

## Thursday, October 9, 2014 Minutes

MEETING PLACE: 675 E. Broad St., Bethlehem, PA 18018

Room 118

6:00pm

**The President will call the meeting to order.**

- I. Pledge of Allegiance:
- II. Moment of Silence:
- III. Roll Call:

Present

Mario Acerra

Yvette Johnson

Len Perrett

Paul Braden

Nancy Mikkelsen

Charles Stinner

Mark Ferguson

William Moran

John Filipos

Absent:

Marc Basist

Rosemary Murdy-Haber Otto Ehram

Also Present:

Diane LaBelle, Executive Director

Carise Comstock, Dean of Academic Affairs

Debra Storm, Director of Development

Randy Buck, Dean of Student Services

Sharon Fehlinger-Ricker, Principal

AJ Kise, Director of Special Education

IV. **Executive Session:**

**Motion:** The Board of Directors moves to go into Executive Session at 6:10 pm.

**MM: Mikkelsen**

**SM: Braden**

**MOTION CARRIED: 9-0**

Mario Acerra-yes

Paul Braden-yes

Mark Ferguson-yes

John Filipos-yes

Yvette Johnson -yes

Nancy Mikkelsen-yes

William Moran -yes

Len Perrett-yes

Charles Stinner-yes

V. **Open Session:**

The Board of Directors returns to Open Session at 6:25 pm.

Opening Remarks –

- Mr. Acerra, Board President –Congratulations to the Principal and Dean of Academic and Curricular Instruction for the improved scores on the School Performance Profile. Mr. Acerra expressed the appreciation of the Board members for all of the work being done to help students be successful at Charter Arts.
- Ms. Diane LaBelle, Executive Director –
  - Welcome to our new Director of Special Education, Mr. AJ Kise who officially his tenure at Charter Arts on October 6.
  - Ms. LaBelle reported on the excitement surrounding the visit from Governor and Mrs. Corbett and the RACP grant received from the Commonwealth of PA for \$1 million. Thank you to faculty, staff, students and board members for helping to show the success of Charter Arts to Governor and Mrs. Corbett and all of the visitors to the school for the press conference.
  - Ms. LaBelle also referred to the report she distributed with the minutes from her meeting with BASD Superintendent, Joe Roy. Dr. Roy outlined his plan to provide oversight to Charter schools that will aid him in complying with requests from PDE for approvals of charter school reports. Board members asked if Dr. Roy was implementing the oversight with only Charter Arts or all charter schools. Ms. LaBelle replied that Dr. Roy stated BASD is the sponsoring district for 3 charter schools and all will be monitored in a similar manner. For Charter Arts, Dr. Dean Donaher has scheduled an appointment to meet with Ms. LaBelle on October 30 to

Administration

discuss “Governance and Staffing”, one of the items in the Charter School Annual Report. Dr. Roy explained that Dr. Donaher will meet with Ms. LaBelle or another member of the admin team once a month as well as attend board meetings. Ms. LaBelle expressed her willingness to give a tour or meet with any member of BASD to review Charter Arts annual report and all are welcome to board meetings.

- Executive Director’s Report see separate report. Ms. LaBelle asked if there were questions and there were none.

VI. **Public Comments:** (limited to 3 minutes per individual) none

VII. Acceptance of **Consent Agenda Items:**

- i. Acceptance of August 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- ii. Facility and Safety Report - Filchner
- iii. Development Report - Storm
- iv. Public Relations Report - Gillette
- v. Principal’s Report – Fehlinger-Ricker
- vi. Dean of Academic Affairs – Comstock
- vii. Dean of Student Affairs - Buck

**MM: Stinner**

Mario Acerra-yes  
Yvette Johnson -yes  
Len Perrett-yes

**SM: Mikkelsen**

Paul Braden-yes  
Nancy Mikkelsen -yes  
Charles Stinner-yes

**MOTION CARRIED: 9-0**

Mark Ferguson-yes John Filipos-yes  
William Moran -yes

VIII. Personnel Report and Update to 2014-2015 Staff Roster

**Approval of October 2014 Personnel Report.**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Executive Director and the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors approves the October 2014 Personnel Report.

**MM: Braden**

Mario Acerra-yes  
Yvette Johnson -yes  
Len Perrett-yes

**SM: Ferguson**

Paul Braden-yes  
Nancy Mikkelsen-yes  
Charles Stinner -yes

**MOTION CARRIED: 9-0**

Mark Ferguson-yes John Filipos-yes  
William Moran -yes

IX. Foundation Board Liaison Report – Mr. Mark Ferguson

Mr. Ferguson deferred to Ms. LaBelle for the report. Ms. LaBelle reported that the Foundation Board meeting occurred an hour following the visit of Governor and Mrs. Corbett. All Foundation Board members expressed excitement and gratitude to the Commonwealth and the Governor for the RACP grant of \$1 million. The major topics of the meeting centered on the upcoming fundraiser of the Whiskey Dinner at the Lehigh Country Club on October 23, 2014 and the discussion concerning a date to host a “Hard Hat Tour” at the new building site.

X. **Old Business None.**

XI. **New Business**

Finance Committee

**Acceptance of August 2014 Financial Reports**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Directors accepts the August 2014 Financial Reports.

**MM: Braden**

Mario Acerra-yes  
Yvette Johnson -yes  
Len Perrett-yes

**SM: Braden**

Paul Braden-yes  
Nancy Mikkelsen-yes  
Charles Stinner -yes

**MOTION CARRIED: 9-0**

Mark Ferguson-yes John Filipos-yes  
William Moran -yes

Administration

Curriculum Committee

**Approval of IU 20 IDEA Contract**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Executive Director and the Principal, the Board of Directors approves the IU 20 IDEA Contract.

<b>MM: Perrett</b>	<b>SM: Ferguson</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED: 9-0</b>	
Mario Acerra-yes	Paul Braden-yes	Mark Ferguson-yes	John Filipos-yes
Yvette Johnson -yes	Nancy Mikkelsen-yes	William Moran -yes	
Len Perrett-yes	Charles Stinner -yes		

**Approval of 2014-2015 Student Clubs**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Executive Director and the Principal, the Board of Directors approves the 2014-2015 Student Clubs.

<b>MM: Stinner</b>	<b>SM: Mikkelsen</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED: 9-0</b>	
Mario Acerra-yes	Paul Braden-yes	Mark Ferguson-yes	John Filipos-yes
Yvette Johnson -yes	Nancy Mikkelsen-yes	William Moran -yes	
Len Perrett-yes	Charles Stinner -yes		

**Approval of Literary Arts Major**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee, Executive Director, and the Principal, the Board of Directors approves the Literary Arts major.

Mr. Perrett introduced English teacher, Mr. Paul Walsh, to discuss the plan and work completed to date to implement a Literary Arts major. Mr. Walsh explained that the curriculum will focus on the creative aspects of the spoken word, scriptwriting, film, poetry and his excitement in being able to solidify the academic nature of this major that will encourage literature not offered in other schools, but one that is requested from students. Mr. Walsh has worked with Mrs. Fehlinger-Ricker and Mrs. Comstock on the outline of the curriculum, assessments and development. Mr. Perrett explained the role of the Curriculum Committee in the planning and development. The process for adding additional majors to the curriculum began with the Strategic Planning sessions in 2010 and has involved faculty, parent and board input. The program would begin with the 2015-2016 school year.

<b>MM: Perrett</b>	<b>SM: Filipos</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED: 10-0</b>	
Mario Acerra-yes	Paul Braden-yes	Mark Ferguson-yes	John Filipos-yes
Rosemary Murdy-Haber-yes	Yvette Johnson -yes	Nancy Mikkelsen-yes	William Moran -yes
Len Perrett-yes	Charles Stinner -yes		

**Ms. Murdy-Haber arrived at the meeting at 6:55pm.**

**Approval of Trips**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Executive Director and the Principal, the Board of Directors approves the following trips:

Dance Festival, Norfolk, VA. March 4-8, 2015

National Music Festival, Nashville, TN, October 25-30, 2015

<b>MM: Stinner</b>	<b>SM: Braden</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED: 10-0</b>	
Mario Acerra-yes	Paul Braden-yes	Mark Ferguson-yes	John Filipos-yes
Rosemary Murdy-Haber-yes	Yvette Johnson -yes	Nancy Mikkelsen-yes	William Moran -yes
Len Perrett-yes	Charles Stinner -yes		

Administration

Board Development Committee –Ms. Johnson has a candidate from Easton Hospital she is interviewing as a potential board member candidate.

Executive Committee

**Proposed By-Law Changes (First Reading)-**

Ms. Johnson reviewed the changes made to the By-laws that include:

- Change of school name to reflect the elimination of Performing
- Update the mission to reflect mission statement changes in the Strategic Planning sessions.
- Correct the titles of administrators, Dean of Academic and Curricular Instruction and Dean of Student Services.
- Eliminate outdated terms such as “telegraph”, etc.
- Clarify the importance of attending board meetings as the board members are not able to vote via proxy and input from all board members is important.

Second reading and vote on amendments to By-Laws will be held at December 2014 board meeting.

XII. **Public Comments:** (limited to 3 minutes per individual)

XIII. **Adjournment**

<b>Motion to adjourn: MM: Ferguson</b>	<b>SM:Johnson</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED: 10-0</b>	
Mario Acerra-yes	Paul Braden-yes	Mark Ferguson-yes	John Filipos-yes
Rosemary Murdy-Haber-yes	Yvette Johnson -yes	Nancy Mikkelsen-yes	William Moran -yes
Len Perrett-yes	Charles Stinner -yes		

**Next Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, December 11, 2014, 6pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane LaBelle  
CEO and Executive Director