

PHILADELPHIA PERFORMING ARTS: A STRING THEORY
CHARTER SCHOOL

1600 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
August 14, 2023
6:00 PM

LOCATION:
1600 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

MINUTES

SECTION I: CALL TO ORDER AT 6:01 PM

A. Roll Call

Board Members:	By Invitation: Non-Board Members:
Javier Kuehnle – Chairman (“JK”) William Bradley Leach – Vice Chairman (“WL”) Kristin Kubach – Secretary (“KK”) Ronald Pigliacelli- Treasurer (“RP”) Evelt Vertil (“EV”)	Angela Puleio Emily Walkiewicz Dr. Noelle Luccioni Angela Corosanite Dr. Jason Corosanite Michael Danyo
Board Members Absent:	David Annecharico, Esq. Abigail Lipow, Esq. January Teti Julia Viola Thayne Dibble, STS Director of Compliance Lucas Sigaud, CSO April Witherspoon, CSO
Krista Alexander (“KA”)	

B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION BY DANIEL H. SAIDEL

1. I'd like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that the Board of Trustees did not meet in Executive Session prior to this meeting.

C. Approval of Agenda

MOTION
KK
SECOND
WL
VOTE:
X PASS
[] FAIL

R230814.01 Approval: August 14, 2023 Agenda

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School approves of the **August 14, 2023** Agenda of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

D. Approval of Minutes

MOTION
WL
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VOTE:
X PASS
[] FAIL

R230814.02 Approval: June 19, 2023 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 19, 2023**.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

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>
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None	None
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B. Report of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School

MOTION
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SECOND
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VOTE:
X PASS
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R230814.03 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’s report and hereby incorporates 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>	<p><i>All reports have been previously disseminated to the Board.</i></p> <p><i>East/West Campus: The administration has spent July and August diligently working to facilitate opening of school plans for the 2023-2024 school year. The administrative team met daily to prepare for a smooth opening, as well as facilitated the distribution of virtual summer letters for families and students, books and supplies, and finalized class list for teachers, who now have that in their possession. Regular special education evaluations were performed. Cleaning staff has cleaned and organized the buildings in preparation for the new year. The administration is also working hard on the academic front to prepare for students. There is a new French and theater curriculum that will be introduced this year. The administration reviewed Linkit data and PSSA data. Professional development for teachers begins on August 28. The school has also filled 99.9% of open positions at these campuses. Only 1 position is left to be filled.</i></p> <p><i>Vine Street Campus: The administration is still hiring for a few staff placements. The school will be adding new professional development on various topics. Vine Street is also seeking to hire an internship coordinator, and will be preparing PD with outside partners such as NTN, and NXU Nexus, which provides advisory curriculum focused on providing your purpose and passion. Fully day professional development is being prepared for teachers. The Middle School academic team is fully staffed.</i></p>

C. Report of String Theory Schools

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R230814.04 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

VOTE:
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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
Jason Corosani	<p>Updated scholarship information has come in over the summer: PPA seniors received over \$25 million in college scholarships for the graduating students (approximately \$140K per student). STS had a very busy summer supporting staff at all three PPA campuses.</p> <p>The new STAR cohort with Drexel has begun classes to earn their teacher certifications and the new LIGHT Leadership residents have begun as well.</p>

D. Report of General Counsel

R230814.05 Report of General Counsel

MOTION
 JK
 SECOND
 KK
 VOTE:
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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 & Sidel P.C. as presented to the board.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
David Annecharico	<p>This summer has been very busy, SSPC is looking forward to the new school year and supporting the administration. Updated employee handbooks and student handbooks have been added to the agenda for the board to review and are also available at sts.municipalcodeonline.com.</p> <p>Discussed required Act 55 training with board members.</p>

E. Report of Business Controller

R230814.06 Report of Business Controller

MOTION
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RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School reviews and accepts the 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	<p>June's preliminary financials are in the board packet. Salary accrual has not come in yet. Some entries will need to be added such as salary and benefits for 10 month employees, as well as grant reconciliation. PPA currently has a \$2.5M surplus and is projected to be \$200k under budget. PPA has 94 days in cash, but is currently waiting for</p>

	<i>\$1M in federal funds from ESSERS and ARP ESSERS II and III, which should be coming shortly. PPA is also waiting on the lease and health subsidy from the state.</i>
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SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS

MOTION
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R230814.07 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 Educational Program	\$327.28/per diem	Tuition for 2023-2024 APS and ESY placement for student C.S.
A Step Up Academy	\$12,475	2023 ESY Tuition for T .T.
A Step Up Academy	\$12,250	2023 ESY Tuition for T .T.
Team Tutor	Various Rates	Provision of online or in person academic tutoring services
The Lincoln Center for Family and Youth	\$178,000	Provision of 1 Social Worker and 1 Special Education Counselor
Abington Speech Pathology Services Inc.	\$82/hour	Addendum re: bilingual speech services
Kaleidoscope Education Solutions	Various Rates	Provision of related services and therapeutic professionals
One-on-One Tutoring Service, Inc.	Various Rates	Provision of academic tutoring services
Saint Katherine Day School	31,400.00	2023-2024 APS Tuition for L.C.
Saint Katherine Day School	31,400.00	2023-2024 APS Tuition for J.T.
Saint Katherine Day School	31,400.00	2023-2024 APS Tuition for A.Z.
YALE School, Inc.	\$387.44/per diem	2023-2024 APS tuition for A.D.
YALE School, Inc.	\$387.44/per diem	2023-2024 APS tuition for N.D.
YALE School, Inc.	\$387.44/per diem	2023-2024 APS tuition for M.P.
The Pathway School	\$64,500	2023-2024 APS tuition for B.H.
Behavior Interventions	Various Rates	Provision of related services
Joyful Readers	\$80,000	Provision 4 AmeriCorps tutors to provide reading tutoring to students in K-3

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

MOTION

JK

SECOND

RP

VOTE:

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R230814.08 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
Art Turchi	\$16,000.00	Replacement Doors
Apple Inc.	\$112,548.50	Technology
Parent Square Inc.	\$13,125.00	Administrative Software
Lexia Learning Systems LLC	\$24,300.00	Instructional Software
Great Minds	\$137,084.75	Instructional Software
Marcia Brenner Associates LLC	\$18,331.86	Administrative Software
Micro Technology Group Inc	\$20,736.00	Technology – Firewall
PowerSchool Group LLC	\$46,432.81	Administrative Software
Newsela Inc.	\$22,660.00	Instructional Software
Teachers Curriculum Institute	\$37,070.00	Instructional Software
Instructure	\$30,229.75	Instructional Software
Renaissance	\$21,375.00	Instructional Software
Nearpod Inc.	\$47,676.83	Software
Office Basics	\$23,137.18	Furniture
Savvas Learning Company	\$59,438.27	Instructional Software
Wilson Language Training	\$18,723.04	Instructional Books/ training
Amplify	\$27,000.00	Instructional Software
Jamf Software	\$66,669.00	Technology Software
Vista Higher Learning	\$44,767.93	Instructional Software
Securly Inc	\$34,529.50	Technology Software
Educators Publishing Services	\$22,398.27	Books
NoRedInk	\$11,850.00	Instructional Software
National Training Network	\$39,900.00	Professional Development
Learning A-Z	\$11,817.00	Instructional Software
Red Canary Inc.	\$34,400.00	Technology Software

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
Board	General Discussion

MOTION

WL

SECOND

JK

VOTE:

X PASS

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R230814.09 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	START DATE
Claire J Adams	Teacher	8/7/2023
Anna Anzideo	Teacher	8/6/2023
Lara Carson	SPED Counselor	8/6/2023
Katherine Falkowski	EL Teacher	8/6/2023
Jason Gabel	Maintenance	7/1/2023
Jennifer Goodman	IA Autistic Support	8/6/2023
Alexandria Hatton	EL Teacher	8/6/2023
Hannah Holt	Teacher	8/6/2023
Audrey Kurtyan	Teacher	8/6/2023
Jana Muhammad	Special Education Teacher	8/6/2023
Samantha Sarin	Behavior Analyst	7/1/2023
Rebecca Solomon	Teacher	8/6/2023
Gina Zellman	Teacher Supplemental Support	8/6/2023
Richard Giandrea	Teacher	8/6/2023
Lynda Berner	Teacher	8/6/2023
Domenique DeSanto	Teacher	8/6/2023
Daniel Emery	Teacher	8/6/2023
Joseph Falcione	Teacher	8/6/2023
Nina Wenrich	Instructional Assistant	8/6/2023
Gabrielle Alush	Teacher	8/6/2023
Jessica Leatherman	ELA Teacher	8/6/2023

RESIGNATIONS		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jennifer Aldrich	Special Education Coordinator	6/30/2023
Daniel Betekhtin	EL teacher	6/30/2023
Rebekah Chirlin	Counselor	8/11/2023
Kathleen Daniels	Building Sub	6/30/2023
Laura Anne DeCarlo	Special Education Teacher	6/30/2023
Tori DeJesse Grader	Special Education Teacher	6/30/2023
Devante Evans	Cafeteria Assistant	6/30/2023
Christine Ewell	Counselor	6/30/2023
Teres Franco	Specialist Teacher	6/30/2023
Janan Green-Ashton	College and Career Coordinator	7/7/2023
Francis Henry	Climate Officer	6/30/2023
Elizabeth Hollon	Teacher	6/30/2023
Harry Hundermark	Specialist Teacher	6/30/2023
Alexander Irvine	Teacher	8/11//2023
David-John Ladignon	Café Supervisor & Culinary Assistant	6/30/2023
Jonathan Markowich	Teacher	6/30/2023

Alexis Minniti	Special Education teacher	6/30/2023
Kahliah Moody	BCBA	6/30/2023
Silas Nelson	Teacher	6/30/2023
Riley Nemezc	Social Worker	6/30/2023
Daniel O'Connor	Maintenance	6/30/2023
Michael Orlando	Teacher	8/11/2023
Samantha Peterson	Teacher	8/11/2023
Andrew Phillips	Department Chair for School Design	6/30/2023
Desiree Rivers	Administrative Assistant	6/30/2023
Stephanie Saggio	Special Education	6/30/2023
Brian Schweizer	Teacher	6/30/2023
Sara Sculley	Counselor	6/30/2023
Stephanie Sheridan	Teacher	8/25/2023
Renee Seler	Teacher	6/30/2023
Carl Snell	Teacher	6/30/2023
Robert Summer	Climate Officer	6/30/2023
Roberta Valle	Student Activities	8/11/2023

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

MOTION

R230814.10 Schoolwide Title I Comprehensive Plan

WL

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School hereby approves the Schoolwide Title I Comprehensive Plan, as presented, and directs that the Plan be finalized and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, as required.

SECOND

JK

VOTE:

X PASS

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Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Angela Puleio</i>	<i>Briefly reviewed Title I Schoolwide Comprehensive Plan with the Board and identified specific data in board packet.</i>

MOTION

R230814.11 2023-2024 Student Handbook

WL

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School approves of the Student Handbook, as presented.

SECOND

JK

VOTE:

X PASS

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Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

MOTION

R230814.12 2023-2024 Employee Handbook

WL

SECOND

JK

VOTE:

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RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School approves of the Employee Handbook, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

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

MOTION

JK

SECOND

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VOTE:

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R230814.13 String Theory Schools Corporate Incubators

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School ratifies the award of a String Theory Corporate Incubator Fellowship to:

- 15M Media
- Minkee Blue
- Kindling
- Lisa Jane Russell
- Get-Kinetic
- C-Cap

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
<i>Jason Corosanite</i>	<i>PPA and STS approve a number of companies that work with high school students on design projects. The companies come to the building and work with students every day to provide internship experience. Each year, the companies are reviewed to determine how often they are in the building working with students. These are the companies that will be in the building for the 2023-2024 school year. Also provided an explanation of Lisa Jane Russell's food styling after question from Mr. Kuehnle.</i>

B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NEXT BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

ADJOURNMENT AT 6:26 PM

MOTION

KK

SECOND

RP

VOTE:

X PASS

230814 MEETING

PHILADELPHIA PERFORMING ARTS: A STRING THEORY CHARTER SCHOOL

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