

TACONY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
6201 KEYSTONE STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19135

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LOCATION:
ZOOM MEETING

DATE & TIME:
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
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.

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

Board Members Present:	By Invitation: Non-Board Members:
Barbara L. Saunders Anita Vega-Kaiser Lionel S. Archer, Jr. Dr. Ronald Whitaker	Naimah Wimberly Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Scott Kramer
Board Members Absent: Marianne Lynch	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 the Board of Trustees did not meet in Executive Session prior to this meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION:
LIONEL ARCHER
SECOND:
ANITA VEGA-KAISER
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

R230920.01 Approval of the September 20, 2023 Agenda

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the September 20, 2023 Agenda.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Noted that P. Costa would present his report first to the Board.</i>

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:
LIONEL ARCHER
SECOND:
ANITA VEGA-KAISER
VOTE:
[X] PASS

R230920.02 Minutes of the August 16, 2023 Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the August 16, 2023 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>
------------	-------------

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. *Ms. Naimah Wimberly, CEO of TACS*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2023 report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Informed the Board of new school year events, including DEI and Social and Emotional learning;*
 - iii. *Informed the Board of a recent school speaker, Matthew R. Kay, founder of Science Leadership Academy;*
 - iv. *Shared with the Board highlights from the Philadelphia School Experience Survey;*
 - v. *Shared school data with the Board regarding compliance matters, including various PD events, CPR/First Aid, FOCUS training, Handle with Care, and others;*
 - vi. *Shared with the Board mission focused initiatives, such as Hovercraft project and Wild Things Preserve Partnership; and*
 - vii. *Shared athletics updates, including for soccer and volleyball.*

C. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS CEO

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn, CEO of APS*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2023 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
- b. *Scott Kramer, CTO of APS*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2023 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*

- ii. *Shared and discussed with the Board the Temple Residency Program, noting the school used to participate years prior; it was a program where a student is mentored by a teacher while they are getting their master's degree; and that the cost would be ~\$30k to the school with the student needing to commit for 3-years.*
- iii. *Shared with the Board the employee referral program for non-employees policy;*
- iv. *Shared recent handbook presentations with the school, and that the talent team is assisting the school's certification process; and*
- v. *Informed the Board of the Talent Team Partnership Updates, including discussions with Chestnut Hill College, Holy Family University, Neumann University, and Penn State*
- c. *Ms. Kristine Magargee, CAO of APS*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the September 2023 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board; and*
 - ii. *Shared and discussed with the Board ELA Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment updates.*

D. BUSINESS CONTROLLER

- a. *Mr. Peter Costa, Santilli & Thomson*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the August 2023 financial reports;*
 - ii. *Informed the Board that the school had ~\$2M cash, representing 28 days;*
 - iii. *Informed the Board that the State budget had still not been signed; and*
 - iv. *Reminded the Board that once ESSER budget was gone there would be a deficit.*

E. GENERAL COUNSEL

- a. *Dean Krebs, Esq.*
 - i. *Reviewed the agenda with the Board; and*
 - ii. *Informed the Board of recently created education commission that is taking public feedback for developing new framework for education funding.*

SECTION III: OLD BUSINESS

NONE

SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

MOTION:

R230920.03 Report of the Business Controller

ANITA
VEGA-
KAISER

SECOND:

LIONEL
ARCHER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

MOTION:

LIONEL
ARCHER

SECOND:

ANITA
VEGA-
KAISER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

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

R230920.04 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/RATE CHANGE		
NAME	TITLE	START DATE
Amael Abdallah (new hire)	Instructional Assistant (ES)	9/6/23
Michael Johnson (new hire)	Classroom Teacher (ES) - 7th Grade Math	9/11/23
Narberth Rice (new hire)	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Liaison (HS)	9/6/23
Eugenia White (new hire)	Executive Assistant to the CEO (ES/HS)	8/21/23
Dalena Burry (position/rate change)	Interim Sub for Nermein AbdelSalam (ES)	9/7/23
Alice Moratti (certification stipend)	Classroom Teacher (ES) 4th Grade	8/21/23

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS / LOA		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Regina Beideman (resignation)	Instructional Assistant (ES)	8/14/23
Eric Wetzell (termination)	Maintenance Support (ES/HS)	8/10/23
Stephanie Kull (LOA)	Classroom Teacher (ES) - 3rd Grade	8/28/23 – 11/13/23
Nermein AbdelSalam (LOA)	Classroom Teacher (ES) - Kindergarten	9/22/23 – 12/15/23

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
<i>N. Wimberly</i>	<i>Shared information regarding HR changes</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOTION:

LIONEL
ARCHER

SECOND:

ANITA
VEGA-
KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

R230920.05 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.

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
Withum	\$32,750	Annual financial auditor
Charter School Services, LLC	Daily Substitutes: \$300/day Long Term Substitutes: \$350/day	2023-24 SY Staffing Services
GHR Education	Paraprofessional: \$30/hr RBT: \$43/hr Program Advisor: \$89/hr RN: \$60/hr LPN: \$50/hr CSN: \$68/hr	2023-24 SY Staffing Services Amendment to add/modify current services
Kokua Education	Daily Guest Teacher: \$293/day Long-Term Guest Teacher: \$348/day	2023-2024 Staffing Services

	Half-Day Guest Teacher: \$164/day	
	Excess Hours: \$55/hr	

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

NONE

R230920.06 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:

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

MOTION:

LIONEL
ARCHER

SECOND:

ANITA
VEGA-
KAISER

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

R230920.07 Temple Teacher Residency MOU

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School authorizes and directs the CEO, Business Controller, and General Counsel to negotiate terms and conditions for the Temple Teacher Residency MOU, as presented.

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

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

MOTION:

R230920.08. Certified Teacher Referral Program for Non Employees

LIONEL ARCHER

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School approve the certified teacher referral program for non-employees, as presented.

SECOND:

RONALD WHITAKER

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

UPON MOTION BY LIONEL ARCHER AND SECOND BY ANITA VEGA-KAISER, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PURPOSES UNDER 65 PA.C.S. 708(A)(4). SPECIFICALLY, TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION R230920.09 BELOW WHICH RELATES TO AN ALLEGED COMPENSATORY EDUCATION CLAIM.

UPON MOTION BY LIONEL ARCHER AND SECOND BY ANITA VEGA-Kaiser, the Board unanimously voted to enter into OPEN SESSION.

MOTION:

R230920.09 Approval of Confidential Settlement and Trust Agreement re: Student No. 10026862

LIONEL ARCHER

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Tacony Academy Charter School ratifies and approves of the Confidential Settlement and Trustee Agreement re: Student No. 10026862, as presented.

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

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: OCTOBER 18, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:24PM

MOTION:

LIONEL ARCHER

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

230920