

CHESTER CHARTER SCHOLARS ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

5:00 p.m., June 17, 2025

Date of Approval: Tuesday, August 18, 2025

Call to Order: The Board of Trustees for the Chester Charter Scholars Academy held a public Board Meeting in Chester, PA on June 17, 2025. The meeting convened at 5:19 pm. Members of the Board in attendance (at the time of the call to order): President, Frances Hoover; Ben Berger (via Zoom); Bill Cumby; Don Delson, Grant Gegwich, Pam Greenblatt; Marilyn Henkelman; Chris Klock; Zach Oberfield; Judy Owen; Alice Turbiville (via Zoom); Judy Wertheimer; Chanel Young and Head of School/CEO Akosua Watts.

Public Comments: Members of public present: Maurice Eldridge, CCSAF board member

Approval of Minutes

- The Board reviewed and adopted the minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting of the Chester Charter Scholars Academy Board of Trustees
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Chris Klock
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

President's Report, Frances Hoover, *President*

Board Emeritus Position

- Announcement of unanimous approval of Don Delson as Emeritus board member
- Presented commemorative award to Don Delson for his service as past president and board member

Slate of Board Officers for 25-26 (VOTE)

- President, Frances Hoover
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Judy Owen
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- Vice President, Grant Gegwich
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Judy Owen
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- Treasurer, Alice Turbiville
 - Motion – Judy Owen
 - Second – Don Delson
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- Chris Klock, Secretary
 - Motion – Judy Owen
 - Second – Don Delson

▪ Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

- Ms. Hoover will consult with committees on various chair appointments

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

- 100% senior graduation rate achieved for current year
- All seniors completed written post-secondary plans
- Every senior completed required essays, presentations, and polished resumes
- Students maintain access to resumes through Google Classroom after graduation
- Multiple successful end-of-year culminating events completed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Alice Turbiville, *Committee Chair*

- FY25-26 Budget Approval (VOTE)
 - Robust surplus projected
 - Potential budget amendments planned for Fall 2025:
 - Strategic plan implementation costs
 - Updated CUSD reimbursement rates
 - Any canceled grants
 - Ms. Hoover called for a motion to approve the 25-26 budget:
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Judy Wertheimer
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- Lease Reimbursement Resolution (VOTE)
 - Ms. Hoover called for a motion to approve the Lease Reimbursement Resolution
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Marilyn Henkelman
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- 2025 Fund Balance Resolution (VOTE)
 - Committed balance increased from \$7M to \$9.7M
 - Foundation has contributed approximately \$7.4M since inception
 - Language clarified regarding unrestricted contributions
- Ms. Hoover called for an approval of the 2025 Fund Balance Resolution
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Marilyn Henkelman

Education Committee – Zach Oberfield, *Committee member*

- Compensation
 - It was agreed that a yearly compensation from the committee is unnecessary as a compensation structure is built into the strategic plan
- CTE
 - It was agreed the committee will move forward on this subject after the strategic plan is officially adopted

CCSA Mission Moment, Akosua Watts, CEO & Head of School

- Mrs. Watts provided personal background on how her experiences and passion have led to her current role
 - Raised in an arts-centered family
 - Began developing leadership skills as a youth
 - Always had a dream to become a CEO and run a non-profit for urban education
 - Began in banking and pivoted to education
 - Introduced to Chester by John Alston

Strategic Planning Committee/Presentation of Strategic Plan, *Align Partners*

Members of public who joined the meeting at 5:58 pm - from CCSAF: Corliss Boggs, Cordelia Delson, Dave Pelton (via Zoom), Bruce (via Zoom) Carla Ricci, Drew Schmidt; from Align Partners: Courtney Delaney, Emily Hawkins, Kathy Jacoby, Karen Wolters

- Strategic plan overview (VOTE)
 - Four main strategic goals:
 - Attract, retain and develop talent
 - Academic growth and student success
 - Post-secondary readiness
 - Governance and institutional excellence
 - Implementation tools presented:
 - Detailed tracking document for bi-annual review
 - Stakeholder engagement plan
 - Executive summary to be developed

There was a discussion, which covered the following points:

- Regarding responsibility, the school leadership team consists of Mrs. Watts and her direct reports; once the plan is approved, the leadership team can assign out duties to others as needed
- No joint committees between school and foundation boards permitted; it was agreed to remove the word "joint" from the strategic plan.
- Foundation members can participate in school board committees but cannot vote
- Development/fundraising remains under foundation
- Metrics are goal posts and will be reviewed bi-annually to determine relevancy
- Tracking document will be key to staying on track
- It was agreed that the school board will vote on sections 1-3 and the foundation board will vote on section 4
- There will be two executive summaries of the plan – one for the foundation and one for the school
 - Ms. Hoover called for a motion to approve sections 1-3 of the strategic plan:
 - Motion – Don Delson
 - Second – Judy Wertheimer
 - Ayes: 13 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

Adjournment: The public meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

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