

## Thursday, February 11, 2021 Minutes ZOOM MEETING

MEETING PLACE: 321 E. Third St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

6:00pm

The President called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

I. Pledge of Allegiance:

II. Moment of Silence:

III. Roll Call:

Present:

Mario Acerra

Cheryl Mueller

Len Perrett

Paul Braden

Rosemary Murdy-Haber

Frank Shipman

John Filipos

Norma Nunez-Ruch

Margaret Smith

Absent:

Jasmine Woodson

Present from Administration:

Carise Comstock, Superintendent and CEO

MaryJo Rosania-Harvie, Co-Principal

Roobhenn Smith, Instr. Curr Dev.

Lauren Sheldon, Co-Principal

Cheryl Schurz, Director of Finance

#### IV. Executive Session:

**Motion:** The Board of Directors moves to go into Executive Session at 6:04pm for Personnel, Legal, and Property discussion.

**MM:Shipman**

**SM: Filipos**

**ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9, No-0, Abstentions-0**

#### V. Open Session:

The Board of Directors returns to Open Session at 6:21pm.

##### Opening Remarks –

Mr. Acerra, Board President

President Acerra thanked the teachers and staff for the excellent job with remote teaching. The performances are wonderful. President Acerra expressed his confidence in the Administration to make the correct determination as to when and how to bring the students back into the building.

Dr. Carise Comstock, Superintendent and CEO.

Dr. Comstock reported that mid-year student surveys went out this week. Mid-year employee surveys also went out this week. Parent mid-year surveys will go out soon. Dr. Comstock will report on the surveys at the April Board meeting.

Dr. Comstock attended a PDE Health and Safety Update remote meeting. PDE is prioritizing elementary school students return first. Return of students is being phased in by grades.

Dr. Comstock said the vaccine program is currently vaccinating individuals in Phase 1A. Educators are in Phase 1B.

Dr. Comstock reported the infection rate is declining. After 2 weeks of moderate infection, Charter Arts will resume in person instruction using the Hybrid Model.

Dr. Comstock is working with the school's solicitor revising the ByLaws.

Dr. Comstock discussed the updated School Calendar 2020-2021. The update will recover hours of instruction by eliminating final exams. The final week of school will be makeup/recovery week.

**VI. Public Comments:** (limited to 3 minutes per individual)  
Karen Kosinski, Parent from Salisbury SD, said she has concerns for students and asked the Administration to consider returning students. She is most concerned about the social and emotional impact on the students while they are remote learning.

**VII. Acceptance of Consent Agenda Item**  
i. Acceptance of December 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes  
ii. Co-Principal's Report - Rosania-Harvie/Sheldon  
iii. Facility and Safety Report - Filchner  
iv. Grant Report - Theodore  
v. Public Relations Report - Gillette  
vi. Technology Report - Levernier

**MM: Filipos SM: Nunez-Ruch ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9,No-0,Abstentions-0**

**VIII. Personnel Report**  
**Approval of February 2021 Personnel Report**  
**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO and the Co-Principals, the Board of Directors approves the February 2021 Personnel Report.

**MM: Perrett SM: Murdy-Haber ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9,No-0,Abstentions-0**

**IX. Charter Arts Foundation**  
**Foundation Report - Mr. Shipman**  
Mr. Shipman reported that the Foundation Fundraising Committee has met 3 times since December 10 to work on fundraising ideas.

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO, the Board of Directors accepts the resignations of David Olson and Danielle Kulnis.

**MM: Shipman SM: Smith ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9,No-0,Abstentions-0**

**X. Old Business**  
**Approval of Updated Policy 008a:**  
**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO and the Co-Principals, the Board of Directors approve the following policy:

Policy 008a Organizational Chart

**MM: Filipos SM: Nunez-Ruch ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9,No-0,Abstentions-0**

**XI. New Business**  
Finance Committee  
**Acceptance of December 2020 Financial Reports**  
**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Directors accepts the December 2020 Financial Reports.

**MM: Finance Committee ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9,No-0,Abstentions-0**

**Approval of Contracts:**  
**CSI International - Revised Contract**  
**Josten - Revised Contract**  
**Legath Lawn and Landscaping, LLC**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO, the Board of Directors approves the above contracts.

**MM: Perrett SM: Filipos ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9,No-0,Abstentions-0**

Resource Development  
President Acerra expressed his intent to re-vitalize the Committee. President Acerra appointed Frank Shipman as Committee Chair. The Committee will meet with Dr. Comstock and the new Dir. of Institutional Advancement.

Board Development Committee

Rev. Braden thanked Mrs. Smith for her work on revising the ByLaws.

Rev. Braden would like to bring on 2 more Board members (total of 12). Please contact Rev. Braden with potential Board candidates.

Curriculum Committee

**Approval of Spanish Honor Society Club.**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO and the Co-Principals, the Board of Directors approves the Spanish Honor Society.

**MM: Curriculum Committee**

**ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9, No-0, Abstentions-0**

**Approval of the Updated School Calendar 20-21**

**Motion:** Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO and the Co-Principals, the Board of Directors approves the Updated School Calendar 20-21.

**MM: Curriculum Committee**

**ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9, No-0, Abstentions-0**

Executive Committee

**First Reading of Revised ByLaws**

The ByLaws have been thoroughly reviewed. The Board will vote on the revised ByLaws at the April 2021 meeting.

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

Sarah Nicholas, Parent from East Penn SD, asked about guidelines and considerations for returning to hybrid learning. She said virtual learning is stressful for students and she is concerned that the mental health impact of virtual learning is not being addressed.

Robyn Petrie said in the zoom chat that she agrees with Sarah Nicholas.

Kelly Armke said in the zoom chat that she agrees with Sarah Nicholas.

**XIII. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn 7:15pm MM: Filipos SM: Smith ACTION CARRIED: Yes-9, No-0, Abstentions-0**

**Next Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, April 8, 2021, 6pm, ZOOM meeting.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Cheryl Schurz  
Board Secretary**