

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:  
NOVEMBER 16, 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 6:05 p.m. My name is Anita Vega-Kaiser. I am the Secretary 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>
Jennifer Ragen Anita Vega-Kaiser Dr. Ronald Whitaker Lionel S. Archer, Jr.  <b>Board Members Absent:</b> Barbara L. Saunders Sandra Farmer	Naimah Wimberly Dr. Kwanza Waters Thomas Bell  Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Scott Kramer  Michael Thomson Peter Costa  Eric Strauss Annalyse Culp  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:  
 JENNIFER RAGER  
 SECOND:  
 LIONEL ARCHER,  
 JR.  
 VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**R221116.01 Approval of the November 16, 2022 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the November 16, 2022 Agenda.

***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>

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION:  
LIONEL ARCHER,  
JR.  
SECOND:  
JENNIFER RAGEN  
VOTE:  
[X] PASS  
[ ] FAIL

**R221116.02 Minutes of the October 19, 2022 Meeting**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the October 19, 2022 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>

UPON COMPLETING SECTION II(A) ON THE AGENDA, THE BOARD PROCEEDED DIRECTLY WITH RESOLUTION R221116.08 WITH AN ACCOMPANYING REPORT FROM TACS’ ANNUAL AUDITORS, WITHAMSMITH+BROWN, P.C.. THE BOARD THEN PROCEEDED WITH SECTION II(D) FOLLOWED BY RESOLUTIONS R221116.03 - .07 AND R221116.09.

AFTER ALL RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA WERE DISCUSSED AND VOTED UPON, DR. RONALD WHITAKER LEFT THE MEETING AT 6:57PM. DR. WHITAKER’S DEPARTURE RESULTED IN A LACK OF QUORUM AT 6:57PM FOR PURPOSES UNDER 65 PA.C.S. §§ 701 ET AL. THE REMAINING THREE (3) BOARD MEMBERS, HOWEVER, CONTINUED THE MEETING IN THE PUBLIC TO ALLOW THE REPORTS UNDER SECTION II(B)(C)(E) TO BE PRESENTED. THIS WAS DONE SOLELY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES.

**B. TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL CEO**

- a. *Ms. Naimah Wimberly—CEO of Tacony Academy Charter School*
  - i. *Introduced Dr. Kwanza Waters, Principal, and Mr. Thomas Bell, Dean;*
  - ii. *Shared and discussed with the Board school data; and*
  - iii. *Reviewed and discussed the November 2022 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board.*
- b. *Dr. Waters*
  - i. *Discussed importance of uniforms at TACS; shared positive impact of using Yondr pouches, and discussed efforts to increase attendance/lateness; and*
  - ii. *Discussed instructional updates regarding Saturday school and Kaplan SAT training.*

**C. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS CEO**

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn—CEO of American Paradigm Schools*

- i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board CEO collaboration efforts; and
  - ii. Discussed enrollment designations; and
  - iii. Reviewed and discussed the November 2022 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board.
- b. Ms. Kristine Magargee—CAO of American Paradigm Schools
- i. Reviewed and discussed with the Boards matters concerning ELA curriculum, instruction, and assessment; noted SBG updates and common assessments; and update the Board on recent and upcoming PD; and
  - ii. Shared with the Board coaching team efforts,

**D. BUSINESS CONTROLLER**

- a. Mr. Peter Costa—Santilli & Thomson
  - i. Reviewed and discussed the October 2022 financial reports, previously disseminated to the Board

**E. GENERAL COUNSEL**

- a. None

**SECTION III: OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION:

JENNIFER RAGEN

SECOND:

LIONEL ARCHER, JR.

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R221116.03 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:

LIONEL ARCHER, JR.

SECOND:

DR. RONALD WHITTAKER

VOTE:

PASS

**R221116.04 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>
Anthony Jackson (new hire)	Dean	11/14/22
Christopher Nicholas	Return to IA	11/14/22

[ ] FAIL

(position and rate change)		
Kathleen Shea (rate change)	Social Studies Teacher (HS)	10/10/22
Regina Beideman (rate change)	AfterCare Assistant	10/24/22
Solivette Calderon (rate change)	AfterCare Assistant Sub	10/24/22
Jacqueline Franklin (rate change)	AfterCare Assistant	10/24/22
Regina Lowry (rate change)	AfterCare Assistant	10/24/22
Marcella Szwedowski (rate change)	AfterCare Assistant	10/24/22

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS / LOA		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Hilda Zorrilla (LOA)	Executive Assistant to CEO	10/3/22 – 12/23/22

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

Who	What
N. Wimberly	Discussed HR changes.

MOTION:

**R221116.05 Professional Services Contract/s Resolution**

LIONEL ARCHER, JR.

RESOLVED, the Professional Services Contract/s and associated report/s listed below are hereby accepted and ratified;

SECOND:

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, Business Controller, and General Counsel are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate contract/s for the professional services described below;

JENNIFER RAGEN

VOTE:

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

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
Tutored by Teachers	VIM Program: \$29,835 Implementation Fee: \$6,000 Total: \$34,835	Virtual Intervention Model Program (“VIM program”).  Two sessions a week of live online, small group, SEL-infused instruction delivered by a highly qualified, diverse teachers using standards aligned content emphasizing mastery of key skills.

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>K. Waters</i>	<i>Informed the Board that vendor will assist with Keystone exams.</i>

MOOT

**R221116.06 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.

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comment: Terms and Conditions</b>
None	None	None

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

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

MOTION:

JENNIFER RAGEN

SECOND:

DR. RONALD WHITAKER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[ ] FAIL

**R221116.07 Approval of Holiday Bonus**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves of Tacony Academy Charter School offering a Holiday Bonus in the amount of \$500 to full-time and part-time staff

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

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

MOTION:  
 JENNIFER RAGEN  
 SECOND:  
 DR. RONALD WHITAKER

**R221116.08 2021-22 Draft Audit Financial Statements**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the 20221-22 Draft Audit Financial statements, as presented, for Tacony Academy Charter School.

VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

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

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
<i>E.Strauss</i>	<p><u>TACS Audit Communications</u>            +Reviewed and discussed the <i>Audit Communications Report</i>            +Noted large adjustments due to rental agreement with foundation; informed the Board that lease must be capitalized with a corresponding liability.            +Noted the <i>Significant Accounting Estimates</i>.            +Noted most significant disclosure is revenue recognition.            +Noted no significant difficulties completing audit.            +Shared audit adjustments, which he noted were largely standard.</p> <p><u>Management Letter</u>            +Reviewed and discussed management and auditor responsibilities.            +Informed the Board that the Auditor does not give opinion on effective controls, rather they learn what controls are being used only to the extent to ensure the auditors are confident enough with the numbers being produced.            +Discussed structural changes made in auditor's report from prior years;            +Noted no control deficiencies, though there was another matter to report; specifically, ensuring cybersecurity insurance coverage.</p> <p><u>Draft Audit Report</u>            + Noted no findings concerning use of government funds.            +Noted that revenue increased and so did expenses.            +Noted big difference in operations/maintenance because of changes to how leases are considered under GASB 8 and shared those changes.            + Noted conclusion of an unmodified opinion.</p>

**ROLL CALL**

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

MOTION:

**R221116.09 Head Start MOU**

JENNIFER RAGEN

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby ratifies and accepts the Memorandum of Understanding with the School District of Philadelphia’s Office of Early Childhood Education, as presented.

SECOND:

DR. RONALD WHITTAKER

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

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

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NEXT BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 21, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:22 P.M.**

MOTION:

JENNIFER RAGER

SECOND:

LIONEL ARCHER, JR.

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

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