

PHILADELPHIA PERFORMING ARTS: A STRING THEORY
CHARTER SCHOOL

1600 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

August 23, 2021

6:00 PM

LOCATION:

ZOOM

MINUTES

SECTION I: CALL TO ORDER AT 6:06 PM

A. Roll Call

| <u>Board Members:</u> | <u>By Invitation: Non-Board Members:</u> |
|--|---|
| William Bradley Leach – Vice Chairman (“WL”) Kristin Kubach – Secretary (“KK”) Ronald Pigliacelli- Treasurer (“RP”) Evelt Vertil (“EV”) | Angela Puleio Angela Ciccanti Emily Walkiewicz Angela Corosanite Michael Danyo |
| <u>Board Members Absent:</u> Javier Kuehnle – Chairman (“JK”) Krista Alexander (“KA”) | Daniel H. Saidel, Esq. David Annecharico, Esq. Abigail Lipow, Esq. Adrienne Capone January Teti Julia Viola Keri Gleason Melissa Quarracino Thayne Dibble, STS Director of Compliance Joe McBride, STS Director of Security Amy Kelly, Parent |

B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION BY DANIEL H. SAIDEL

2. I'd like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that on August 23, 2021, the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session for the following purposes under 65 Pa.C.S.A § 708:

(X) Consultation with Professional Advisor or Attorney. To consult with its attorney or other professional advisor regarding information or strategy in connection with litigation or with issues on which identifiable complaints are expected to be filed.

(X) Discuss Confidential Matters. To review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations.

Additional Notes for Minutes of Meeting:

C. Approval of Agenda

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R210823.01 Approval: August 23, 2021, Agenda

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School approves of the **August 23, 2021**, Agenda of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| Who | What |
|-------|--------------------|
| Board | General Discussion |

D. Approval of Minutes

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R210823.02 Approval: June 21, 2021, Minutes

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School approves of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School Board of Trustees Board minutes for **June 21, 2021**.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| Who | What |
|-------|--------------------|
| Board | General Discussion |

SECTION II: REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Community Comment Colloquy (General Counsel)

Good evening, my name is David Annecharico. I serve as General Counsel to the Charter School Board of Trustees. Will you please state your name for our records?

You will have three minutes to address the Board of Trustees. Any documents or communications that you might supplement your comment with should be submitted to me. I will keep the time and notify the board when three minutes have elapsed.

This Board may choose not to comment, question or respond in any way to your public comment. I will begin the time now.

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Amy Kelly</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Advised that she is a PPA mother, art teacher, and has acted as a substitute teacher for two years at the schools.</i> • <i>Feels that there should be a gender-neutral pants option for school uniform for girls.</i> • <i>Gendered dress code is antiquated, and that girls should have the same comfort as boys. Girls are uncomfortable wearing skirts, especially during cold weather, where skirts are highly inappropriate attire.</i> • <i>Recalled that her own mother could wear pants as a school child in the 20th century.</i> • <i>Cited to Peltier v. Charter Day School, where the ACLU won on summary judgement – Court ruled that forcing girls to wear skirts to school violates the Equal Protection Clause of the US Constitution.</i> • <i>Skirts implicitly sexualize young girls in ways they can't control, and girls experiencing puberty might feel more exposed. Added that young girls don't know how to sit in skirts in ways that do not expose themselves inappropriately. Added that an option for pants will help girls feel less vulnerable.</i> • <i>Dress code options should be more inclusive and provide a gender-neutral dress code that is appropriate for all to wear, with slacks or pants as one example.</i> • <i>Making girls wear skirts and dresses adheres to set gender roles and damaging stereotypes, and girls should have more to focus on then how to sit.</i> • <i>Lastly noted that parents would feel safer knowing that their children are able to focus on things other than their skirts and covering themselves.</i> |

B. Report of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School

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R210823.03 Report of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School accepts Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School report and hereby incorporates

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into these minutes by reference the written reports of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School presented to the board.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| Who | What |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>Angela Puleio</i> | <i>Philadelphia Performing Arts' report has been previously disseminated to the Board.</i> |

C. Report of String Theory Schools

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R210823.04 Report of String Theory Schools

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School accepts the String Theory Schools report and hereby incorporates into these minutes by reference the written reports of String Theory Schools presented to the board.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| Who | What |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Angela</i> | <i>String Theory Schools' report was previously disseminated to the Board.</i> |
| <i>Corosante</i> | <i>All students will be coming back to in person learning.</i> |

D. Report of General Counsel

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R210823.05 Report of General Counsel

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School accepts the General Counsel's report and hereby incorporates into these minutes by reference the written reports of Sand & Saidel P.C. as presented to the board.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| Who | What |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Daniel H. Saidel</i> | <i>Advised that the prevailing thought on COVID-19 for schools is that the first 6 weeks of the school year will indicate will happen through end of the year. If the school can stay open for the first six weeks, it will most likely be able to stay open to December or January.</i> |

E. Report of Business Controller

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R210823.06 Report of Business Controller

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School reviews and accepts the

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Financial Report of Santilli & Thomson and hereby incorporates into these minutes by reference the financial statements and the documents presented by Santilli & Thomson to the board.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| Who | What |
|---------------|---|
| Michael Danyo | <i>Santilli & Thomson's report was previously disseminated to the Board.</i> |
| | <i>Noted that PPA is financially stable, and that Santilli & Thomson is now just closing the books. PPA is projected to be financially healthy for the new fiscal year. PPA's audit will begin shortly.</i> |

SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS

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R210823.07 Professional Services Contracts

RESOLVED, the Professional Services Contracts, proposals and associated reports listed below are hereby accepted and ratified;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, in consultation with the general counsel and business controller are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate the terms and conditions of any agreement between Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School and the Contractors listed below for the enumerated professional services; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, any officer of this Board is directed and authorized to execute any document necessary to effect this resolution.

| Contractor | Amount | Comment: Terms and Conditions |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Kingsway Learning Center | \$9,173.40/month + \$5,230.00/month for related services | 2021-2022 Tuition and related services for Approved Private School for Student C.S. |
| Fante For Flooring | \$41,300.00 | Flooring replacement at 2600 Vine Street |
| Fante For Flooring | \$10,900.00 | Flooring replacement at 2407 S. Broad Street |
| J Destefano Heating & Plumbing | \$5,300.00 | Bathroom renovation at 2600 S. Broad Street |
| Charles Ames Fischer | \$42,500.00 | Professional Development |
| Charles Ames Fischer | \$8,600.00 | Workshop to further develop writing skills in teachers |
| Potential Discoveries | \$30/hour | Provision of Registered Behavior Technician |
| Overbrook School for the Blind | \$95/hour | Functional Vision Assessment and Learning Media Assessment |
| A Step Up Academy | \$102,735.00 | Tuition + Related Services for APS for 2021-2022 SY for Student T.T. |
| Wyncote Academy | \$38,937.50 | Tuition Agreement for APS for 2021-2022 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| | | SY for student M.M. |
| Anti Violence Partnership | \$28,000 + various costs for related services | Provision of trauma therapy services |
| Brett Di Novi & Associates | \$1,225.86 | Provision of Crisis Prevention Institute Training to Staff at Vine Street |
| Brett Di Novi & Associates | \$2,299.80 | Provision of Crisis Prevention Institute Training to Staff |
| Wyncote Academy | \$75,861.00 | Tuition + related services for APS for 2021-2022 SY for Student D.M. |
| YALE School Inc. | \$64,548.00 | Tuition + related services for APS for 2021-2022 SY for Student T.G. |
| Albireo Energy | \$4,992.00 | Maintenance agreement for data storage and energy solutions |
| US Medical Staffing, Inc. | Various Rates | Staffing agency for healthcare professionals – updated contract |
| Long Valley Therapy | Various Rates | Provision of professional therapeutic services |
| The Lincoln Center | \$120,000.00 | Provision of certified school psychologist |
| The Lincoln Center | \$170,000.00 | Provision of Special Education Counselors |
| The Lincoln Center | \$296,000.00 | Provision of Registered Behavior Technicians |
| The Lincoln Center | \$95,000.00 | Provision of Special Education Coordinator |
| The Lincoln Center | \$47,500.00 | Provision of Board-Certified Behavior Analyst |

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Board</i> | <i>General Discussion</i> |

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R210823.08 Purchases Contracts

RESOLVED, the Purchases Contracts and associated reports listed below are hereby accepted and ratified;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, in consultation with the general counsel and business controller are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate the terms and conditions of any agreement between Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School and the Contractors listed below for the enumerated purchase services; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, any officer of this Board is directed and authorized to execute any document necessary to effect this resolution.

| Contractor | Amount | Comment: Terms and Conditions |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | |

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
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R210823.09 Human Resources

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School accepts the human resources changes, modifications, and additions as presented below:

| HIRES | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | TITLE | HIRE DATE |
| Kristen Call | Special Education Assistant | 6/28/21 |
| Adrienne Capone | Chief Academic Officer | 7/1/21 |
| Reese Cogswell | Summer School | 6/21/21 |
| Alana Corvino | Academic Coach | 7/1/21 |
| Elishua Gutierrez | Administrative Assistant | 7/1/21 |
| Ana Hughes-Perez | Teacher | 8/9/21 |
| Rosa Nardo | Teacher | 6/28/21 |

| RESIGNATIONS | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NAME | TITLE | EFFECTIVE DATE |
| Judith-Ellen McDermott | Teacher | 6/18/21 |
| Megan McMahan | Teacher | 6/18/21 |
| Thomas Mosca | Supervisor of Math & Science | 6/30/21 |
| Eric Worely | Administration | 6/18/21 |

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Board</i> | <i>General Discussion</i> |

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R210823.10 Health and Safety Plan Summary 2021-2022

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School hereby ratifies and approves of the Health and Safety Plan Summary, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Board</i> | <i>General Discussion</i> |

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R210823.11 Confidential Settlement Agreement in re: T.T.

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School hereby approves of the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Trust in re: T.T., as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Board</i> | <i>General Discussion</i> |

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R210823.12 Confidential Settlement Agreement in re: N.T.

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School hereby approves of the Confidential Settlement Agreement in re: N.T., as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Board</i> | <i>General Discussion</i> |

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R210823.13 Updated Policies and Municode

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School hereby approves of the following updated school policies and their upload to Municode, as presented:

- 2021-2022 Student Handbook;
- 2021-2022 Employee Handbook; and
- Updated COVID-19 Policies.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>General Counsel</i> | <i>Brief overview of new and updated policies.</i> |

MOTION

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R210823.14 Rent Payment to DeMedici Corporation

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School hereby approves of the prepaid rent to DeMedici Corporation in the amount of \$2,500,000.00.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

| <i>Who</i> | <i>What</i> |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Board</i> | <i>General Discussion</i> |

B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NEXT BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

ADJOURNMENT AT 6:28 PM

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