

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 p.m., May 20, 2025

Date of Approval: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Date of Approval: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Call to Order: The Board of Trustees for the Chester Charter Scholars Academy held a public Board Meeting in Chester, PA on May 20, 2025. The meeting convened at 6:46 pm. Members of the Board in attendance (at the time of the call to order): President, Frances Hoover, Ben Berger, Bill Cumby, Don Delson, Grant Gegwich, Pam Greenblatt, Marilyn Henkelman, Chris Klock, Zach Oberfield, Judy Owen (via Zoom), Alice Turbiville, Judy Wertheimer, Chanel Young, and Head of School/CEO Akosua Watts. Absent: none

Public Comments: Members of public present: Ryan Fisher, Director of Athletics & Community Partnerships, CCSA

Approval of Minutes

- The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes of the March 18, 2025, meeting of the Chester Charter Scholars Academy Board of Trustees
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Judy Wertheimer
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

CCSA Mission Moment – Ryan Fisher, *Director of Athletics and Community Partnerships*

- Mr. Fisher highlighted his history with CCSA and the athletics program:
 - Been with CCSA since its inception
 - Passionate about the lifelong skills athletics provide
 - Enjoys the collaborative team-like atmosphere of CCSA
 - K-12 environment allows for unique relationship building
 - Has grown the athletics program from scratch
 - Many teams have gone on to compete in local, state and even national championships including cheer, boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, and middle and high school track
- Facility and programmatic wish list:
 - Additional gym space and/or field house complex for practice and games
 - Current gym size limits high school PE activities, audience capacity, practice scheduling
 - Locker room facilities
- There was a brief discussion which covered the following points:
 - The language in the strategic plan should broadly reflect facilities expansion

- After the strategic planning process is complete, the school should consider developing a Campus Master Plan to help identify and prioritize facility expansion needs

President's Report, Frances Hoover, *President*

- Update on new tax legislation
 - Mr. Delson outlined information regarding new tax legislation with respect to tax exempt organizations
 - The tax increases will only affect non-profit institutions whose assets are more than \$50M
 - A provision in the legislation also states that tax exempt status can be removed if it is determined an organization is a "terrorist supporting organization"

School Report, Akosua Watts, *Head of School & CEO*

- Enrollment Update
 - Still on target with a slight uptick in recently identified special education students
- Current School Highlights
 - Girls' Track Team - 3rd overall at Bicentennial Athletic League Championship
 - Two runners heading to District Track Championships
- Strategic Initiatives
 - 1A – PSSA Testing Process Update
 - This is the first year of trial online testing, as well as a hybrid approach allowing paper and pencil as well
 - 1A – Comprehensive Plan (VOTE)
 - The state requires the school to submit a Comprehensive Plan, which largely focuses on curriculum, state standards, teacher support, etc.
 - The current draft reflects alignment with the strategic plan initiatives where applicable
 - Ms. Hoover called for a motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan contingent upon final review by the Executive Committee
 - Motion – Bill Cumby
 - Second – Marilyn Henkelman
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- 3B – Vincera Institute / Inspirational Speaker Neumann University/ Malamut Law Day
 - Students had great experiences at these recent events
- 3C & 3E – Lead-Free Chester Project
 - This initiative is underway, and the hope is other schools will provide the information
- Upcoming Events
 - Overview of upcoming school events, which all board members are welcome to attend
 - Graduation will require tickets, and an RSVP list will go out soon

Committee Reports

Finance - Alice Turbiville, *Chair Finance Committee*

- FY26 Draft School Budget
 - Final budget will be presented for approval at the June meeting

- o Compensation package and proposed new position are included
- o Additional revenues from new reimbursement rates will yield approximately \$1M in surplus funds
- Compensation Budget (VOTE)
 - Ms. Hoover called for a motion to approve the Compensation Budget
 - o Motion - Don Delson
 - o Second – Marilyn Henkelman
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- Proposed New Position (VOTE)
 - o Mrs. Watts outlined the new position request for a full-time school psychologist
 - Ms. Hoover called for a motion to approve the new position of School Psychologist
 - o Motion - Don Delson
 - o Second – Marilyn Henkelman
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

Nominating/Governance – Judy Owen, *Chair Nominating & Governance Committee*

- Board Survey
 - o Survey will be sent out after the meeting with deadline of June 17
 - o Goal is 100% participation
 - o Responses are anonymous but Ms. Owen requested members let her know once they've completed the survey
- Emeritus Board Member Position (VOTE)
 - o Ms. Owen provided an overview of the two proposed models
 - o There was a brief discussion covering the following points:
 - o Clarification that an emeritus position does not have voting privileges
 - o Process for nominating former board members includes bringing a name to Nom/Gov with final approval by the Executive Committee
 - o Pros and cons regarding terms
 - o Pros and cons regarding attendance at Executive Session
 - Ms. Hoover Call for motion to approve a five-year limit, non-renewable, Emeritus Board position, with Executive Session privileges
 - o Motion - Bill Cumby
 - o Second - Zach Oberfield
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- Board Officers for Next Year
 - o Because of the unusual situation with our calendar this year, Nom/Gov proposes that the current slate of officers continues
 - o Any additional nominations should be submitted to Nom/Gov by the end of the week
 - o Voting will occur at the June board meeting

Strategic Planning - Judy Wertheimer, *Chair Strategic Planning Committee*

- Ms. Wertheimer thanked those who were able to attend the joint board strategic planning retreat
- Ms. Wertheimer provided a summary of Align Partner's work to date

- The board will vote for approval of the final strategic plan at the June 17th board meeting
- There was a brief discussion which covered the following points:
 - The start time of the June 17th board meeting will be changed to 5:00 pm and an invitation will be extended to the foundation board
 - Align will be asked to make a final draft copy of the strategic plan available at least one week before the June meeting
 - Board members will review the final draft and submit significant concerns to Strategic Planning Committee prior to the June meeting
 - Contingency meeting with Align Partners will be scheduled for June 24th at 7:00 PM via Zoom if needed

Adjournment: The public meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Date of next scheduled public board meeting: June 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.