

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

Date of Approval: Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Call to Order: The Board of Trustees for the Chester Charter Scholars Academy held a public Board Meeting in Chester, PA on February 16, 2021. The meeting convened at 6:57 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 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: Christopher Hanlon, Executive Director, CCSA Foundation.

Approval of Minutes

- The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting of the Chester Charter Scholars Academy Board of Trustees.
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Alice Turbiville
 - Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

President's Report

Barbara Klock (President)

- Moment for Mission
 - Judy Owen summarized her recent work with CCSA's Health Sciences program.
- CSP Grant Update
 - The committee exploring this opportunity came to the conclusion that CCSA should not apply for the CSP grant.
- Regional Covid Update
 - Reviewed the COVID-19 numbers for Delaware County.
- School Funding Plan

- Provided overview of possibility that Governor Wolf's will change the law regarding special education funding and charter schools. If the law changes it could impact CCSA's finances in the future. Board members were directed to check out the PA state website to read more about it.

CCSA Foundation Update

Chris Hanlon (Executive Director, CCSA Foundation)

- Invited the board to the next session of "Step Into Our Studio," which will focus on blackout poetry and is scheduled for March 18. Encouraged board members to bring friends to this event.
- The foundation's next fundraiser will be the Spring Appeal letter.
- The foundation website will go live March 1 and will be featured as part of the school website under a giving section.

Committee Reports

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

- Joint Events with CCSA Foundation Board
 - Met with Drew Schmidt from the Foundation board to plan for two joint events: a spring meet and greet and an in-person retreat in the fall of 2021.
 - The agenda for the spring event has three main agenda items: meet and greet; diversification of both boards; how to promote CCSA individually.
 - April 21st at 4:30 was the suggested date and time for the Spring event.
 - The board voted and agreed unanimously to accept that date.
- Surveys
 - Thanked the board for participating in the recent survey.
 - An issue that arose from the results was the need to hear all voices from amongst the members.
 - There was a brief discussion around various ways to implement mechanisms that allow all board members to speak.
- Board Candidates
 - New candidates will be discussed at the next committee meeting on Friday, February 19, 2021.

Finance Committee, Alice Turbiville (Finance Committee, Chair)

- Reviewed the January Financials.
- Shared that CCSA will receive between approximately \$1.2M-1.4M from the second-round distribution of The Cares Act.
- Discussed whether or not CCSA Foundation should make a contribution this year.
- Briefly reviewed the 2021 budget.

School Report

Akosua Watts (Head of School/CEO)

- Asked the board to approve of an updated version of the Children’s Internet Protection Act.
 - Motion to adopt – Don Delson
 - Second - Marilyn Henkelman
 - Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Absent: 2
- Vaccine Information Session
 - Provided overview of the informational session hosted by CCSA featuring Dr. Florencia Polite and Dr. Barbara Klock.
- Senior Acceptances
 - Currently 79 acceptances to 38 different institutions among 20 students.
- College and Career Readiness
 - Held Senior Information Night where families were advised on making multi-year plans, how to understand award letters, use of Naviance.
 - A meeting with families of Juniors to discuss the timeline for next year has been has scheduled.
 - Continuing with Life Class series with sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.
- In-Person Instruction Plan
 - Discussed three key dates: Feb 22, begins in-person instruction for K and Special Ed students of families that have opted in; March 8, remaining staff return; and March 15, the rest of first through twelfth grade students will return for families that have opted in.
 - Reviewed the number of students returning per grade level.
 - Teachers will continue to instruct online; students in the classrooms will work on their computers but will receive additional in-person support. New role of Instructional Support Aid has been created to fill this need.
 - Reviewed transportation logistics.
- ACE -It COVID Testing Program
 - CCSA is partnering with CHOP to administer rapid Covid-19 tests to faculty and select students through the Ace-It program.
 - Eleven staff members trained to be test proctors.
 - Testing details are still being finalized.

Motion to adjourn – Ben Berger

- Don Delson – second
 - Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

Date of Next Schedule Public Board Meeting: March 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Jennifer Camp, (serving as secretary)