

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:  
SEPTEMBER 21, 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 6:03pm 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 Dr. Ronald Whitaker	Naimah Wimberly  Ashley Redfearn Scott Kramer  Peter Costa
<b>Board Members Absent:</b> Lionel S. Archer, Jr.	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 the Board of Trustees did not meet in Executive Session prior to this meeting*

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION:  RONALD WHITAKER  SECOND:  SANDRA FARMER  VOTE:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASS  <input type="checkbox"/> FAIL	<p><b>R220921.01 Approval of the September 21, 2022 Agenda</b></p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the September 21, 2022 Agenda.</p> <p><i>Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"><i>Who</i></th> <th><i>What</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Board</i></td> <td><i>General discussion</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>
<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>				
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>				

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION:  ANITA VEGA-KAISER  SECOND:  JENNIFER RAGEN  VOTE:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASS  <input type="checkbox"/> FAIL	<p><b>R220921.02 Minutes of the August 17, 2022 Meeting</b></p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School.</p> <p><i>Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"><i>Who</i></th> <th><i>What</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Board</i></td> <td><i>General discussion</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>
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**SECTION II: REPORTS**

**A. COMMUNITY COMMENT**

None
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**Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:**

Who	What
None	None

**B. TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL CEO**

- a. *Ms. Naimah Wimberly – Chief Executive Officer of MSA*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2022 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - ii. *Expressed appreciation to APS for assistance with Epicenter uploads;*
  - iii. *Informed the Board of an upcoming meeting to review ESSER III grant to ensure use of funds align with strategic goals of the school;*
  - iv. *Informed the Board that the school is fully enrolled, with 7000 on the waiting list;*
  - v. *Informed the Board that TACS was able to secure three (3) new employees, including Mr. Thomas Bell who she shared underwent a rigorous interview process, including with non-administrators to ensure the entire TACS community got to know him;*
  - vi. *Shared with the Board the various facility projects currently at the school, including roof, security, and HVAC at 1330 Rhawn St. and lighting and stairs project at 6201 Keystone St.;*
  - vii. *Informed the Board that Red Rabbit has worked with the school to meet TACS’ standards for services;*
  - viii. *Informed Board of a recent meeting with Intelligent Network to ensure the vendor is meeting TACS needs;*
  - ix. *Shared with the Board the Fall athletics;*
  - x. *Updated the Board on “The Clubhouse,” highlighting the various clubs at TACS;*
  - xi. *Shared various Caring School Community events;*
  - xii. *Shared recent visit of PCPCS to TACS;*
  - xiii. *Shared with the Board upcoming Family and Community engagement, including Glorei Dei Partnership, October Breast Cancer Awareness 4k Walk, and upcoming Back to School nights; and*
  - xiv. *Discussed various academic support and ongoing PDs from American Paradigm Schools.*

MR. LIONEL S. ARCHER, JR. JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:29PM

**C. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS CEO**

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—Chief Executive Officer of American Paradigm Schools*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2022 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*

- ii. Discussed with the Board the ongoing weekly CEO collaborations, including PD, compliance assistance, mission-based support, and social media training;
  - iii. Shared with the Board enrollment of schools across the network; and
  - iv. Informed the Board that teachers have been provided pacing guides.
- b. Mr. Scott Kramer—Chief Talent Officer of APS
- i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2022 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;
  - ii. Informed the Board that HR orientation has been conducted at the school;
  - iii. Informed the Board of recent new hire lunch-in.
  - iv. Shared with the Board new partnership with dietician to promote wellness among staff; and
  - v. Shared with the Board recent job fairs.

**D. BUSINESS CONTROLLER**

- a. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson, LLC
- i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the August 2022 financial reports, previously disseminated to the Board;
  - ii. Informed the Board that TACS had \$4.5M cash, representing 97 days;
  - iii. Informed the Board that there was \$660k of disbursement in August;
  - iv. Informed the Board that all audit adjustments for June 2022 have not yet been posted; and
  - v. Informed Board that S&T and TACS will be looking into how ESSER funds can be used, noting that TACS has until September 2024.

**E. GENERAL COUNSEL**

- a. None

**SECTION III: OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION:

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND:

LIONEL ARCHER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R220921.03 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:***

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

MOTION:

JENNIFER  
RAGEN

SECOND:

ANITA  
VEGA-  
KAISER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

### R220921.04 Human Resources Resolution

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

HIRES / RETURN TO SERVICE/ POSITION CHANGE		
NAME	TITLE	START DATE
Jordyn Gaines (new hire)	ELA Teacher - HS	8/22/22
Jermaine Miles (new hire)	Music Teacher - ES	8/24/22
Hilda Zorilla (new hire)	Admin. Assistant to CEO	8/22/22
Thomas Bell (new hire)	Climate Dean - HS	9/19/22
Christopher Nicholas (position and rate change)	Interim Sub for Alice Moratti - ES	8/22/22
Valerie Nekolieff (rate change)	SPED Teacher - HS	8/22/22
Michael Connor (rate change)	Math Problem Solving Teacher - ES	9/23/22

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS / LOA		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Francis Carr (resignations)	ELA Teacher - HS	8/16/22
Michelle Neith (resignations)	IA	8/18/22
Sandra Troiani (LOA)	Grade Teacher – ES	8/29/22
Regina Lowry (LOA)	IA – ES	8/22/22

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

Who	What
S.Kramer	Shared information regarding resignations with the Board

MOTION:  
ANITA  
VEGA-  
KAISER

SECOND:

SANDRA  
FARMER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

### R220921.05 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;

[ ] FAIL

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
TriState HVAC Equipment, LLP	Billed Quarterly: \$2,975.00  Total: \$11,900/year	HVAC General Service/Maintenance  1 Year Term
Team Tutor	1-1 Tutoring: \$70/hr  Tutoring with Wilson Reading or Phonics Boost Programs: \$85/hr (\$150 fee for Phonics Boost Program)  Test Prep Program: \$90/hour  Small Group Tutoring: \$150/hr	Tutoring services

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

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOOT

**R220921.06 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
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MOTION:  
ANITA  
VEGA-  
KAISER

**R220921.07 Approval of Project GO MOUs**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Project GO Memorandum of Understandings with the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office, as presented.

SECOND:

SANDRA  
FARMER

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

VOTE:

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

PASS

FAIL

DR. RONALD WHITAKER LEFT THE BOARD MEETING AT 6:53PM

MOTION:

**R220921.08 M&T Bank Authorized Signatories**

SANDRA  
FARMER

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School desires to modify the Authorized Signatories on the accounts of Tacony Academy Charter School at M&T Bank.

SECOND:

JENNIFER  
RAGEN

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby ratifies and approves of the M&T Bank Certified Banking Resolutions of Corporation, as presented and incorporated into this resolution as more fully stated therein.

VOTE:

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

PASS

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

FAIL

MOTION:

**R220921.09 E-Signature Authority**

ANITA  
VEGA-  
KAISER

RESOLVED, by authority of the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School, it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that Ms. Naimah Wimberly, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the above named body, is authorized and directed to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses (hereinafter collectively referred to as contract(s)) with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department); and

SECOND:

LIONEL  
ARCHER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body consents to the use of electronic signatures by the above named individual and that no handwritten signature from the above named individual shall be required in order for any contract with the Department to be legally enforceable and that by affixing his/her electronic signature to an electronic file of the contract via the Department’s e-grants system, the above designated authorized individual shall have effectively executed and delivered the contract, binding the Board

of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School to comply with the terms of said contract; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that no writing shall be required in order to make the contract valid and legally binding, provided that the Department and all other necessary Commonwealth approvers affix their signatures electronically and an electronically-printed copy of the Contract is e-mailed or is otherwise made available to the body by electronic means; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will not contest the due authorization, execution, delivery, validity or enforceability of the electronic Contract under the provisions of a statute of frauds or any other applicable law. The Contract, if introduced as evidence on paper in any judicial, arbitration, mediation, or administrative proceedings, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other business records originated and maintained in documentary form and the admissibility thereof shall not be contested under either the business records exception to the hearsay rule or the best evidence rule; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will notify the Department’s Bureau of Management Services promptly in the event that the above named individual is no longer authorized to execute agreements on behalf of the body electronically and that the Department shall be entitled to rely upon the above named officer’s authority to execute agreements electronically on behalf of the body until such notice is received by the Department’s Office of Chief Counsel.

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>
<i>D. Krebs</i>	<i>Informed the Board of the purpose of this resolution.</i>

UPON MOTION BY SANDRA FARMER AND SECOND BY ANITA-VEGA KAISER, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PURPOSES DESCRIBED UNDER 65 PA. C.S. § 716. SPECIFICALLY, ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO RESOLUTION R220921.10.

UPON MOTION BY JENNIFER RAGEN AND SECOND BY LIONEL ARCHER, JR., THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENTER INTO OPEN SESSION.

**R220921.10 Charter Agreement Resolution**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School (“Charter Board”) hereby authorizes the execution and delivery of the Charter (the “Charter”), made and entered into as of July 1, 2022 (the “Effective Date”), by and between THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA (the “School District”), acting by and through the Board of Education, with its principal place of business at 440 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130, and the TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER

MOTION:

ANITA  
VEGA-  
KAISER

SECOND:

SANDRA  
FARMER

VOTE:



[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

SCHOOL, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation (the “Charter School”) acting through and by its Charter Board with its principal place of business at 1330 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, PA 19111, as presented;

FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Article I, Section C, Paragraph 3 of the Charter the Charter Board states that no members of the Charter Board or their immediate family, as defined under the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act (“Ethics Act”), will have business dealings with the Charter School, and that the Charter Board will comply with the Ethics Act; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the following persons are Trustees of the Charter Board:

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS
Barbara L. Saunders	1330 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, PA 19111	bsaunders@ap-schools.org
Sandra Farmer	1330 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, PA 19111	sfarmer@ap-schools.org
Anita Vega-Kaiser	1330 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, PA 19111	akaiser@ap-schools.org
Dr. Ronald Whitaker	1330 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, PA 19111	rwhitaker@ap-schools.org
Lionel S. Archer, Jr.	1330 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, PA 19111	larcher@ap-schools.org
Jennifer Ragen	1330 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, PA 19111	jragen@ap-schools.org

; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the aforementioned Trustees are authorized to execute and request payments under the Charter.

**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:***

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

**B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NEXT BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 19, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:07 P.M.**

MOTION:

LIONEL ARCHER

SECOND:

SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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