classroom Teacher	6/3/22 – 6/10/22

MOTION:  
 JEN RAGEN  
 SECOND:  
 SANDRA FARMER  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

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

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Noted that certain non-renewals were because their positions were eliminated.</i>
<i>T.Scheid</i>	<i>Expressed that certain positions that were non-renewed were created with ESSER money and they are easing back now, meaning positions are eliminated.</i>

**R220615.05 Professional Services Contract/s Resolution**

RESOLVED, the Professional Services 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 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.

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comment: Terms and Conditions</b>
Valley Day	\$8,455.00/student	Extended School Year  Two (2) Students
Red Rabbit	See contract	Food service  1-Year Contract, with up to four (4) 1-Year renewals.  Contingent on State approval.

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

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
<i>T.Parker</i>	<i>As discussed above.</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOOT

**R220615.06 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 terms and conditions for the Purchase Contract/s 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

MOTION:

**R220616.07 Amendment to CEO Employment Contract**

SANDRA FARMER

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby ratifies and approves of the Amendment to Employment Contract with Mr. Thomas Scheid, as presented.

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby authorizes the President, in consultation with General Counsel and Business Controller, to negotiate and execute any contract necessary to effectuate this resolution.

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOTION:

**R220615.08 Safety and Security Report**

SANDRA FARMER

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby ratifies the Executive Session on June 15, 2022 to Review the Safety and Security Report, as presented.

SECOND:

LIONEL ARCHER

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

Who	What
Board	General discussion

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

MOTION:

**R220615.09 Approval of Board Meeting Calendar for 2022-23 School Year**

LIONEL ARCHER

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Board Meeting Calendar for the 2022-23 School Year of Tacony Academy Charter School

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

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

Who	What
Board	General discussion

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

MOTION:

**R220615.10 Approval of 2022-23 Employee Handbook**

LIONEL ARCHER

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the 2022-23 Employee Handbook, as presented

SECOND:

JEN RAGEN

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

VOTE:

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

PASS

FAIL

MOTION:

**R220615.11 Approval of 2022-23 School Year Calendar**

SANDRA FARMER

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the 2022-23 School Year Calendar of Tacony Academy Charter School

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

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

VOTE:

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

PASS

FAIL

MOTION:

**R220615.12 Reelect and Reaffirm Terms of Board of Trustees**

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

RESOLVED, in accordance with Section 6.3.2(a) of the Tacony Academy Charter School Bylaws, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby re-elects Ms. Barbara Saunders as a Trustee on the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School and re-affirms all other Trustees, all for the terms of office listed below:

SECOND:

LIONEL ARCHER

VOTE:

- Barbara L. Saunders: 7/1/22 – 6/30/25
- Jennifer Ragen: 7/1/21 – 6/30/24
- Anita Vega-Kaiser: 7/1/21 – 6/30/24
- Sandra Farmer: 7/1/20 – 6/30/23
- Dr. Ronald Whitaker: 7/1/21 – 6/30/24
- Lionel S. Archer, Jr.: 7/1/21 – 6/30/23

PASS

FAIL

**ROLL CALL**

- Barbara L. Saunders - *Aye*
- Jennifer Ragen - *Aye*
- Anita Vega-Kaiser - *Aye*
- Sandra Farmer - *Aye*
- Dr. Ronald Whitaker - *Absent*



Lionel S. Archer, Jr. - *Aye*

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

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

MOTION:

ANITA  
VEGA-  
KAISER

SECOND:

LIONEL  
ARCHER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R220615.13 Board Officer Elections**

RESOLVED, in accordance with Section 6.3.2(b) of the Tacony Academy Charter School Bylaws, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby elects the following for their respective officer position, beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Position</b>
Barbara Saunders	President
Dr. Ronald Whitaker	Vice-President
Anita Vega-Kaiser	Secretary
Lionel Archer	Treasurer

**ROLL CALL**

Barbara L. Saunders - *Aye*

Jennifer Ragen - *Aye*

Anita Vega-Kaiser - *Aye*

Sandra Farmer - *Aye*

Dr. Ronald Whitaker - *Absent*

Lionel S. Archer, Jr. - *Aye*

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

<b><i>Who</i></b>	<b><i>What</i></b>
<i>J. Ragen</i>	<i>Expressed that she had enjoyed her Officer role; however, other priorities require her attention at this time.</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Discussed and unanimously approved the nominations</i>

MOTION:

LIONEL  
ARCHER

SECOND:

JEN RAGEN

**R220615.14 Fund Balance**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School Designates estimated ending fund balance for the year ended June 30, 2022, as follows:

VOTE:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASS	Designated for Working Capital/School Performance Available for Appropriation	\$3,300,000
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIL	Designated for Non-Liquid Assets	\$1,350,000
	Total Fund Balance	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
		<u>\$5,650,000</u>

**B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

+ The Board discussed the upcoming June 18<sup>th</sup> APS Picnic.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: AUGUST 17, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION:

LIONEL ARCHER

SECOND:

JEN RAGEN

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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