

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

7:00 p.m., May 18, 2021

Date of Approval: Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Call to Order: The Board of Trustees for the Chester Charter Scholars Academy held a public Board Meeting in Chester, PA on May 18, 2021. The meeting convened at 7:02 pm. An Executive Session took place in advance of the public Board Meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters. Members of the Board in attendance (at the time of the call to order): President Barbara Klock, Ben Berger, Don Delson, Marilyn Henkelman, Ellen Milgrim, Judy Owen, Alice Turbiville, Ian Wilcox, Head of School/CEO Akosua Watts and Jennifer Camp, acting as secretary. Absent: Ramona Jones, Dion Lewis, Joan Richards. All in attendance participated via video call.

Public Comments: No comment. Members of the public present: Mandy Kennedy (board member, CCSA Foundation), Trish Adams, Frances Hoover.

Approval of Minutes

- The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting of the Chester Charter Scholars Academy Board of Trustees.
 - o Motion – Don Delson
 - o Second – Marilyn Henkelman
 - o Ayes: 9 Nays: 0 Absent: 3

President's Report

Barbara Klock (President)

- Don Delson updated the group on the following topics:
 - o Endowment Campaign
 - A press release went out on Monday May 17, 2021 announcing CCSA Foundation's Endowment Campaign: *CCSA K through Life*.
 - The head of school position was officially named the "Joan K. Richards Head of School/CEO" after Joan Richards, in honor of her \$1M gift to the endowment campaign.
 - The Annual Fund was officially renamed The CCSA Fund.
 - o CUSD
 - The district received three submissions – from schools in Arkansas and Washington DC, as well as Chester Community Charter School – to take over the management of the remaining K-8 public schools in the district.
 - The Public Interest Law Center is representing parents from CUSD.
 - o Settlement Agreement
 - Chester Community Charter School went to the Court of Common Pleas to petition the legality of the settlement agreement.
 - Summarized document from Charter Choices outlining reimbursement rates if CCSA remains within the bounds of the settlement agreement, as well as if they operate outside the bounds.

- Recommendation is that CCSA take no official position on the matter.

Committee Reports

Nominating and Governance, Ben Berger (co-chair)

- Reviewed the status of three potential board candidates:
 - Pam Greenblatt
 - Zack Oberfield (would like to serve on a committee for a year before considering joining)
 - Tom Parker (would like to spend another year as non-board member finance committee member before considering joining)
- Motion to accelerate the invitation process for Pam Greenblatt.
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Ben Berger – second

Finance Committee, Alice Turbiville (Finance Committee, Chair)

- Update on current Fiscal Year Budget
 - Because of government proceeds revenue is at an all-time high.
 - Portion of ESSER funds will be used for additional support structures.
 - PPP loan was fully forgiven.
- Preview of next year's budget
 - Enrollment is expected to be the same.
 - ESSER funds will be utilized.
 - The full budget for Foundation contributions has been included.
 - No major personnel adjustments: salary increases continue at historic rate of increase
 - Expected revenue is \$13M.
- Proposed resolution
 - For the current fiscal year budget the Finance Committee recommends that unrestricted gifts from CCSA Foundation received through June 30, 2021 should be allocated to CCSA Foundation's Board-Designated Endowment Fund in anticipation of future use for the school
- Motion to approve the unrestricted funds resolution.
 - Motion - Don Delson
 - Second – Ian Wilcox

Academic Excellence Committee, (Academic Excellence Marilyn Henkelman, Chair)

- Marilyn provided brief overview of standardized tests historically.
- Ellen provided an overview of Pennsylvania standardized tests and changes made to standardized testing in the state over the last year.
- Akosua gave update on recent PSSA testing at CCSA.

School Report

Akosua Watts (Head of School/CEO)

- Health and Safety
 - There have been a few cases of Covid; protocols surrounding the responses have been efficient and classes transitioned to remote learning when necessary.
 - Safe senior prom: all students were tested two weeks before prom as well as the day before. A similar approach will occur for the 8th and 9th grade formal.
- Academics
 - Currently planning a summer program: mandatory in-person attendance will be required of incoming K and new First Grade students, as well those students who are struggling most.
 - Other students may attend virtually or in-person, space permitting.
- Graduation
 - Scheduled for June 16 and will be held outside in CCSA parking lot.

- o There may be four to five students who will not walk on time. Currently working on getting those students caught up so they can receive diplomas in August.
- College Applications
 - o 49 seniors have submitted 299 college applications (approximately six applications per students) and applied to 81 different colleges/universities.

Motion to adjourn – Barbara Klock

- o Ben Berger – second
 - o Ayes: 9 Nays: 0 Absent: 3

Date of Next Schedule Public Board Meeting: June 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Jennifer Camp, (serving as secretary)