

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

7:00 p.m., March 16, 2021

Date of Approval: Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Call to Order: The Board of Trustees for the Chester Charter Scholars Academy held a public Board Meeting in Chester, PA on March 16, 2021. The meeting convened at 6:58 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, Dion Lewis, Ellen Milgrim, Judy Owen, Alice Turbiville, Ian Wilcox, Head of School/CEO Akosua Watts and Jennifer Camp, acting as secretary. Absent: Ramona Jones, Joan Richards. All in attendance participated via video call.

Public Comments: No comment. Members of the public present: Amy Komarnicki, Director of Development, CCSA Foundation.

Approval of Minutes

- The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting of the Chester Charter Scholars Academy Board of Trustees.
 - Motion – Donald Delson
 - Second – Ian Wilcox
 - Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

President's Report

Barbara Klock (President)

- Moment for Mission – Amy Komarnicki shared her history with and passion for CCSA.
- Discussed the style of the board meetings, encouraged members to speak out with questions and reiterated the need to hear all voices.
- COVID update – the CDC may issue a new order mandating a 3-foot distance instead of a 6-foot distance.
- Summarized a Delco Times Article regarding an RFP submitted in the Chester Upland School District.

CCSA Foundation Update

Amy Komarnicki (Director of Development, CCSA Foundation)

- Gave an update on quarterly goals and current foundation applications.
- Reminded the members the foundation will be reaching out regarding endowment giving.

- Invited the group to the next session of "Step Into Our Studio," on Thursday, March 19 at 5:00 p.m., the focus of which is Blackout Poetry.

Committee Reports

Nominating and Governance, Ben Berger and Dion Lewis (co-chairs)

- Joint Meeting with Foundation Board
 - The joint meeting will take place on April 21, 2021, 6-7:30 pm.
 - The two main agenda items are: build connections and establish social capital; and collaborating on the CCSA "elevator pitch."
 - An in-person joint meeting will potentially take place in August depending on the state of vaccinations, etc. (Update post meeting: retreat will be in the fall)
- Board Candidates
 - Two candidates, Tom Parker and Zack Oberfeld, were put forward for consideration as potential board members, or for consideration in other roles.
 - Tom Parker is a retired banker and credit officer, currently serving as a non-board member of the Finance Committee.
 - Zachary Oberfeld is a professor at Haverford College, specializing in education and charter schools.

Finance Committee, Alice Turbiville (Finance Committee, Chair)

- No change from last month, will review the budget in more detail as the year end approaches.
- The Foundation is streamlining its relationship with Charter Choices regarding reporting and processes.
- Received first draft of next year's budget. The plan is to go through it line by line at the next committee meeting and present it to the board at the May meeting.
- Reported on highlights from the S&P Meeting:
 - The report showed stable operations despite the pandemic: economic surplus, reduced expenditures, and operational stability. The only detractors were the financial condition of CUSD and the controversy around special education funding in PA.
 - It is possible we'll see an increased rating.
- There was a brief discussion around the allocation of the annual fund this year during the pandemic and the relationship to the Board Designated Endowment Fund
 - It was recommended that leadership consult with Charter Choices concerning the above.
 - The Foundation may rename the Annual Fund.

School Report

Akosua Watts (Head of School/CEO)

- In-Person Instruction
 - The school began full-fledged in-person instruction on March 15. The two weeks prior allowed those who required extra support to get acclimated as well as allowing staff a week to prepare before all students returned.
- Seniors
 - Seniors continue to receive college acceptances.
 - CCSA's College and Career Readiness Coordinator has been doing a wonderful job.
 - Seniors are currently preparing for their spring senior projects.
 - Graduation will take place outdoors at CCSA on June 16.
- Celebrations

- o Working on creating opportunities for celebratory events: senior picnic, 8th grade dance, prom. These events would include students from last year whose celebrations were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Motion to adjourn – Ben Berger

- o Ellen Milgrim – second
- o Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

Date of Next Schedule Public Board Meeting: May 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Jennifer Camp, (serving as secretary)