

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

Date of Approval: Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Call to Order: The Board of Trustees for the Chester Charter Scholars Academy held a public Board Meeting in Chester, PA on November 16, 2021. The meeting convened at 7:00 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, Judy Owen, Alice Turbiville, Ian Wilcox, Head of School/CEO Akosua Watts and Don Delson, Trustee Emeritus. Absent: Ramona Jones, Dion Lewis, Joan Richards. All in attendance participated via video call.

Public Comments: No comment. Members of the public present: Chris Hanlon, Executive Director, CCSA.

Approval of Minutes

- The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes of the September 21, 2021 meeting of the Chester Charter Scholars Academy Board of Trustees.
 - Motion – Mandy Kennedy
 - Second – Judy Owen
 - Ayes: 8 Nays: 0 Absent: 3

President's Report

Barbara Klock (President)

- By-Law Change
 - Reviewed the by-laws regarding board composition.
 - Motion to adopt 3.1 Composition – Marilyn Henkelman
 - Second – Pam Greenblatt
 - Ayes: 8 Nays: 0 Absent: 3
- Fair Funding lawsuit
 - Reviewed the claim that is the basis for the court case being led by Educational Law

Center and Melveny and Myers.

- Plaintiffs are six school districts: William Penn, Lancaster, Panther Valley, Shenandoah, Wilkes-Barre, Greater Johnston, as well as individual parents and families.
- Asking legislature to make changes and alter the Fair-Funding Formula.
- Succession Planning
 - Summarized the process for finding a new board chair.
 - Don Delson has agreed, pending approval by the board, to resume his position as president for one year only (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).
 - Brief discussion led by Ben Berger.
 - Motion to have Don Delson return as president for a one-year appointment during FY 22-23 – Barbara Klock
 - Second – Ben Berger
 - Ayes: 8 Nays: 0 Absent: 3

CCSA Foundation Update

Chris Hanlon, Executive Director CCSA Foundation

- Reported on the recent in-person event and subsequent donor follow-up.
- Ahead of where we were last year and expect to finish the calendar year in a good financial position. Also expect to be on target to raise \$1.5M by the end of the FY.
- Endowment funds will be close to \$5M by the end of the calendar year.
- The donor report and annual appeal letter are scheduled to go out at the beginning of December.

Committee Reports

Facilities Committee, Mandy Kennedy (Facilities Committee)

- Summarized meeting with Bob Linn, of Linn Architecture Firm.
- Shared the architectural rendering of two proposed building additions.
- Discussed pending approval of land extension.

Finance Committee, Alice Turbiville (Finance Committee, Chair)

- Overview of finance committee meetings
 - Scenarios regarding long-range projections
 - October Financial results
 - More special education students than originally budgeted.
 - Discussed funding for the modules.
 - Discussion of debt covenances cash projection
- Financial Projections Overview
 - Analysis of the building additions.
 - Awaiting approval on ESSR III (ARP ESSR) funding, which is approximately \$2.9M.
 - Endowment distribution rate and revenue.

- Reimbursement rates will be a factor when the settlement agreement expires.
- Analysis of re-financing bonds.

Nominating and Governance, Ben Berger (co-chair)

- Review of the key components of the Role of the Board President
 - Leading with strategic vision.
 - Effective board leadership.
 - Stakeholder engagement.
- Strategic Consultant
 - Developed RFI to hire consultant for six-month process in 2022 to help build a strategic plan.

School Report

Akosua Watts (Head of School/CEO)

- Enrollment
 - Provided overview of recent fluctuations regarding withdrawals and enrollments.
- Superintendent Visit
 - New Superintendent Craig Parkinson and staff recently toured the school.
- In-Person Showcase
 - Middle School students performed in a dance showcase on the evening of November 16, overseen by dance teacher Christina Brown.
- Middle School
 - MS team have strengthened pedagogic work, which has resulted in increased rigor and pride in academic work.
- Math Night
 - Math Intervention Team is hosting a family math night on November 17 to help families support their students at home with math. CCSA will provide incentives to families for showing up: pantry items, gift card for turkey, winter coats, diapers, and school supplies.
- On-site pediatric vaccine clinic
 - Working with several partners to potentially host another clinic.
- Philadelphia Union Foundation
 - Working with Paul Howard, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Union Foundation, on a mentoring program called I AM (Inspiration, Aspiration, Mentoring) consisting of multiple levels and serving students in grades seven to ten.
 - Program is exclusive to CCSA.
 - Students had to go through application and interview process to participate.
 - Program will launch on December 1.
- Modular Units
 - Box pieces were delivered and the installation process has begun.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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