

Thursday, April 7, 2022

School Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING PLACE: 321 E. Third St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 @ 6:00pm

The President called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

I. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

II. Board Member Roll Call

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mario Acerra <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Braden <input type="checkbox"/> John Filipos	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Mueller <input type="checkbox"/> Rosemary Murdy-Haber <input type="checkbox"/> Norma Nunez-Ruch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Len Perrett <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Shipman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margaret Smith <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jasmine Woodson
<p>Administration:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carise Comstock, Superintendent & CEO <input type="checkbox"/> Dina Kovats-Bernat, Director of Institutional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Levernier, Interim Principal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Schurz, Director of Finance & Board Secretary		

III. Executive Session:

Motion: The Board of Directors moves to go into Executive Session at 6:07pm for Personnel, Legal, and Property discussion.

MM: Braden

SM: Perrett

Motion Carried: Yes-6, No-0, Abstentions-0

IV. Open Session:

The Board of Directors returns to Open Session at 6:33 pm.

Opening Remarks:

Mr. Acerra, Board President

President Acerra thanked the Board and he is grateful to the Board for all their support to Charter Arts.

Dr. Carise Comstock, Superintendent & CEO

Dr. Comstock reported that Northampton Area School District approved our charter renewal for 5 years. The Gala of Dreams was a lovely event and the students' performances were outstanding. Charter Arts is sending out a family communication as tomorrow (4/8/22) will be a Flexible Instructional Day as we do not have enough sub coverage tomorrow. The school will reopen after spring break (4/19/22). Acceptance letters have been mailed to incoming 22-23 students.

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

Margo Ging, a former dance teacher, read a statement to the Board regarding her termination on 2/24/22 related to an incident with a student on 2/10/22.

Christina Williams, Charter Arts parent from East Penn School District, stated she appreciates the Board's swift action concerning the allegations in February 2022. Students who have experienced sexual harrasment and LGBT discrimination are at a high risk of suicide and homelessness. Charter Arts staff has been educated and their knowledge makes a difference for Charter Arts students.

VI. Acceptance of Consent Agenda Items:

Acceptance of February 10, 2022 Minutes
Interim Principal and Departmental Reports
Operations Report (Facilities, Safety, Grants, Media, Technology)
Superintendent & CEO Report

Motion: The Board of Directors approves the Consent Agenda.

MM: Woodson SM: Smith Motion Carried: Yes-6,No-0,Abstentions-0

VII. Personnel Report

Approval of April 2022 Personnel Report.

Motion: Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO, the Board of Directors approves the April 2022 Personnel Report.

MM: Smith SM: Braden Motion Carried: Yes-6,No-0,Abstentions-0

VII. Foundation Report

Acceptance of Michelle Landis resignation from the Charter Arts Foundation Board.

Motion: Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO, the Board of Directors accepts the resignation of Michelle Landis from the Charter Arts Foundation Board.

MM: Braden SM: Perrett Motion Carried: Yes-6,No-0,Abstentions-0

VIII. Committee Reports

[Finance Committee report by John Filipos](#)

Acceptance of February 2022 Financial Reports.

Charter Arts Mission Statement: *Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts provides a unique environment that fosters a creative, academic approach to learning and a development of talent in the arts. Built upon passion, discipline and a commitment to excellence this integrated educational experience inspires all students to believe in themselves and what they can accomplish.*

Motion: Based upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Directors accepts the February 2022 Financial Reports.

MM: Finance Committee Motion Carried: Yes-6, No-0, Abstentions-0

[Resource Development Committee report by Nunez-Ruch](#) No report.

[Board Development Committee report by Paul Braden](#) No report.

[Curriculum Committee report by Len Perrett](#)

Our last Curriculum Committee agenda included graduation, artistic retreat, Keystone Exams, and Production Arts curriculum.

Approval of New Students Clubs

Motion: Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO and the Interim Principal, the Board of Directors the following new Student Clubs.

- Arts Acapella
- Just Checkin' In!
- Rock Performance

MM: Perrett SM: Braden Motion Carried: Yes-6, No-0, Abstentions-0

IX. Old business None

X. New business

Approval of Contracts

Motion: Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO, the Board of Directors approve the following Contracts:

- Executive Security Services - approved pending date change ending 2/21/23.
- Dr. Frank Dattilio
- Palmeri Transportation

MM: Smith SM: Woodson Motion Carried: Yes-6, No-0, Abstentions-0

Approval of Employee Overnight Trip

Motion: Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO, the Board of Directors approve Mrs. Ann Marie Squerrini who attended the PDE Data Summit as our student PIMS Coordinator in Hershey, PA, March 21-March 23, 2022.

MM: Braden SM: Smith Motion Carried: Yes-6, No-0, Abstentions-0

Approval of KingSpry as Independent Investigator

Motion: Based upon the recommendation of the School Board President, the Board of Directors approves the appointment of KingSpry as the Independent Investigator for allegations raised in the student-generated document from February 15, 2022.

MM: Acerra

SM: Braden

Motion Carried: Yes-6,No-0,Abstentions-0

Approval of Updated Board Policies

Motion: Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent & CEO, the Board of Directors approves the following updated Board Policies.

→ 610: Purchase Subject to Bid Quotation

→ 611: Purchases Budgeted

→ 612: Purchase Not Budgeted

→ 626a: Federal Procurement Programs

MM: Smith

SM: Perrett

Motion Carried: Yes-6,No-0,Abstentions-0

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

Alexandra Avila, Charter Arts parent from East Penn School District,, commented that the “Independent Investigator” is also the school’s solicitor. The conflict of interest creates confusion as to whether the investigation is really “independent”.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:05pm.

MM: Perrett

SM: Braden

Motion Carried: Yes-6,No-0,Abstentions-0

Next Meeting: May 12, 2022, 6pm, (Reorganization Meeting)

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Schurz, Board Secretary

