

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 p.m., December 17, 2024

Date of Approval: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Call to Order: The Board of Trustees for the Chester Charter Scholars Academy held a public Board Meeting in Chester, PA on December 17, 2024. The meeting convened at 6:56 pm. Members of the Board in attendance (at the time of the call to order): President Donald Delson, Ben Berger, Bill Cumby, Grant Gegwich, Pam Greenblatt, Marilyn Henkelman, Frances Hoover, Chris Klock, Zach Oberfield, Judy Owen, Alice Turbiville, Judy Wertheimer, Chanel Young and Head of School/CEO Akosua Watts.

Public Comments: No public comments.

Approval of Minutes

- The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes of the November 21, 2024, meeting of the Chester Charter Scholars Academy Board of Trustees
 - Motion – Judy Owen
 - Second – Alice Turbiville
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

President's Report, Don Delson (President)

- Strategic Planning Committee
 - The CCSA Foundation board selected Scott Carroll, Carla Ricci, and Bill Liva to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee alongside Judy Wertheimer, Frances Hoover, and Bill Cumby. Judy Wertheimer and Scott Carroll will serve as co-chairs.
 - The first meeting of this committee will take place on January 6, 2025.
 - The creation of the forthcoming strategic plan will be a complete partnership between both boards and together they will select a consulting firm.
 - The importance of rethinking all aspects of how the school operates needs to be taken into consideration, especially given the changing educational landscape.
 - The goal is to have a draft of a new strategic plan for approval at the June 2025 meeting, with implementation set to begin July 1, 2025.

Committee Reports

Nominating and Governance, Judy Owen (Chair, Nom/Gov Committee)

- Appointment of Board Officers
 - Ms. Owen reviewed the nominations for the new slate of officers, whose terms will run January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025.
 - President: Frances Hoover
 - Vice President: Grant Gegwich
 - Treasurer: Alice Turbiville
 - Secretary: Christopher Klock

Ms. Owen called for a vote for the office of President:

○ Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Ms. Owen called for a vote for the office of Vice President:

○ Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Ms. Owen called for a vote for the office of Treasurer:

○ Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Ms. Owen called for a vote for the office of Secretary:

○ Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Finance Committee, Alice Turbiville (Chair, Finance Committee)

- Audit of Financial Statements
 - CCSA underwent an independent audit of its financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2024. The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) and Government Auditing Standards.

Key Findings:

- The audit confirmed strong financial management and compliance. The auditors issued an unqualified opinion, finding no material misstatements, internal control deficiencies, or legal noncompliance. Supplementary reviews, including the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Management Discussion and Analysis, were consistent with financial data. No adverse findings or concerns were noted.

- Mr. Delson called for a motion to accept the Audit of Financial Statements.

○ Motion – Alice Turbiville

○ Second – Judy Owen

○ Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

- New Budget

○ The Finance Committee will begin the new budget process in early 2025.

- Given the expected surplus of \$1M next year for adjusted reimbursement rates, it was agreed to ask the CCSA Foundation to redirect their payment to the school to the Endowment Fund instead.
- The upgrade in our bond rating to BBB-/stable, investment grade, has been posted to the CCSA website.
- The surplus from adjusted reimbursement rates will not affect the audit report, which only deals with last year's budget.

Education Committee, Zach Oberfield (Education Committee)

- Teacher Compensation Memo
 - Mr. Oberfield outlined the proposal to create an ad-hoc committee to address the issues of teacher compensation and retention.
 - Mr. Delson called for a motion to approve the formation of an ad-hoc committee.
 - Motion – Zach Oberfield
 - Second – Judy Owen
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0
- There was a brief discussion, which covered the following points:
 - The Strategic Planning Committee and the ad-hoc committee will work together.
 - Mr. Oberfield agreed to chair the committee, and the following members agreed to join: Ms. Turbiville, Mr. Klock, Ms. Young, and Ms. Watts.
 - Once the committee meets, they will work together to determine the need for a consultant to help gather information and data. Any costs associated with a consultant will be forward to the board for review.
 - Ms. Watts will speak with Vertex, a department of Charter Choices, to determine if they can provide the consulting services we need.

School Report, Akosua Watts (CEO & Head of School)

- Enrollment Update
 - The School exceeded its budget target of 700 total students (150 SPED) with an actual enrollment of *706 total students* and *157 SPED students*.
- Current School Highlights
 - *iAM Acceptance Soiree*: Welcomed 31 new scholars on December 16.

- *Competition Cheer Team*: Earned a National Bid. The squad is working with the Foundation to raise money, currently up to \$6,400. The girls are also doing other activities to raise money.
- *Senior Pinning Ceremony*: Successfully held for graduating seniors on December 12.
- *Delta Academy/GEMS/EMBODI*: These mentoring programs continue. Celebrated Kwanzaa with a lovely event.
- *Honor Roll Breakfast*: Recognized academic achievement. 39% of students achieved this distinction. Honor Roll – all A's and B's including behavior; Distinguished Honor Roll – all A's.
- *Star Assessment Update*: Administered for Grades 3-8 in September and December.
- Honor Roll Data
 - Total Honor Roll Scholars: **216**
 - Highlights by Grade:
 - Grades 3-5: HR/DHR totals range from 23-27 students per grade, with honor roll percentages between 43%-48%.
 - Grades 6-12: HR/DHR totals show a range of achievement, with notable highlights:
 - 11th Grade: 65% of students on Honor Roll.
 - Overall Honor Roll Percentage: 39%.
- Upcoming Events
 - **Wed., Dec. 18**: 5:30 PM | JV & Varsity Boys Basketball at Bristol
 - **Thurs., Dec. 19**:
 - 3:45 PM | MS Girls Basketball at Chester Community
 - 3:45 PM | MS Boys Basketball at Interboro
 - 5:00 PM | JV & Varsity Boys Basketball HOME vs. Faith Christian
 - **Sat., Jan. 11**: 12:00 PM Alumni Brunch (CCSA) | 2:00 PM Homecoming Game (Neumann)

Old Business/New Business

The members thanked Mr. Delson for his service and many contributions to the board. They presented him with a gift.

Adjournment: The public meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Date of Next Scheduled Public Board Meeting: February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

