

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

7:00 p.m., August 24, 2021

Date of Approval: Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Call to Order: The Board of Trustees for the Chester Charter Scholars Academy held a public Board Meeting in Chester, PA on August 24, 2021. The meeting convened at 7:03 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, Pam Greenblatt, Marilyn Henkelman, Frances Hoover, Mandy Kennedy, Judy Owen, Alice Turbiville, Head of School/CEO Akosua Watts, Trustee Emeritus Don Delson, and Jennifer Camp, acting as secretary. Absent: Ramona Jones, Dion Lewis, Joan Richards, Ian Wilcox. All in attendance participated via video call.

Public Comments: Member of public: Chris Hanlon, *Executive Director, CCSA Foundation*. No comments from the public.

Approval of Minutes

- The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes of the June 15, 2021 meeting of the Chester Charter Scholars Academy Board of Trustees
  - Motion – Marilyn Henkelman
  - Second – Judy Owen
  - Ayes: 8      Nays: 0      Absent: 4

President's Report

Barbara Klock (President)

- Induction of three new board members: Pam Greenblatt, Frances Hoover, Mandy Kennedy
  - Reading and recitation of the Swearing-In Oath
  - Introduction of all members
- Reviewed CCSA Annual Board Meeting Overview calendar

Committee Reports

Facilities, Don Delson (Facilities Committee, Chair) and Mandy Kennedy

- Update on modular spaces for math intervention
  - Working with construction company BSI and engineers Pennoni
  - Cost will be approximately \$440-450K over a two-year period
  - There is a three-year maximum term agreement with the City of Chester for placement of the modular spaces
  - Lead bond holder indicated approval for the project and advised moving forward with permit applications
  - CCSA Foundation will be the lessor of modular units; CCSA will indemnify the Foundation
  - Mike Whisman from Charter Choices is the financial advisor for the project

- Update on plan for post-modular building construction
  - Looking at approximately 4,000 square feet of space to work with
  - Tentative timeline of three years until move-in date

#### Nominating and Governance, Ben Berger (co-chair)

- Presented a succession plan timeline: Process Steps for Board Chair Role Profile Development and Candidate Slate Identification
  - Reviewed process steps in the plan
  - End goal is to present a slate of new candidates by January 2022
  - Discussion regarding increasing board number to maximum of fifteen members

#### Finance Committee, Alice Turbiville (Finance Committee, Chair)

- Reviewed highlights from the last year for new board members
- Overview of general calendar and Work Plan Topics
  - Use of ESSR funds
  - Funding formula regarding proposed legislation about special education rates
  - Building expansion (long term impacts of expanding the building still need to be reviewed by the Finance Committee)
  - Long Range Planning will occur in the Fall
  - Annual review with bond holders
- Lease Amendment Resolution
  - Reading of the resolution
    - Motion to accept resolution – Alice Turbiville
    - Second - Marilyn Henkelman
      - Ayes: 8            Nays: 0            Absent: 4
- Discussion of new Receiver, Nafis Nichols

#### School Report

##### Akosua Watts (Head of School/CEO)

- Changes in Athletic Department
  - Discussion around removing membership in PIAA at the middle school level which would allow for more competitive play opportunities
  - PIAA requires a board resolution for a change in membership status
- Resolution of the Board of Trustees of CCSA Regarding Middle School Withdrawal from PIAA
  - Reading of the resolution
    - Motion to pass the resolution – Judy Owen
      - Second – Marilyn Henkelman
        - Ayes: 8            Nays: 0            Absent: 4
- Health and Safety
  - Planning for full in-person reopening and will continue that way unless mandated otherwise
  - Universal masking for all regardless of vaccination status
  - Planning to continue with Project ACE-It testing for staff, contingent upon oversight
  - Staff will work to maintain social distancing when reasonable
  - Daily symptom survey will be in effect for all staff
  - Staff will reinforce hygiene practice and proper mask wearing
  - Leadership is strongly encouraging vaccinations
  - The school held two community vaccine clinics in July and another on August 26
  - Infrastructure is in place in case there is the need to pivot to virtual learning
- Upcoming Events

- o Meet and Greet on August 26 – opportunity for families to come to the school and meet homeroom teachers, get oriented to the building, receive free book bags
- o Middle School Orientations will be held on August 27
- o First day of school is Monday, August 30
- o Back to School nights are September 14 and 21
- o Directed board to review the school calendar on website
- o Discussion about mandating vaccines for all adults working in the CCSA building

Motion to adjourn – Barbara Klock

- o Ben Berger – second
- o Ayes: 8      Nays: 0      Absent: 4

Date of Next Schedule Public Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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Jennifer Camp, (serving as secretary)